

# The Canadian Spectator.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1878.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

VOL. I., No. 51.

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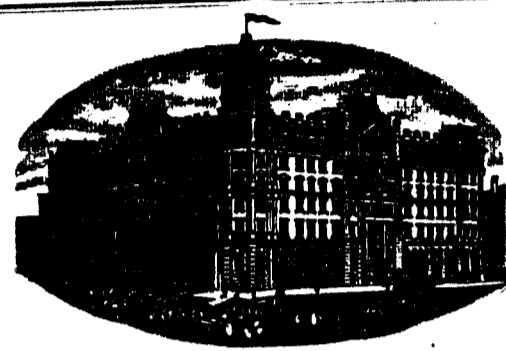
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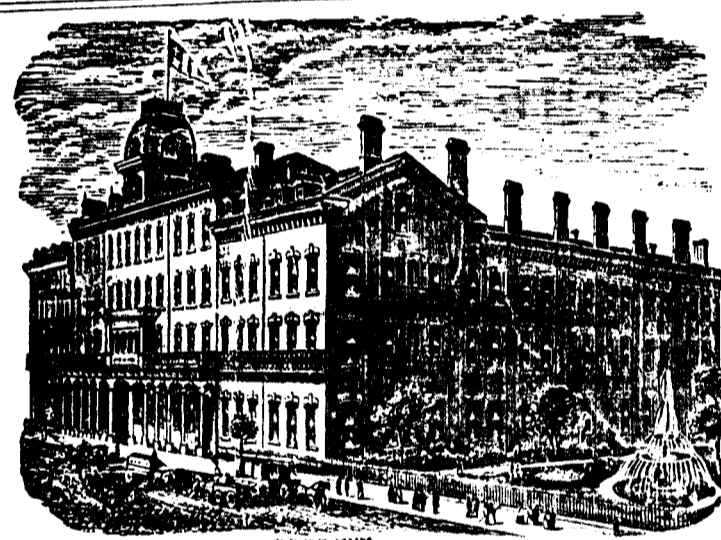
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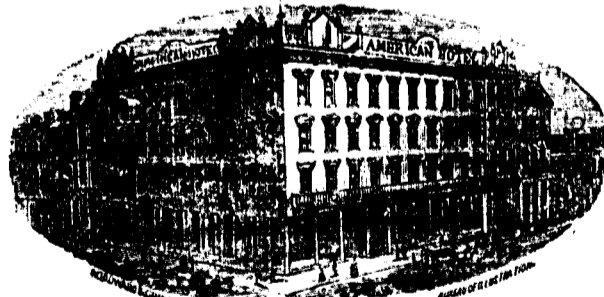
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CHESS.

## VOLUME I.

Of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR will be completed at the end of December, and the publishers venture to ask for the continued support of those who so generously helped the paper into life by sending in their names as subscribers. The publishers have to confess that mistakes have been made, but then it was the

### FIRST YEAR OF LIFE,

—a time of experiments and consequent changes. It was soon found that the prospectus could not be carried out in the matter of having every article signed with the full name of the writer, for the majority of those whose thoughts and judgments are worthy of being put into print objected—some on grounds of modesty, and some on grounds of business; but in every other respect the publishers affirm that the contract has been kept, and a good deal given that was not promised. The SPECTATOR has been

### FREE AND INDEPENDENT,

—non-partisan in all matters political and ecclesiastic; and whatever blunders may have been made were misfortunes fallen upon in the way of honest walking. In that endeavour—to conduct honest and truthful, as well as good, journalism—the publishers will continue.

It is proposed in future to give week by week a digest of the better class of British and American magazines; the News Summary will receive careful attention; and the musical world will have fair and honest criticism of concerts, &c. We shall shortly commence a Chess Column, which we hope will prove interesting to the lovers of the Royal Game. In order to carry out these extensions and improvements,

### The Editorial Staff has been enlarged,

a Managing Editor having been appointed.

Thanks are herewith tendered to the many contributors who have written the year through for the love they bear the SPECTATOR and the public. Thanks are also given to the multitude who have sent kind and cheering letters of approval and appreciation.

The value of the SPECTATOR is so well known

### AS AN ADVERTISING MEDIUM

that nothing need be said on that score, except that the publishers will always endeavour to return to their patrons good consideration "for value received."

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THE PUBLISHERS.

## THE TIMES.

Our next issue will be a SPECIAL NUMBER, and will contain a Christmas story, by Cuthbert Bede, entitled "The Brave Girl of Glenbarr."

A daughter of England is dead, and the people of Canada mourn with the people of England. The Princess Alice won the heart of us years ago by her noble devotion to her dying father. She married the Prince of Hesse, and went away to her palace at Darmstadt. Then we almost forgot her. But when tidings came that her child was ill of diphtheria and the mother was also the nurse, then that the disease had fastened upon her and killed her, we all mourned with the mother and husband and children, and those of us who believe in prayer prayed that comfort might come to the sorrowing. One thing it has told us—that motherhood is still great and heroic.

So far from agreeing with the *Globe* in its complaint about "the unreasonableness of the delay" involved in not calling the Dominion Parliament together until the usual time, I think Ministerialists are to be commended for their prudence and caution. In the excitement of the elections we had a notion that the tariff would be taken in hand at once and great changes made; but those who had been wise enough to believe that legislation in such a matter could not be rushed, were glad to find that the Cabinet would not be hurried. Of course it is the policy of the Liberal press to taunt the Government about unnecessary delay; but as, in all probability, the future prosperity of the Dominion will depend upon the legislative policy of the next Session of Parliament, it is sincerely to be hoped and strongly advised that Sir John A. Macdonald and his *confreres* in the Cabinet will not allow themselves to be hurried into the adoption of any merely tentative measures.

I hear that the Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa & Occidental Railway will be opened early in January. This is one more proof of M. Joly's ability to conduct the affairs of this Province in a good and earnest way. The Conservatives began this work in 1872 by putting it into the hands of a company,—said company broke down and the Government rested from its railway labours until 1876. Even then, when work was resumed, it was undertaken in a vacillating way which gave no promise of completion within an ordinary lifetime; but M. Joly has gone about it in a vigorous manner—would have no rings, and no jobbery, and the result is that he has done more of railway work in six months than the other Government accomplished in as many years. The only pity is that his rule is so precarious.

I am glad Dr. Howard has discussed in the *Gazette* the question of the criminal classes and what to do with them, but those letters should have a much more extensive circulation than they can possibly get in that way. The subject is one of pressing importance, and Dr. Howard understands it well, and shows an earnest courage in dealing with it. The time has come for the preaching of a gospel of common sense; the pulpits do not understand it, and so will not preach it; our laity have been afraid of the pulpit, and while they have had thoughts and schemes of social economy, have hesitated to put them into form of speech. I am glad Dr. Howard can find something besides original sin in the world.

I am not disposed, and am not called upon, to champion the *Witness* and the *Gazette* in the matter of the Jesuits, but would ask two favours of Mr. Kirwan, who undertook to defend the Jesuits of the past and present; first, to tell me and others where he finds a record of Calvin's saying or writing: "As to the Jesuits they oppose themselves particularly to us; they must be chased; or at least crush them by force of lies or calumnies;" and second, will Mr. Kirwan lend me the book which contains "all the secrets of the Jesuits?"

The *Globe* seems to have lost its senses through sheer fright. On no other ground can its wild talk about "rumoured clean sweeps of Lieut.-Governors" be accounted for. The statement is put forth as a fact that the Dominion Government has been compelled to agree to

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dismiss Mr. Letellier, and that the Conservatives of Ontario and Manitoba are now hunting up charges, true and false together, in order that Lieut.-Governors Macdonald and Cauchon may be dismissed from office. The Hon. Senator Macpherson is dragged in as a party to this infamy—inasmuch as he is charged with a desire to obtain the office of Lieut.-Governor of Ontario. It is more than a pity that such unfounded and reckless charges should be made. The Conservatives of Manitoba would command a large amount of sympathy in any expressed desire to be rid of Lieut.-Governor Cauchon, but no Government could dismiss him for what he was before he was placed in the office; they could only consider his fitness and conduct now. To set talk of wrong afloat is in itself a wrong.

It is a good "sign of the Times" that the question of exemption from taxation is to be taken up by the Ontario Government. That so many religious institutions should not pay their rightful taxation is a standing crime. The Ontario Government can better deal with the evil than any other of all our provincial governments—at any rate, better than the Provincial Government at Quebec—it has not so much Roman Catholic Ecclesiasticism to face and please. But I hope the work will be thoroughly done—let all who share the privileges of citizenship share also the burdens of it. There is no reason in the world why the clergy should be a privileged class.

An important conference was held a few days ago between Appraiser Ketchum and the kid glove importers of the City of New York, the Treasury Department having expressed a desire to obtain the views of the merchants on the proposed substitution of a specific for an *ad valorem* duty on kid gloves. General Ketchum, having announced some plans he had for specific duties, called for an expression of the views of each house represented at the conference—which call was freely responded to. On no proposition put forward was there a unanimity of opinion, but the meeting was strongly in favour of a specific duty instead of an *ad valorem*. There is some considerable discussion in Canada just now as to the relative merits of each kind of duty—and, as many people would like to be enlightened on the subject, I invite an expression of opinion in the columns of this journal. Facts and figures of an interesting character have been given to me, showing how, by fraud, merchants can, and do, evade the paying of duties, but I would prefer that those gentlemen should speak for themselves.

In the American Congress, Senator Blaine has made an effort that had but small issue—it was a resolution by which record should be made of the frauds and outrages by which the recent elections were carried by the Democratic party in the Southern States, and also to find if there be any method by which a repetition of such crimes against a free ballot may be prevented. The speech in which it was moved appears to have been good from an oratorical point of view, but otherwise barren of results. For it was evident that it went upon two unproved assumptions; first, that all negro voters, not only ought to be, but are Republicans; and second, that when they do not vote the Republican ticket they must be the victims of the bulldozer or the ballot-box stuffer. If Mr. Blaine could make these assumptions good he would have solid ground to base his other arguments upon, but the possibility of doing so is gravely questioned.

The motions of Mr. Durham and Mr. Fort for a suspension of the rules, in order to pass a bill and a resolution designed to embarrass the resumption of specie payments and to secure an accumulation of cheap silver dollars, had but little more success, not securing a two-thirds vote. But they made it plain that even Senators do not understand the true position of affairs in this silver question. Mr. Fort's motion begins by declaring that the legal-tender quality of the silver dollars shall be maintained, and that "any discrimination against them by any national bank in refusing to receive them and treat them as legal dollars shall be deemed as a defiance of the law," and goes on to demand that the Banking Committee shall be directed to report a bill to withdraw the notes of banks that offend in that way. But as most of us have understood it, the banks do not propose to refuse to receive and treat the silver dollars as a legal tender—they being bound by law so to receive them; they, or the people for them, simply want that any debts contracted in the future shall be met by gold or greenbacks.

Mr. Hewitt's proposal was better and met with more favour; it is designed to help the resumption of specie payments and the speedy restoration of a sound currency, providing that gold and silver dollars shall be interchangeable at the Assistant-Treasurer's Office in New York, and that the Secretary of the Treasury shall coin an amount of silver dollars sufficient to meet the demand for them. The object seems to be that only just so many as are required for business uses shall be issued, so as to maintain them at par in gold. That way the evils of cheap silver money, resulting in a single silver standard, may be averted.

The British public appear to be greatly puzzled as to the real nature of the war with Afghanistan. That does not include the leaders on both sides, of course. Lord Beaconsfield and the members of his Cabinet say that it is the result of the inability of Mr. Gladstone's Government in 1873 to recognise the gravity of the Russian menace to Afghanistan and England; while Mr. Gladstone, on the other hand, denounces the war as unjust and iniquitous. At first it—the war—was understood to arise from the insult to Major Cavagnari, and the evasive reply of the Ameer to the Indian Viceroy's protest; then we heard of the need for securing a scientific frontier; and then came the inevitable talk of Russian policy in Europe and in Asia.

And now there is the alarming rumour that a cause for the war more urgent than either or any of these has existed,—no less than the fact that a war in Afghanistan was the only alternative to a repetition of the Mutiny of 1857; that unless our soldiers were sent to fight in the Khyber Pass, they might have been compelled to witness a re-enactment of the horrors of Lucknow and Cawnpore. This is almost incredible; and yet there is evidence enough in Lord Lytton's despatches that there was something besides the quarrel with the Ameer which urged on the war.

The English people have been greatly amused at the spectacle of Mr. Gladstone at Woolwich solemnly appealing to the eternal moral laws of the universe as witnesses against the policy of Lord Beaconsfield's Cabinet. The age is far away too enlightened and practical for all that. If the object of the war was to stave off the horrors of rebellion against misrule in India, what would Afghanistan and a few hundreds of Afghans, and "the eternal moral laws of the universe," weigh against that? Mr. Gladstone has failed to grow with the times.

While search is being made in political circles for the causes of the war with Afghanistan, search is also being made in the headquarters of commerce for the causes of trade depression. And we in Canada can well understand the turn affairs are taking when we hear that they are beginning to blame the Government as being in a great measure responsible for the present stagnation. It is of course absurd, utterly and completely, but it is more than likely that it will ruin the Beaconsfield Government in England just as it wrecked the Mackenzie Government in Canada last September. Let the idea once get into the head of the suffering masses that the Government is in some sense responsible and they will turn upon it with a vengeance. It would be a grim piece of irony to see a party that went into power on the cry for domestic legislation—has been blessed for neglecting the domestic and assuming a spirited foreign policy—turned out because of depression in trade.

But the causes of trade depression are evident—the English have been spending more money than they were making; their wealth has been worn away by gradual depletion. From a paper read before the Manchester Statistical Society by Mr. Stephen Bourne, it is announced that the adverse trade balance of England in 1871 was £15,000,000; in 1872 it was *nil*; in 1873 it was £19,000,000; and since then it has gone on advancing year by year, until in 1877 it was a hundred millions sterling, and it will be as much in 1878. Living on the capital at that pace could have but one result—stagnation, bankruptcy.

It is rumoured that the Imperial Parliament will be dissolved in January, and the Liberals are in great spirits at the prospect. But it is to be sincerely hoped that Mr. Gladstone will—in the name of the eternal moral laws of the universe—beg his admirers not to use such vile language when speaking of political opponents. Here are some specimens of a vigorous speech:—Professor Thorold Rogers, speaking at Bristol, protested that Lord Beaconsfield's "public character is the worst of any statesman he knows;" he is "a mountebank," "a juggler," "a coarse and brutal man," "a rogue," "a pinchbeck rascal," "a clever Hebrew at the head of the Government, who, in his passage from the old religion to the new, had forgotten the morality of the Old Testament, and had never learnt the morality of the New." Mr. Samuelson speaks of the same Earl as being "a modern Guy Faux," "an adept in the art of political lying." Mr. Gladstone gets a full share of the same, being described as "a crazy fanatic," "a lunatic," "a Russian agent," and such like things. *O Tempora, O Mores.*

The bye elections in England are going in favour of the Liberals. Mr. Lewis Fry has just been elected at Bristol by a tremendous majority.

But who is the real Liberal leader? It has been decided in a sort of caucus, held at Woburn Abbey, that Lord Hartington shall be supported as leader of the Opposition; but if the parties be called upon to change places in the House, who would be Premier? Lord Hartington is the nominal, but Mr. Gladstone is the real head of the party, and the question is put, which is chief?

EDITOR.

## THE HALIFAX FISHERIES AWARD.

Lord Salisbury, if it be possible to gather any meaning from his expressions quoted, would seem to admit that British sovereignty, as regards the fisheries in the maritime territories specified, is limited in its scope by the engagements of the Treaty of Washington, which cannot be modified by any municipal legislation; but he seems to put forward the pretension that some other British authority has a right to modify those engagements, thereby in effect advancing the proposition that the Imperial Parliament alone can change, so far as the fisheries in Colonial waters are concerned, the treaty engagements of the Empire with the United States.

With all due deference to Lord Salisbury's authority, it is impossible to admit the soundness in law of his propositions.

If British sovereignty as regards the matter in question is limited in its scope by the engagements of the Treaty of Washington, it is impossible for any British authority, Imperial or Colonial, to modify those engagements. The sovereignty and jurisdiction over its own maritime territory were not taken away from Newfoundland by the Treaty of Washington. They still exist, subject of course to the fair carrying out of the engagements contracted thereby between the United States and Great Britain. In that sense it may be said the sovereignty of Newfoundland is restricted, but the restriction is of the same kind as that imposed upon the sovereignty of any State which admits foreigners within its borders to reside or to trade.

Vattel thus describes the rights and duties of a foreigner resident or sojourning in a State other than the one of which he is a subject:—

B. 2, c. 8, § 101. "But even in those countries which every foreigner may freely enter, the sovereign is supposed to allow him access only upon this tacit condition, that he be subject to the laws,—I mean the general laws made to maintain good order, and which have no relation to the title of citizen or of subject of the State. The public safety, the rights of the prince necessarily require this condition; and the foreigner tacitly submits to it as soon as he enters the country, as he cannot presume that he has access upon any other footing. The sovereignty is the right to command in the whole country, and the laws are not simply confined to regulating the conduct of the citizens towards each other, but also determine what is to be observed by all orders of people throughout the whole extent of the State. In virtue of this submission, foreigners who commit faults are to be punished according to the laws of the country. The object of punishment is to cause the laws to be respected, and to maintain order and safety."

B. 2, c. 8, § 104. "The sovereign ought not to grant an entrance into his State for the purpose of drawing foreigners into a snare: as soon as he admits them he engages to protect them as his own subjects, and to afford them perfect security, as far as depends on him."

B. 2, c. 8, § 106. "He [that is to say, the foreigner] cannot indeed be subject to those burdens that have only a relation to the quality of citizens, but he ought to bear his share of all the others. Being exempted from serving in the militia and from paying those taxes destined for the support of the rights of the nation, he will pay the duties imposed upon provisions, merchandise, &c.; and in a word, everything that has only a relation to his residence in the country or to the affairs which brought him thither."

B. 2, c. 7, § 84. "The sovereignty united to the domain establishes the jurisdiction of the nation in her territories or the country that belongs to her. It is her province or that of her sovereign to exercise justice in all the places under her jurisdiction, to take cognizance of the crimes committed, and the differences that arise in the country."

"Other nations ought to respect this right. And, as the administration of justice necessarily requires that every definitive sentence, regularly pronounced, be esteemed just and executed as such,—when once a cause in which foreigners are interested has been decided in form, the sovereign of the defendants cannot hear their complaints. To undertake to examine the justice of a definitive sentence is an attack on the jurisdiction of him who has passed it. The prince, therefore, ought not to interfere in the causes of his subjects in foreign countries and grant them his protection, excepting in cases where justice is refused, or palpable and evident injustice is done, or rules and forms are openly violated, or, finally, an odious distinction is made, to the prejudice of his subjects or of foreigners in general."

Orotolan, in 1 Dip. de la Mer, L. 2, c. 8, p. 161 (4th ed.) says, on the subject of the Mer Territoriale:—

"Quant aux mesures à prendre, aux règles et aux lois à faire observer touchant le commerce, si elles sont quelque fois l'objet de traités conclus entre les nations, elles sont le plus souvent, et de plein droit, fixées par le gouvernement seul à qui appartient l'empire sur la mer territoriale. Les peuples commerçants avec le pays sont censés les connaître, et sont tenus de s'y conformer."

Fiore, in vol. 1 of his Nouveau Droit International, p. 289, says:—

"A chaque droit est attaché un devoir, et comme les étrangers ont des droits même dans un Etat étranger, et qu'ils doivent être protégés par les lois, ainsi ils doivent sentir le devoir de respecter les lois et de leur obéir. Sous ce rapport, nous pouvons dire qu'entre le souverain de l'Etat et l'étranger intervient un contrat tacite par lequel le souverain, d'une part, s'oblige à accorder et à garantir à l'étranger l'exercice de ses droits; celui-ci à son tour se place sous la juridiction du souverain, et devient son sujet pour tout ce que se rapporte à l'ordre intérieur de l'Etat."

See Heffter, § 60, § 62; Bluntschli, § 386, § 388.

By Articles 18 and 19 of the Treaty of Washington, each of the contracting powers merely granted the liberty to fish in common with its own citizens or subjects to the citizens or subjects of the other in certain portions of their respective maritime territories. There is no provision in either of the Articles creating a close time, regulating the mode of fishing, or providing for the establishment of regulations. It never could have been the intention of the contracting parties to have delivered over the waters, as Lord Salisbury expresses himself, to anarchy. By the omission of such provisions, is it not clear that each of the contracting parties trusted to the sense of justice of the other, and left to that other the undisputed power of framing fair and equitable regula-

tions *quoad* the fishing thenceforth to be enjoyed in common in its maritime territory?

In view of these facts and the authorities cited, the contracting parties have the right of regulating the fisheries, each in its own maritime territory; the other has no right to complain of any regulation made in good faith to prevent the wanton destruction of the fisheries, bearing equally upon British subjects and American citizens.

WILLIAM H. KERR.

Montreal, Dec., 1878.

## THE PROS AND CONS OF CLUB LIFE.

So much has been written about Clubs that one would think their prosaic realities were as familiar to every magazine reader as those of domestic life. Their enormous extension within the last ten years, and their establishment as one of the features of the society of the age, have been another means of taking away the mystery which shrouded them so long as they were merely convenient and fashionable retreats for men of large income and plenty of idle time. In the days of despotic committees and exclusiveness there was some reason for looking upon the "club-man" as a person of particular caste; and as long as the luxurious establishments kept up for the benefit of the privileged few were either political centres or great gaming houses, there were plenty of reasons, public and private, for questioning their usefulness.

Nowadays all this has been changed, and, partly through the persistence of the Anglo-Saxon—who would, we believe, found a club if cast upon a desert island and go through the ceremony of balloting for his man Friday when that individual turned up—partly through their own intrinsic conveniences, clubs are common all over the world, and vary as much in the *personnel* of their members as in their laws written and unwritten. The one common feature, the essence of club life, is, however, to be seen in them all. This is the principle of coöperation to secure a degree of comfortable living at a cost which would be impossible for the individual member. A year or two ago there might have been added another distinction, the confinement of this benefit to men alone; but, seeing the success which, contrary to all reasonable anticipation, has been attained by the now famous Orleans, and the promise of an era of bisexual clubs—purely feminine ones having proved dismal failures—this will no longer serve as a *differentia*.

In spite, however, of their wide spread and easy accessibility, it would seem that there are still many misunderstandings and misrepresentations as to clubs, fostered to a great extent by the London "society papers," which furnish to troubled wives and mothers ample material for apprehension, and to moralists texts for discourses on the folly and vanity of the age. Beyond doubt a great deal that is said of the evils of club life in London, its indolence, gossip, high play and cynical scepticism in all things, is true; and its influence, being always great, is naturally assumed to be equally wicked when associated in the public mind with card scandals, heavy losses on the turf, free fights, and the Divorce Court. The other side of the story is overlooked; the political, literary, artistic and social influence of club life, though equally well known, not being brought into such prominence.

With this state of affairs we have little to do. On examination it would be found, we believe, that the wrong cause altogether has been assigned for it, and that the unpleasant problems in social ethics which must be dealt with sooner or later, if modern society is to be changed for the better, arise from more potent causes than the doctrines of club smoking-rooms or the influence of their morality. The symptom has been mistaken for the disease, and the extent of the affection itself has been much over-estimated. It is hardly to be imagined that what may be true of clubs frequented by the fastest men of London is necessarily true of all London clubs, still less so of such institutions elsewhere. It may be in England a very handy subject for the purveyors of society gossip for the multitude to spice their paragraphs with while showing their intimacy with "the upper ten," but this immorality by implication becomes absurd when brought across the Atlantic and used as an argument against club life, as has been done lately by that eminent sensationalist, Mr. Talmage. Having thoroughly sated his congregation with the delights of Five Points and Bleeker street, with the unsavoury details of the life of prostitutes and thieves, he has found, as he thinks, fresh fields and new hopes of another increase in salary in depicting the imaginary interiors of clubs imaginary in all but the names. So far no great success has attended his efforts, and he has only been well ridiculed by the press, and much more good naturedly treated by the men he has attacked than the assault on their reputations seems to warrant. He has, however, brought about a good deal of discussion as to the effects of clubs upon life in America, though his highly-coloured charges of luxury, gambling and general interference with religious and social duties meet with no countenance from the public, and are easily disproved.

There is a great deal of well founded and sober objection to clubs, inasmuch as regards their effects upon young men. First perhaps in order, and as productive in great degree of the other charges preferred, is that of breeding habits of extravagance. This, in its positive aspect, is not so formidable as it would at the first glance seem. A man's purse must as a rule limit his expenditure, and with the system almost universally adopted of paying the bill at once, or with accounts rendered weekly, any tendency to spend more than can be afforded is promptly checked, especially as non-payment means expulsion and dishonour. A great deal of harm is done by the yielding to the desire to keep pace with richer men, and to share in their amusements; this must be admitted. But it is not an evil peculiar to club life, and there is much more probability of the man who is deficient in moral courage going to the dogs in this way outside of than in a club, where his own experience and the example of others will soon teach him that the real secret of the attractiveness of club life is the combination of individual liberty, unrestricted save by the demands of ordinary civility, with the benefits of a large society. He can live just as he pleases, and nobody will dispute his right.

The actual cost of living is greatly over-estimated in the popular idea. At any Canadian club a man who is reasonable in his ideas can live most comfortably for from \$1.25 to \$1.50 *per diem*. At the larger figure, this makes \$552 *per annum*, and with yearly dues, which nowhere exceed \$30, makes \$582.

Finest Dressed Skins, in Seal, Sea Otter, Silver Fox, Mink, Oter, Persian Lamb, &c., for Special Orders, at REYNOLDS & VOLKELS, 427 NOTRE DAME STREET.

Add the cost of a bedroom at \$10 a month, and the total is \$572. For this sum he actually has the benefit of an income of \$15,000 to \$20,000, comfortable rooms, gas, fires, magazines, periodicals, English and other papers, books of reference, writing materials *ad libitum*, and admirable attendance without the trouble of managing or directing servants. He can have whatever meal he requires served at any time, and can dine alone or in company as he may choose, with all the appointments of the best private establishment. Wines and cigars are furnished at cost price, and he has his choice of amusements, with as much or as little conversation as he likes. His club enables him to make acquaintances who may advance him in business or help him with counsel, and to meet many men whom he would otherwise never have seen, besides giving him, if he choose to take it, the benefit of all the worldly wisdom of a couple of hundred or more fellow-members.

These, compared with the solitary and uncomfortable life in the only lodgings which Canadian towns afford, are no small advantages. In Montreal, for instance, there is no provision for the class of men whose incomes allow of the comfort of living which they seek. There is no alternative between the boarding-house, where a number of uncongenial people are forced to meet at badly cooked and worse served meals, where dirt and discomfort reign, and expensive but solitary rooms at \$50 to \$50 per month. There is indeed a *via media*, known to readers of the advertisement columns as living "in a private family," but no one who has once tried this is likely to make the experiment a second time. Even the first mode is not less expensive than the club, when the concomitant advantages of the latter are considered. It has never entered into the conception of the Canadian boarding-house keeper that a lodger has any ideas of comfortable living different from her own, and any love of privacy or evidence of fastidiousness is resented by his fellow-lodgers as much as by his landlady. The construction of Canadian houses, too, is such that quiet is almost impossible, and you are compelled perforce to endure your neighbor's piano playing, card parties, or domestic quarrels.

It is hardly necessary to touch upon the questions of gambling and dissipation. The former is generally forbidden, all stakes being limited to a very small sum, and the card-room of a Canadian club being as slow and decorous a place, for the most part, as any old ladies' whist party; the latter cannot be carried to any length without the interference of the committee, and intoxication is discouraged not only by the written law but by public opinion, much more severely than by public policy as we see it every day in municipal and parliamentary legislation. The evil that does exist is neither greater nor less than that peculiar to the class from which the members are drawn, and varies in amount and intensity with the public morality of the day. What has been said above with regard to the London and New York Clubs applies with corresponding force to the humbler establishments of this country. When it is said that the ballot-box and the payment of an annual subscription will not work a regeneration of a man's moral nature, and that within a club a man is pretty much the same that he would be out of it,—except for the feeling of responsibility for good behaviour which is enforced upon the individual by his brother members, and the requirements of a society of gentlemen,—all the case is stated. Those who disapprove of clubs on grounds of morality can but urge against them the same objections that apply to society generally. Among their members are people of all shades of opinion on all matters. A man's religious and moral beliefs meet with the same degree of respect and tolerance from his fellow clubmen as they do from his other associates; more so, indeed, since if he feel inclined to converse as to them those who feel inclined to listen are under greater obligations as to civility and restraint of temper than outsiders would be.

So much for the positive extravagance and the religious and moral aspects of club life. There remain to be considered the indirect extravagance, luxurious habits, and the influence these have indirectly upon religions and social duties. It is on these that the strongest grounds of objection are based.

There cannot be the least doubt that many men are won away from looking the world in the face by the love of the ease thus easily obtained, and that in the comfort of club life arises much of the careless epicureanism of our day. Evenings spent in an arm chair with nothing heavier to read than the last magazine, the attractions of tobacco and fellow-idlers' conversation are demoralizing to culture or anything better. Little dinners cut up the evening and leave no time for work or for society, and the *dulce est desipere in loco* becomes a pernicious *dolce far niente*. The man who used to go to church finds a twelve o'clock breakfast and an eight o'clock dinner on Sunday interfere with the occasional good intention. Some active minds find occupation in eternal billiards or the fascination of the whist table, and the stretch round the mountain supplies all the physical exercise needed for health. But there is to be said, that in Canada, where there are few men of independent means and leisure, the evening at the club follows a good day's work, and it is perhaps better to keep a man in good company when his day's work is done than to let him either sleep it out in his rooms or wander about aimlessly doing worse than nothing.

With the evil there is the antidote. By its very nature there is little permanency in club life. The modern club is like a big hotel, a convenient stopping place, rather than the snug retreat made famous by Thackeray. There is a constant succession of new faces, a loss of old companions, and an ever shifting complexion of the club, which keep alive in a man the sense of individuality among the acquaintances of whom he sees so much and knows so little. There is a shiftlessness on the one hand, and a monotony on the other; and monotony, even when luxurious, tells. A few may fold their hands and settle down to a life of drowsy gossip and good dinners; but with the majority principle, ambition, business interests, the thousand and one chances of life, come into play. The man of average determination is kept up to the mark by the constant contact with his fellows, and runs little risk of becoming a confirmed lotos-eater.

**MUSICAL TASTES.**—There is no accounting for taste in music. When the King of the Sandwich Islands was entertained to a concert, he was asked what instrument he preferred. His Majesty frankly confessed that he liked the drum better than all the instruments of the orchestra.

## CANADIAN CELEBRITIES.

No. V.—SIR HUGH ALLAN.

["Meanwhile the storm had increased in violence. The wind howled among the pines that clothed the rocky steep above our heads, and moaned like a complaining spirit among the chimneys and turrets of Wolf's Nest. But the baron gave no heed to it. He but drew his arm-chair a little nearer the blazing faggots on the hearth, and turned to the steaming bowl to replenish our glasses. The blaze flickered fitfully upon the brass dogs which guarded the fuel upon the hearth; upon the ruddy hangings of the hall; upon many a quaint and costly home-treasure; and upon the baron's massive head and grizzled beard, as he bent courteously over the board. 'Time has been,' said he, 'when I should have shivered with every rocking of the house in the winter's storm, as I thought of my good ships upon the sea, and the rich wares which freighted them. But that has all calmed down with the lapse of years; and since good Queen Anne gave me my title to grace the guineas I had gathered in my commerce, I have learned to live as I have built my house—high on these crags, above the fretting and carking of the counting-room and the city.' 'But,' said I, 'I hear that even here you are not raised above the storms of life, nor out of the reach of what our Shakspeare hath called "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," nor above the level at which the envious and malevolent may aim the shafts of calumny.' 'Verily, nay!' replied the baron, with a grim smile, 'even as a cat may look at a king, so may a very small dog bay at the moon. Do not think, either, that my life has been free from strifes and oppositions, or that, even now, all men are my friends. The story of my life is not without its moral. Listen. 'Tis over fifty years since I——']—*Stories of Land and Sea*, Vol. 2.

The first ship from Britain to Montreal in the spring of 1826 brought among its passengers a young Scottish lad fresh from the banks of the Clyde. The vessel came to the wharf on the 1st May; that is, it *would* have come to it had there been one, but Canadian trade was scanty in those early days, and ships to Montreal were few, and wharves there were none. The one little tug—oddly named the "Hercules"—had to be assisted in bringing up the ship against the current by a half score of oxen harnessed to a hawser run out from the vessel. The strong, quiet, Ayrshire lad who stood on the deck might—had he been gifted with the traditional second sight of his native land—have seen his life-work laid out for him along that river bank. His ships were to come hither, not singly but in fleets; ships to which that which now bore him was but a cock-boat; ships which should need neither oxen nor steam-tug to aid them, but which in the quiet majesty of resistless strength should draw in alongside broad wharves and warehouses all his own. But young Hugh Allan dreamed not of all this; though perhaps the yearning to command a ship, like his father, or even to own it, may have been already in his heart. The son of a sea-king, he was almost a child of the sea itself, so strong was his liking for it, and so great his familiarity with it.

Those who know Montreal now, and understand the transformation it has undergone in fifty years, can also understand the transformation of the lad who came from Scotland to seek his fortune, into the present knight of Ravenscrag, whose baronial hall—founded high and strong on the steep sides of Mount Royal, looks out over the city to the harbour and the river which have been the avenues of his wealth and greatness. And those who know Sir Hugh Allan himself can as easily understand the reason and the secret of the transformation. The secret is in the man. The first glance at him reveals power. There is first that which is required as the substratum of all intellectual capacity from which anything great is to be expected—immense physical vigour. Probably few grander men of sixty-eight years are to be found in any land. A strong, square-built form, with the vigour and elasticity of youth still in its movements; a head, which looks almost lion-like, in its firm lines and profuse environment of hair; a keen eye which looks straight at and through the person who confronts him; a firm and resolute mouth which tells of an iron will; these make the portrait of the man who in making his own fortunes has helped to make those of the country which he made his home, and who, even now, is quietly influential in most of its industrial and commercial enterprises.

Perhaps it is hardly just to speak of the rise of Sir Hugh Allan as a transformation, if the word is to be understood in the sense of a sudden change. It has been more exactly a growth or natural development, as gradual as that of this new country itself; with which it has indeed kept pace, and by which it might at any time have been measured. It would be useless to follow with any minuteness the various steps by which the Scottish youth climbed the hill which lay before him. It was very often the hill Difficulty. The very first step was into an uncongenial employment: uncongenial except that it *was* employment, honourable, and fairly well remunerated. The lad stayed in it till he was twenty-one; then took a broad survey of the country, and went home to see and consult with his friends. That visit seems to have shaped the after-life. The young man came back to make Canada his country and Montreal his home, and determinedly entered upon pursuits which would eventually enable him to combine the interests of the whole family, and bring the strength of unity into its operations. The shipping business was the chosen line. So we find Hugh Allan first a clerk in a shipping house, to get knowledge of details. Then, by his talent and zeal, a junior partner in the same firm. Next, he forms a separate firm, and begins not only to charter but to build ships. At thirty years of age a master ship-builder, we soon find him brought into connection with the Government, constructing vessels required in its service. Mr. Allan had the faculty—so needful in making money—of discerning what is needed by the community a little sooner than it makes the discovery itself. He saw that the time had come for the establishment of a line of steamers between Britain and Canada, and proposed to initiate the enterprise. This was in 1851. But the old distrust of, or contempt for, everything Canadian, had not yet died out in the Government; and, although the project was entertained, the contract was made with an English firm.

The new line speedily came to grief (commercially), and the contract being again open, this time Mr. Allan's firm succeeded in obtaining it. The partners already owned or controlled two fine steamers, and the Clyde yards speedily furnished two others; so that the new "Allan Line" at once assumed respectable dimensions. For a time all went swimmingly; and the five brothers who—on both sides of the sea—constituted the firm, threw all their energies into the effort to make the line the favorite over all competitors for trans-Atlantic ferriage. But somehow things went wrong: in spite of enterprise, vigour, talent, good ships and experienced commanders, vessel after vessel was wrecked and lost. The public—always superstitious—began to regard the line as "unlucky"—the most damaging verdict which can be passed on a man or an

enterprise. Even the sober-minded piety of the brothers in Britain was at fault, and urgent appeal was made to Hugh to desist from the effort, as it was evidently not the will of the Almighty that the line should succeed. Here it was that Hugh Allan showed the stuff of which he was made. He maintained that there was no special reason why the Almighty should have a special grudge against their enterprise, or show it in a way that brought so much peril and loss to innocent people. If vessels were lost, there must be a reason for it which could be discovered, and the defect remedied. *Themselves* must be in fault: violating somewhere the fixed laws of nature. He thought he saw the fault in the attempt to navigate a dangerous gulf and estuary which were imperfectly known and very imperfectly lighted, under a contract imposing a heavy fine for every hour's delay, no matter how needful delay might be. Captains were naturally anxious to prevent loss by these fines, and so pushed on when prudence would have advised a slacker rate for a time. Having induced the Government to alter the contract, and to improve the lighting of the river and gulf of the St. Lawrence, Mr. Allan showed his confidence in the result by at once ceasing to insure his vessels, forming a private fund and account for that purpose. The result fully justified his sagacity, courage and indomitable perseverance. He *would not* be beaten, and he was not; and to-day a magnificent fleet of twenty steamers are making their voyages with an order, speed and regularity which have made the "Allan Line" a favorite with more than the Canadian public.

Naturally, this vast carrying trade has brought Sir Hugh Allan into connection with most of the enterprises which have been undertaken for the development of Canada. Knighted about ten years ago, as one of the most representative men of the colony which the Queen delighted to honour, he still occupies that foremost position, being President of a score or more of corporations in banking, railways, mining and insurance. Probably three-fourths of the great coal interests of Nova Scotia are controlled by Sir Hugh Allan, as is even the Eastern Extension Railway, now in course of construction in the same Province. Yet he is not a man who bulks largely before the public. He is little seen upon platforms; writes few letters to the newspapers; and troubles himself but little as to what people say of him. His great concern is still his business. Early and late he gives it close personal supervision; and probably far more of his waking hours are spent in his office by the wharf than in the beautiful mansion of Ravenscrag on the sides of Mount Royal.

A sketch of Sir Hugh Allan without a reference to the 'Pacific Railway Scandal' would be conspicuously incomplete. Everybody knows that the 'Scandal' was the gift of money by Sir Hugh to the election expenses of the party of a government from which the Company of which he was president was expecting to receive a charter for the construction of a road from Ocean to Ocean. The fact is simply historical; but it may be allowed that in the heat and passion of the time many explanatory circumstances were disregarded or disbelieved. Sir Hugh still contends (and many will agree with him) that his scheme would have built the road, and built it more cheaply than it can be done by the substituted plan of Mr. Mackenzie. And he declared at the time—and still declares—that his subscription to the election fund was a matter altogether apart from the expectation of the road-charter, being simply the act of a wealthy man when the political party to which he had always been attached was in danger. The charter he regarded as a settled thing in no way contingent upon any subscription he might give or withhold. It is very probable that the whole matter will come up for review, now that time has cooled the political fever of that day. A greater 'scandal' is that loose morality in our Canadian politics which has issued in the purchase and sale of a constituency being regarded by both sides of the house as a thing of course and the fit subject of a jest.

To sum up all, Sir Hugh Allan has been, and is, a man of great power and influence, which he has turned almost entirely into the channels of commercial enterprise. The strong points of his character have been brought out prominently. They are the lights of the picture: perhaps the shadows may be indicated by them. He who runs may read the broad lessons written in the life of an earnest, courageous, persevering man. Perhaps some subordinate lessons may be read between the lines: and it may be asked whether an all-absorbing devotion to one pursuit is justified even by the magnificent material results which have accrued to Sir Hugh Allan.

GRAPHITE.

### ON PRAYING.

A Sermon Preached at Zion Church by Rev. Alfred J. Bray.

ST. MATT. vii. 7, 8.

The religious life of man has its beginning in communion with God. But conversion and completeness are far apart. The one is the negative condition; the other positive. The one is the purity of early childhood; the other the virtues, the graces, the strength of manhood. The one is the green shoot that has heaved up through the soil; the other is the tree, full of life, with many branches, strong, and bearing fruit. But the intermediate steps, the growth, is that assured? There is only a little life, and it is delicate; are there any forces which can be laid under contribution to help it grow? Is the soil good? Will there be plenty of warm sunshine, and not too much to burn it up? Will there be rain, yet no great destructive floods to beat it down? I am told that when I am conscious of this new life—when the warm blood begins to throb in my veins, I must press on until I have reached the goal of life—the term of all being—God. But how am I to run? how am I to walk? how am I to crawl, even? I am a child. At first, perhaps, a flood of joy breaks upon me; I am in a tumult of delight. I am in a new world; the great blue vault above shines bright with God; from the glancing stars He looks straight into my eyes, and I do not shun the gaze: the fields, the hills, the rivers, the seas, all have new meaning for me—I am in a new world. And I also am new: I have new thoughts, new feelings, new desires—I am a new creature. But the tumult soon subsides, and then I am face to face with a most mysterious and most matter-of-fact life. I have to pace the daily round of dull routine. I want to be humble; I admire humility, but pride is in me a

masterful spirit of evil. I want to be generous to men; but I am possessed of a mocking, scornful spirit, a very devil that makes me madly bitter and bitterly mad. Passions live—and while they live they burn. And the question I ask is this: Have I any power in me that is not self-destructive—any force at my command that, if put in motion, will lift me up and not drag me down?

Jesus Christ has anticipated that question. He built up before men perfectness—showed them the incarnated conception of highest, grandest, truest manhood. But he was not an artist come to exhibit his masterpiece for the people's admiration. He did not say, "See the beauty of that"; but he said, "Be as beautiful as that—copy it—reproduce it in yourselves." And it was not imposing an impossible task upon them; it was not the old demand that men make bricks without straw. But it says, "There are forces in yourselves which if put into action will command the blessings of heaven. There they are. Ask for them—seek them, and you shall have them. That force is prayer."

Religion, as I understand it, is the bond of union between the soul and God: the great and sacred covenant. Prayer is religion in motion—the exertive faculty of the renewed nature; it circles the man praying and the God addressed; it is the rainbow—its arch in heaven, its two ends on the earth.

An honest reader of the Bible would come to the conclusion quite naturally, and without the aid of note or comment, that prayer to God in petition, and as converse, is a thing of paramount importance. He would be struck with the startling emphasis that is everywhere laid upon the exercise. He would see that earnest, persistent prayer was commended by it, and rewarded—the prayer of the blind for sight—the prayer of the sick for healing—the prayer of the mother for her child,—and that the sum of Apostolic teaching was pray without ceasing—continue instant in prayer, in season and out of season.

But things have happened which can hardly be accounted for. The sons have outgrown the superstitions, the weaknesses of their fathers. We claim to be practical—to be self-sufficient. Not that we deny God, but we fall back upon ourselves for all we want. "God helps those who help themselves" is the old motto we quote and live by—a motto worthy of its heathen origin—a proverb black with the danger of self-sufficiency; charged to bursting with the fires of human conceit. *Work! work!*—that is the cry of the age: prayer is too much a thing of the imagination and the sentiment to have a place in the programme of a practical man. Now, I do hate the old sentiment that man is a mere creature of circumstance, that he is locked in the iron clasp of fate, is being dragged down he knows not whither. I hate that—and say, I will not be the sport of blind unguided forces—I wouldn't be dragged, even to heaven itself. But that other teaching that threatens to influence men in this boastful, practical age, is equally, if not more destructive: that man is dependent on himself alone, that he is fully and entirely free. As usual, the truth lies between the two extremes. Man is dependent in his freedom, and free in his dependence. Life is a subtle admixture of liberty and restraint—of perfect freedom, and entire dependence. If I am self-sufficient—if I stand forth unsustained by other power than my own, then prayer is a waste of time, and work is my truest wisdom. And if I be a creature of circumstances, plastic, unresisting clay—being moulded by sightless, unfeeling fate—then prayer is in vain. I will chant my litanies to the wind—I will go down to the sea-shore and tell my wants and woes to the heedless waves. But when I know that neither one nor the other is true; that I am a living, moving, breathing paradox, free in my dependence, and dependent in my freedom, then my prayer is the outcome of my freedom, and the cry of my conscious dependence upon the living God. It is only when I am given over neither to conceit nor despair that I can shape my language into petition, and thrust my hands out in passionate pleading to God.

But there is another objection to prayer, and perhaps a more subtle one, which is urged by men of science, and in the name of general law. Men used to pray against famine and against drought—against disease and pestilence and floods. That was all very well they say—for these men did not know the universal law as we do. The rain, or the drought, is the result of atmospheric laws—prayer must be, can be of no avail against disease and death. As well expect to quench a fierce fire by prayer instead of water—as well expect to get a harvest by praying over the granary—as well think to build a ship by praying in a forest. It is law against sentiment. Men in the olden times prayed for rain and bread and health because they knew no better, thinking that all things depended upon the mere caprice of a Supreme will; but we know that there is an inexorable and inviolable law, and prayer is futile. But what is meant by law? Surely not a brutal, unintelligent, and unconquerable force that sweeps on resistless? We call it law, because by long experience we have learnt that it is the order of things. But God is the mover of all that moves. He is the Infinite force, above all forces—and we may cry up through the law to Him who made it. The law is, that sin having entered into human life, the tendency of life shall be downward; but men cry against that tendency, and strive against it, and they find a higher law in operation—the law of faith, and cleansing by faith—which supersedes the law of sin and death.

Brethren, Science has taught us many things, and taken many foolish notions away from us; but it has not taken our notion of God away, because it has not taken God away. Law, an established order of things, has not risen up an impenetrable blackness between the living God and our souls. We can pray—not as serfs, but as sons. Prayer is the experience of our freedom, and the experience of our dependence. There is law—there are divine and eternal decrees—there are individual rights, and individual wrongs—there is Divine Sovereignty, and there is man's royalty—and above them all is the ever-living and ever-loving God—and the Abrahams of the earth pray for the doomed cities—and the ladder is yet planted firmly on the earth, reaching into heaven, and the angels of God and of men ascend and descend upon it—the Jacobs wrestle by night under the watching stars—the Davids, steeped to the lips in crime, cry out for a new heart and a right spirit—and the Elijahs pray until the cloud uprises from the sea, and through the hot air comes the sound of an abundance of rain—and the Hezekiahs pray for health and a lengthened life—and the weeping, songless Exiles cry, "turn us again, O Lord, turn us again"—and the royal Daniels pray in wicked Babylon seven times a day with the

window up. Men pray for others, and *feel* it is right—men pray for themselves, and feel they must: they pray for faith, and gentleness, and love and truth—they pray everywhere, upon desert plains, upon the wild, unpeopled wastes of the earth—in crowded thoroughfares—in gorgeous temples—in humble cottages—in the mansions of the great and the noble—the *people* pray—and the great human heart throbs responsive to the Master's voice that rings out over all the want and woe and tearful agony of the world, "Ask and it shall be given you—seek and ye shall find—knock and the door shall be opened unto you."

If we Christians are right in asserting that no law, no decrees can come between God and ourselves—that prayer is possible, is reasonable, and is grandly helpful; then the question comes, what is prayer? What do we mean by it? I said just now that prayer is religion in motion. That is a broad and general definition, but we must have something more specific. Now prayer, I take it is, subjective, and it is objective—that is to say—it embraces the man praying and the God addressed.

Some men seem to think that prayer is a mere sentiment and nothing more. But that is not so at all. It is not a mere sentiment, a state of mind, a condition of heart, a passive thing. It is a work; it is an effort; an effort that calls into play all the deepest, highest, truest forces of the soul. When a man sinks down upon his knees at night, because he is accustomed to do it, and utters a few sentences he has got accustomed to utter, confesses sins of which he is not conscious—or, if he is conscious of them, feels no burning shame in consequence—asks for virtues that he has no thought of seeking, and would hardly house them in his heart if they came in answer to his call; but thinks only of the work he has done to-day, and the cares that will come to-morrow, that man doesn't pray. Prayer is not simply the throwing of oneself into a certain attitude that bespeaks humiliation; prayer is not the saying of words merely; it is an exertion; a great conscious effort of the whole man. It is an effort of the understanding. A man must *think* if he would pray. He speaks to the Being whom he calls God, the Almighty, the All-wise, the Eternal. What do those words mean? What do they mean to the man who utters them? If they are simply phrases, words upon words and nothing more, the effort is not great. It is as easy to say God, as hill—Almighty, as mountain. But when the words are but the dress of great conceptions, great ideas, great thoughts, then the man will be almost overwhelmed with the tremendous importance of the words he is using. To think of God, the mystery of His being, the Almightyness of His power, the immensity of His presence, besetting us all behind and before, and laying His hand upon us, is surely thinking of the highest kind, is surely the most royal effort of the understanding.

And then, to pray is to put the affections, the emotional part of man, into activity. True prayer is not born of fear, it is the outcome of the love principle as it lives and moves in the heart. The human love goes out and comes into contact with the love of which is divine. The divine beauty is the object of highest admiration—the divine power calls forth loving awe and worship—the divine will—so strong, and yet so beneficent, brings the human heart to feel obedience, and the feeling rushes up to the lips, breaking out in the cry, "not my will, but Thine be done." And so prayer is the highest effort and exercise of the emotions—it touches every fibre—it sweeps across every tightened string, and calls forth all the music of the soul.

And then, prayer is also an exertion of the *will*. You cannot pray, unless you will to pray. Men talk of wandering thoughts in the sanctuary, of distraction of mind; they say they are worldly, and worldly thoughts will come. No wonder that they do come. There is no effort made to keep them back. They have no such distractions during hours of business—at least, I have not heard of it—and they have no such distractions during the hours they have to devote to pleasure. There are no ugly black cares rising up to torment them when they have met genial companions, but there are when they enter their closet to pray, there are when they enter the house of man's worship. That is no mystery. When they go to business they put forth all the strength of will they have; they will hear of nothing else, will talk of nothing else, will think of nothing else until the day's work is done. And they *do* the day's work, not yawning over it. If men would pray, they must *will* to do it just as much; they must shut the door and draw the bolts; they must come to the sanctuary, not to wait for an inspiration, not hoping to be interested, not to yield themselves to any influence the preacher may have, or to find the Spirit of the place; they must bring a spirit into the place; they must come to worship God as expressly as they go to work in the week. There must be the same stern and resolute will, the same concentration of thought and purpose. So you will see, I hope, that prayer is not beneath the care and concern of practical men; is not a mere sentiment fit only for the weak and the dreamy; but is the highest exercise of the highest faculties; is the grandest exertion of which the soul is capable. The loftier the thought, the finer the emotion, the stronger the will, and the truer the prayer will be, and the firmer the grasp of faith and love upon Him who is the object of all prayer.

But where it begins it does not end. It embraces God, the living, loving, personal God. That cry of the exiled forsaken Psalmist was significant. It was the cry of humanity—"my soul thirsteth for God, even for the living God." A living God alone can be the object of true prayer. Not the god of the heathen, carved from wood or stone; not the god of the mere philosopher, an abstraction, an essence, a system; and not the god of science, fettered by His own laws, and a prisoner in the world He has made, but God as the patriarchs and prophets knew Him, personal, present, a King, a Friend, God as Jesus Christ revealed Him, that clothes the lily with beauty and feeds the ravens when they cry, that notes the fall of a sparrow, that succours and saves men, is the universal Father of universal man, not giving a stone to the starving, or a serpent to those who ask for a fish, but knowing how, and being always willing, to give good things to those who ask him.

Prayer is petition; it is the cry for bread; it is the cry for the graces and virtues of the spirit; it is the soul, conscious of its weakness, of its imperfections, crying out to have the infinite strength to lean on, and the infinite peace in the heart. But it is not always petition—at its highest, perhaps, it is not petition at all—it is the converse, communion between the Son and His Father—between the quickened soul and the quickening spirit. The child, always

conscious of its wants, is always making petition, but the man who has learnt to love God greatly, who has got to feel that religion is more than a mere escaping of hell and getting into heaven, is more than mere forgiveness and inward peace, is in truth great principle, great character, great manhood, longs most of all for communion with God. He wants to talk with the Father of his spirit; he wants to receive God's thoughts into his mind. The bond of union is sealed, but the soul requires more; it must have fellowship. And that is prayer. In prayer you cry to the great giver of good; you stretch out your hands empty, but imploring. You do more: You talk with the King of kings and Lord of lords; you hold communion with highest heaven. What can you seek loftier than that? You can forget your wrath, and all the cares it brings. You can forget your poverty and the cold of it. You can lift your manhood to its highest, and feel the heart burn with truest rapture as the Lord talks with you by the way.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

It is distinctly to be borne in mind that we do not by inserting letters convey any opinion favourable to their contents. We open our columns to all without leaning to any; and thus supply a channel for the publication of opinions of all shades, to be found in no other journal in Canada.

No notice whatever will be taken of anonymous letters, nor can we undertake to return those that are rejected.

### NATIONAL DEBT.

To the Editor of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR:

SIR,—Given a sufficiently long and strong lever, together with a fulcrum, and doubtless some ingenious individual would find a way of moving the world out of its present position, destroying the balance of both centripetal and centrifugal force, thus ending the chapter of life; and so, if it be allowed to Mr. Thos. Darling to start on the premises that he does, he will doubtless be able to prove that National Debts are a curse instead of a blessing to a country. Says your contributor: "The evils necessarily resulting from National Debt appear to be powerless to restrain Ministers from resorting to loans, although the welfare of the nation clearly indicates the expediency of an opposite course." Now, nothing whatever in the whole of the contribution proves convincingly that first of all there *is* an evil in borrowing, although Mr. Darling does to a certain extent shew the *modus operandi* at present in use for Canada is at fault. "The practice at one time," in short, says Mr. Darling, "was to amass money and hoard it up, so that if any unforeseen circumstances arose money should be forthcoming to meet such emergency." Is your contributor speaking according to chapter and verse? and if so, will he give one solitary instance in history when nations have not had to call pretty roundly on the people for money under exceptional circumstances? For what matters it whether you call up enough for 1, 2 or 3 years all at once—as is the case in modern times—or come down every year for the amount. The only difference is, that in the last case additional hardship is necessarily entailed, and with no practical benefit whatever. Take a simple case as an illustration. One buys a house and invests all the capital at command, and after living in such house for a twelvemonth certain repairs of considerable extent, and improvements also, need to be done. The owner's income is not large enough out of one year to allow of a deduction sufficient to meet this unforeseen expense, and is he, therefore, according to Mr. Darling, not to trench on his future income for the benefit of his present and future accommodation? May he not rightfully enough divide such expense, say into five, and spread the amount over that number of years? A national debt is exactly the same sort of thing. A young nation like Canada needs opening up by means of railways, canals and roads. It would be utterly impossible for the inhabitants to supply the money as a *tax* for the carrying on and completion of the necessities of trade and civilization; yet is the country to stay behind in an undeveloped state when the money can be obtained at easy interest and payable by a sinking fund? If such were to be the case, it would be a poor look out for the Dominion; for not only would she be *kept* poor, but the door by which she can be delivered from such poverty is effectually shut. If I recollect rightly it was no less an authority than John Bright, M.P. for Manchester, who once stated that no country was well off till it had a good national debt to act as a sheet anchor.

Referring to the present raising of £3,000,000. It has been obtained at a low rate of interest, comparatively speaking. Supposing Government had determined to raise it in the country by putting on a tax of so much in the dollar on all its subjects, what indescribable misery would be caused! The little money a farmer may have put by for buying the land adjoining, or in stocking his already-owned farm, would be swallowed up, and at a cost of about five times more than that at which it can at present be borrowed, since the much larger interest that the farmer could earn would be lost to him and so indirectly lost to the country. The argument that as much of the loan as conveniently possible should be taken up in the country is good and sound, and to carry this out I would propose that the Government in future should do as is done in France, viz., issue bonds of small amount, say \$10, and so put it in the power of everyone to hold some stake, however small, in his country.

Another fallacy Mr. Darling has fallen into is that the present labourers in the country can be sustained by the present products. So far, good; doubtless they can. But how are they to obtain the wherewithal to purchase such products? There are thousands out of employ—men who have been used to better things than day labour—yet many and most of them are so driven as to be glad to earn bread honestly anyway, and if not honestly—why, dishonestly; for one cannot expect a man to agree with the magistrate who said, upon the prisoner at the bar excusing his theft on the plea that he must live, "I really don't see the necessity for that." The introduction, therefore, of capital into the country acts beneficially in every way, provided moderate rates of interest be paid for such advances, for, firstly, it creates a demand for labour to expend such money; secondly, the labourers create a demand for the products of the country through their labour; and thirdly, the country generally becomes more prosperous by the dispersion through different and multitudinous courses of the such acquired wealth. I must apologise for trespassing so much on your valuable space, but trust the importance of the subject will prove a sufficient excuse.

CANADIENSIS.



CURRENT LITERATURE.

In "The Monks of Thelema"\* the authors of the "Golden Butterfly" and "Ready Money Mortiboy" have produced as clever and entertaining a satire in the guise of a novel as one would wish for. The Utopian schemes of the Apostles of the Higher Culture are reduced to practice by a wealthy young landowner, a disciple of the modern Oxford School of Art and Criticism. After a journey round the world to study the habits and needs of the people, he settles down to live the life of his own farm hands, and to work out their artistic salvation according to Ruskin and Pater. At the same time he lends his house to the Order of Thelema, a society of merry-makers, whose only vows are to be pleasant company, and whose motto is summed up in the Rabelaisian apothegm, "Fay ce que voudras." Alan Dunlop's delusions lead him on to the point of marrying his bailiff's daughter to carry out his ideas to their full development, instead of gravitating to his born mate, Sister Miranda of the Abbey, Miss Dalmeny his neighbour, young, pretty, rich, and also infected with the contagion of the modern culture. The reception by the rustics of his projects, their stolid unreceptivity, and his blind perseverance, furnish Messrs. Besant and Rice with plenty of material for witty expression of keen criticism and accurate appreciation of social problems. The under-currents and incidents of the life at the Abbey, the eventual rescue of Dunlop from his self-imposed fate, the fortunes of one Tom Caledon, detrimental and lover of Nelly Despard, both of whom are in the Order, the love story of Alma Bostock, the bailiff's daughter, and her future husband, a manly young gamekeeper, make up the action of the story. Sister Desdemona, *nie* Clairette Fanshawe, actress, and Lord Alwyne Fontaine, Alan's father, a genial and sensible man of the world, are two admirably drawn characters, and bring in the element of everyday life in amusing and well-defined contrast to Mr. Paul Rondelet, fellow of Lothian College, Oxford, Neo Pagan, and one of the most eminent possessors and exponents of the Higher Criticism. Mr. Rondelet has the Nemesis of taking orders or working for his bread and butter looming unpleasantly before him in the distance, and would fain marry Miranda, who, however, does not find the prospect of sharing his "divine discontent" sufficient attraction, even though "The world waits for Oxford to speak, Oxford waits for Lothian," and by implication Lothian waits for its cue from Rondelet. So all comes straight. Dunlop's eyes are opened at last, and after a runaway wedding, which settles at the same time Tom Caledon and Nelly Despard, Alma Bostock and the gamekeeper, the Order of Thelema fulfils the object of its foundation, and the scene closes with everybody else engaged to be married to the right person, save one recreant brother, who has a half-caste wife and five children in India, and Sister Desdemona, whose experience of wedlock has been still more unfortunate. We could quote with pleasure pages of this amusing and clever book, but must be content with giving a passage or two which have a special interest to Canadians, and which will show the accuracy of its criticism. Speaking of the French Canadians:—

Their contentment, he found, was due to profound ignorance, and their want of enterprise to their contentment. "You may lead the people," a priest told him, "with the greatest ease, so long as you do not ask them to receive a single new idea."

The following estimate of Montreal comes pretty close to the truth:—

At Montreal, which is the place where the English Cannuck, the French-Canadian, the Yankee, the Englishman, the Scotchman, the Irishman, the German, and the Jew meet, and try their sharpness on each other. It is a very promising city and will some day become illustrious. But there was little reason for a social philosopher to stay there.

The authors seem to us to hit the mark also in this:—

None of the stalwart farmers (of Ontario) could give him any philosophical reasons for the advance of the colony. "We send the little ones to school," one of them told him . . . "and we mean to push on somehow!"

That is the difference, Alan observed, between the common Englishman and the Canadian. The latter means to push on somehow. How to instil that idea into his own people. . . . And he thought all the time of his own rustics who came like sheep to his lectures, sat like sheep while he delivered them and went away understanding no more than sheep.

And in this again:—

In all his researches on the American continent, he was struck with the fact that the people had no leaders; they seemed to lead themselves. That unhappy country has no heaven-sent and hereditary officers. They have to live without those aids to civilization; and, it must be owned, they seem to get on very well by themselves. . . . "Send him over here, Sir. He can't sit down and be contented in this climate. Discontent is in the air; ambition is in the air; and there are no parish workhouses."

"Rare Pale Margaret"† and "Love's Crosses"‡ are two novels principally remarkable for the amount of reading given for the money; they appear in Harper's Franklin Square Library, and cost but ten cents each. The former is the usual love story, where two men and one woman get hopelessly entangled, and one has to be killed off before everybody's sense of honour can be satisfied. It is, however, written with some degree of taste in language, if not with skill or originality of design. The latter is a compilation of all the rubbish of a dozen young women's novels. Bodily charms and kissing, the delights of eating and drinking, distracting love and despair, slang and false sentiment, are all mixed up together, and everybody is "desperate spoons" on somebody. The heroine changes her mind and transfers possession of herself six times before the right man turns up at the church window, just in time to spoil the wedding by making her faint before the ring can be put on. Another young woman begins by being kissed by each of two men and resenting the comparison of herself to a flamingo, because that bird has thin legs and she has not, and ends by dying a penitent in an Anglican Sisterhood, after having shot one of the aforesaid kissers, who naturally enough compromised her seriously after better acquaintance. The other young man, a lieutenant in a Lancer regiment, turns Ritualist parson, consoles her last days, and keeps her grave green. We have forgotten to mention the *deus ex machina*, an old sailor who speaks of "tying up a sail as if it was a horse," and who saves a boat from capsizing in a squall by the remarkable nautical order to "take the rudder, and I'll hold the painter." It should also be added that the gentleman who made himself *de*

*trop* at the wedding had been supposed to have killed his sister's false lover, to have been drowned twice, and to have been shot twice, once in the Carlist war and once in a Spanish prison. With all these elements well mixed up, any amount of seasoning with man's talk—although, by the way, we do not remember to have ever heard one officer in Her Majesty's Service accuse another of telling "taradiddles"—lots of moonlight, bare arms, long hair, luncheon parties, bitter mockery of fate, strange loveliness and dust and ashes, "Love's Crosses" should be sure to find plenty of admiring readers.

"The Mistletoe Bough"§ is a collection of short stories of the kind presumed to be peculiarly appropriate to Crismastide—on the ground of contrast, we suppose, for surely if anything could throw into relief the joviality and good spirits that by prescription and a well-meant fiction attach to the period of settlement of bills and the renewal of annual good resolves, it would be the ghost stories and murders that fill the Christmas numbers of the periodicals and disturb the rest of their readers. Miss Braddon's inventive talent has been quite equal to the occasion, and furnishes for those who like to sup on horrors an abundant feast. The inevitable love story, where the good-natured young man and the pretty girl are on the point of eternal separation and misery through a misunderstanding, want of money, or the presence of a better *parti*, is provided in several varieties. There are also the usual sporting tale, where the "pot of money is landed" just in the nick of time to save the hero from bankruptcy; the experiences of the man in a madhouse; and the fatal curse that kills a fresh victim on a given day every year till only the last of the original band of boon companions is left to tell the story half an hour before his time is also up. But, as Miss Braddon is sure to find plenty of readers of two sorts—those who read these stories because they like them, and those who would read anything—we shall leave them the full enjoyment that is to be got out of this, to us, extraordinarily dismal literature, although the qualification will, perhaps, after all be to its admirers the highest recommendation that could have been given.

THE PERIODICALS.

*Rose-Belford's Canadian Monthly* has a good illustrated paper on volcanoes and earthquakes. Mr. Townsend makes a fair and appreciative estimate of Shelley's poetry, while a more practical paper deals with the question of water for drinking, and gives a good many useful hints. Stewart's "Canada under Lord Dufferin" is dealt with tenderly by Mr. Rattray, which is more than can be said of Jingoism, as seen by Professor Goldwin Smith, and treated of in a forcible paper on "Berlin and Afghanistan." The story of an extraordinary life and of a genuine poet is well told in a short three pages on "Richard Realf," which include two specimens of his poetry, one of which we have thought too good to let pass, and shall publish. Wilkie Collin's "Haunted Hotel," closes the door on its horrors in this number, and James Payne commences a new story, "Under One Roof." The "Monks of Thelema" draws to a close, increasing in vivacity and shrewd satire, as the schemes of the Higher Intellect are pictured in their actual outcome. There is the usual admixture of verse, and the number ends with some good criticisms of current literature, following some very *apropos* remarks "Round the Table," as to the woeful deficiency of Canadian newspapers in this respect.

In *The Fortnightly Review* Mr. Matthew Arnold opens the number with an article on middle-class education, giving a great deal of information as to the excellent results of the French system, pointing out the consequent homogeneity, extent, and importance of the middle-class in France, and putting in a plea for something of the same sort in England. Professor Fawcett grapples with the development of Socialism in Germany and the United States in a very readable and useful paper. This is his summary of the ultimate programme of modern Socialism:—

"That there should be no private property, and that no one should be permitted to acquire property by inheritance. That all should be compelled to labour, no one having a right to live without labour."  
 "The nationalization of the land and of the other instruments of production; or, in other words, the State should own all the land, capital, machinery—in fact everything which constitutes the industrial plant of a country, in order that every industry may be carried on by the State."

As there is no immediate prospect of attaining their objects in complete form, the Socialists aim for the present at securing cooperative associations under State support, universal compulsory education, the abolition of indirect taxation, State provision for the unemployed, limitation of the day's work, and sanitary inspection of mines, factories and workmen's dwellings. M. Emile de Laveleye runs a tilt with Senor Castelar on the subject of the Berlin Treaty, coming to the conclusion that as a matter of present fact opposition to Russia is unjustifiable. "Epping Forest" gives a sketch of this at present queerly named tract, and contains a plan for making it, by a great agricultural experiment, a forest indeed, in several distinct portions, each containing the trees and shrubs that grow in one of the great forest regions of the temperate zone. Whatever be the success of this project—and there seems nothing against it but the expense—Mr. Wallace's paper contains a great deal about trees and their distribution which is worth reading. "The Peasants of the Limagne" is a sketch of French country life in Auvergne, almost equal in the reading of it to the life there itself. Mr. Sidney Colvin has a paper on the Study of Classical Art, followed in sharp contrast by the continuation of Mr. Frederic Harrison's article on the "English School of Jurisprudence," in which he deals with Bentham's and Austin's Analysis of Law. Mr. Harrison thinks it seems hard to assume that there can be any single and universal scheme of classification, and that practical convenience makes it of immense importance to respect the practical methods of grouping the principles of the *corpus juris* of any system which are so familiar and so long sanctioned by usage. "Civilization and Noise" is a study of the sources and conditions of the afflictions of sensitive ears and busy brains, from which the only hope of escape, according to Mr. Sully, is a general growth of sensibility or the resources of science. Mr. Chamberlain devotes attention to "The Caucus," which he considers a ready and useful instrument for the political organization of the English Liberals; and the usual review of Home and Foreign affairs closes an unusually diversified and attractive number.

§ The Mistletoe Bough, by Miss M. E. Braddon. "Franklin Square Library." New York, Harper and Brothers. Montreal, Dawson Brothers.

\* The Monks of Thelema, by Walter Besant and James Rice. Toronto, Rose-Belford Publishing Co., 1878. Montreal, Dawson Brothers.  
 † Rare Pale Margaret.  
 ‡ Lover Crosses, by H. N. Noley.

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## NEWS SUMMARY.

## COLONIAL.

The "City of New York," with the Australian cricketers on board, arrived at Sydney, from San Francisco, on Nov. 25th.

A band of Chinese robbers have attacked the Dindings Settlement. Government-Superintendent Lloyd was murdered in his bed, and his wife and Mrs. Jones were wounded. The police who were called in were useless, and fled to the hometop. Mr. Cecil Smith, the new Colonial Secretary for the Straits Settlement has arrived.

Mr. Frank Scarr arrived at Tennant's Creek, says an Adelaide source, on September 9th, in charge of an exploring expedition from Queensland. He reported the discovery of the evidence of a party having been murdered by the blacks on a tributary of the Herbert, in latitude 22° 22' S., and that he had found five horses, since recognised as belonging to Prout's party of four that started in November last from the Herbert exploring westward.

Commenting on the Victorian deadlock, the *Colonies and India* remarks: The settlement of foreign complications may present more features of interest to the general public, but the end of this Colonial complication would be a matter of much more importance to the hundreds of thousands of Englishmen who have made Victoria their home, and to whom the termination of the present strife would present a new era of prosperity and advancement for one of the foremost of our colonies.

An earthquake took place at Sierra Leone on the morning of the 11th October, shaking every house in the colony, and causing great alarm to the inhabitants, but doing no serious damage. There were three successive shocks felt, travelling inland to a distance of about sixty miles, and the end of each is said to have resembled three very heavy peals of thunder following quickly upon each other. The natives of the interior were so terrified that in many cases they deserted their villages. An earthquake of a similar character occurred about fifteen years ago.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

Reporters were refused admission to a recent execution at Northampton.

Two more constituencies have been gained by the Liberals,—Maldon and Bristol.

On account of hard times, the Duke of Norfolk has reduced his tenants' rents twenty-five per cent.

The Right Hon. James Monahan, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas in Ireland, died at Dublin on the 10th instant, aged 73 years.

Sir Stafford Northcote has stated that he understood only the Russian Envoy, not the Russian mission, had been withdrawn from Cabul.

There have been rumours that the Ameer has sent messengers to ask for peace, but latest despatches from the Viceroy make no mention of this.

Sir Stafford Northcote has announced that Parliament will be asked for a grant of money to relieve the distress among the late insurgents in the Rhodope Mountains.

The question of British jurisdiction in Cyprus is being discussed by England and Turkey. The former recognizes the Sultan's sovereignty, but refuses to be content with consular courts merely.

An Imperial Order in Council is published exempting Canada from the operation of those clauses of the Contagious Diseases Act which require the slaughter of all foreign cattle at the port of landing.

One feature of the debate on the Afghanistan war has been Mr. Goschen's declaration that though a Liberal, he was quite as anxious for England's supremacy in Afghanistan as were the Government.

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, speaking at Rochdale lately, said that, acting under the advice of friends—and he hinted that Mr. Bright was one of them—he should not again introduce the Permissive Bill, but would proceed by resolution.

Mr. Fawcett's amendment to the resolution for the consent of the Commons to a defrayal of the Afghan expenses from the India revenue, was rejected, on Tuesday, by a vote of 235 to 125, and Parliament adjourned till February 13th.

Lord Dufferin has been elected President of the Royal Geographical Society in place of Sir Rutherford Alcock. In his inaugural address on the 9th instant he gave an account of his travels in the North-West, with a glowing description of Canada's future.

The standard for recruits for the infantry of the line is to be raised from 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 6 inches, and that for the Royal Engineers from 5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 6½ inches. The standard for recruits for rifle regiments remains as at present—5 feet 4½ inches.

General Browne's advance on Jellalabad has met with no opposition, and there are reports that it has been occupied. There has been a good deal of sickness, principally pneumonia, among the British forces, and one Sikh regiment has been sent back to Peshawar.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Alice, Grand Duchess of Hesse, died on Saturday the 14th inst., at Darmstadt, of diphtheria. She was the second daughter of Her Majesty, was born in 1843, and married in 1862 to Prince Frederick William Louis, of Hesse. The event is the sadder as happening on the anniversary of the death of the Prince Consort.

The debate on the Address was closed by the Marquis of Hartington, with a demand for the recall of the Viceroy of India and a spirited declaration that the country must get rid of the Government, and Mr. Whitehead's motion of censure was rejected on the 13th inst., by a vote of 328 to 227, some score less of a majority than the Government had anticipated.

The mania for private theatricals is fast approaching a limit closely bordering on the "professional." Lady Sebright and Sir Charles Young and their clever corps of amateurs have lately been giving a series of representations for the benefit of certain charitable institutions, and a recent fair *debutante* at the Globe Theatre was no other than the Hon. Mrs. Harry Needham, granddaughter by marriage to the Earl of Kilmore.

A novel entertainment was given in the Mission Chapel, Little Wild street, in London, the other evening, the guests being 250 thieves, all of the lowest grade. It may be said to their credit that they all behaved in a most exemplary manner, with the exception of two very hardened offenders, who did their best to excite a riot after eating all that they were capable of holding. They passed the remainder of the evening in a prison cell.

The recent London scandal—the attempt of Lady Gooch to palm off another woman's baby on her husband as her own—has come to an end. The woman's counsel admitted to the court that her confinement was merely fictitious, and that she played a part to get a settlement when she should be left a widow. She threw herself on the mercy of the court, and her husband (Sir Francis Gooch) also said that he pardoned his wife and did not wish to press the case further.

The English courts have at length decided that the agricultural population have rights which fox-hunters are bound to respect. Heretofore it has been assumed that the latter are at liberty to go over any man's land in pursuit of their "game," regardless of growing crops and of the owner's objections. It has just been decided that this is all a mistake, and if a farmer objects to a troop of horses and hounds tramping and racing over his demesne they must keep off or be liable for damages.

Tradition has long pointed out a certain field, called the Court Garden, about a mile from Wedmore Church, as the site of the old palace of King Alfred and the West-Saxon Kings. And now the rector, Mr. Sydenham Hervey, has dug up in this place the remains of the palace. The walls are massive, the mortar of an ancient character, and the whole appearance of the building speaks its great age. A large quantity of pottery has been found, some Roman and some of early English character.

A queer case springs from the failure of the City of Glasgow Bank. A lady died recently having no heirs and leaving no will, and her property went to the Crown. Among her possessions was some of the stock, and as each shareholder is individually liable for all the debts it is proposed to hold the Queen responsible! One bank which had taken four

shares from a customer in its debt has been called upon to put the whole capital, £150,000, at the order of the directors, who are winding up the Glasgow concern. At the last service which Mr. Lewis Pelly, one of the imprisoned directors, attended, the hymn was, "The hour of my departure's come," and it was sung to the ominous tune of "Duke Street."

In an English railway carriage recently, a young mother sold her three-weeks-old boy to a gentleman and his wife of Newcastle, for five pounds. The mother refused to give her name, but said the child's name was George Henry. Singularly, this happened to be the buyer's Christian name, and served to increase his own and his wife's delight in their bargain.

Mr. Butt has sent a second letter to the Irish newspapers on the Home Rule question—in which he seeks to show that through the exertions of his Irish party, while it remained united, repeal of "Coercion Acts" and other advantages were gained for Ireland, and in general the tone of English Parliamentary opinions towards Ireland improved. There is a passage in which the delay of such further useful legislation is attributed to the Obstructionists, and their policy styled a "policy of exasperation." He accuses them of having damaged the "National cause" by violent language and "writings," and takes credit to himself for assisting the passing of the Intermediate Education Act, declaring likewise that by the admission of the Lord Chancellor one of the first measures next session will be one on university education as its complement. He concludes by urging that even before a dissolution of parliament a better franchise could be secured for Ireland, and by promising in another communication to make a still further defence of himself, and put issues and give counsels to the Irish people, which in their determination will affect their welfare for future times.

## UNITED STATES.

The cotton crop for 1878 averages 191 pounds per acre as against 156 lbs. in 1877. The total, at 430 lbs. per bale, will be 197,000 bales.

General Grant is to have a trip round the world in the U. S. frigate "Richmond," going to India, Spain, China, Japan and the Sandwich Islands.

Women were allowed to vote on the question of selling lager beer at Plymouth, Mass., the other day, and the sale of the lager was prohibited by a two-thirds majority.

Rev. R. Lamborn, the Colorado commissioner at the Paris exposition, advocates the introduction of the Yak or Thibet ox into Colorado. This animal yields the fine hair which is knit into shawls.

A computation from all sources shows the aggregate wheat crop for the past season to have been 425,000,000 bushels. The yield of some of the Territories was considerably more than double that of the previous crop.

The storm of the 10th instant was felt very severely all through Pennsylvania, New York and the New England States. The heavy freshets and land slides did much damage and caused several serious railway accidents.

The Socialists of New York on December 11th admitted to their number the first coloured man that has joined them, one George Mack, who is to become an apostle of anarchy among the coloured people of the States.

Four residents of San Francisco have died since the beginning of this year—Hopkins, Colton, Reese and O'Brien—all of whom began life in poverty and died reputed millionaires, each of three of them leaving an estate estimated at more than \$8,000,000.

It is said that the coloured voters of South Carolina are going to petition Congress for disfranchisement. They say the practical effect of negro suffrage is to increase the strength and power of the southern democracy, and they would rather lose the privilege of the ballot than that this should be so.

A society has been existing in New York for two years past, called the Maternity Society, its object being to provide medical attendance, clothing and supplies for poor women in their hour of need. The good done by it has been so great that its example is being imitated in St. Louis.

The distribution of the balance of the Geneva Award, some ten millions of dollars, was before Congress last Friday. It seems clearly established that the money will not be handed over to the Treasury for general use, but that it is to be considered as held in trust for those who have suffered loss by the Confederate cruisers. No decision as to its disposal was however arrived at.

Great presence of mind was shown by the principal of the Worcester street school, New York, the other day. A serious fire broke out, but he dismissed the 1,200 children in attendance without allowing them to know anything about it, on the plea that some carpenters were coming to work. When all were safely out, the alarm was given. In other circumstances a dangerous panic might have arisen.

A Wyoming correspondent of the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* comes forward with a point blank contradiction of the reports that woman suffrage has failed in that territory. He says that large numbers of the better classes of women visit the polls, that they are not degraded by the suffrage, that their influence on the ballot has been salutary and purifying, and that there is no desire to take the elective franchise away from them.

Dr. Leo, of the Medico-Legal Society, has prepared a paper showing that infanticide in New York ranks far ahead of the cities of the Old World. Statistics from the Coroner's office show that in 1873 there were 113 cases of infanticide in this city; in 1874, 112; in 1875, 102; in 1876, 101; and in 1877, 95. It is generally believed that this list does not represent more than one-fifth of the actual number, and the need for more stringent legislation is apparent.

Mr. Edwin Einstein, Congressman-elect from the seventh district, is the second Israelite who has been elected to Congress from New York, the first having been Emmanuel B. Hart, who served from 1851 to 1853. Philadelphia sent Henry M. Phillips from 1857 to 1861; Boston sent Leopold Morse in 1877, and has just re-elected him. Judah P. Benjamin was United States Senator from Louisiana from 1853 until 1861. These, we believe, are the only Jews who have served in Congress.

The Workman's Coffee House movement has reached New York. In the Bowery a house has just been opened where the best of coffee, tea, cocoa, and lunches can be obtained at cost price. There is also in the same building a reading-room and a library and other attractions, open to all sober, respectable men free of charge. This enterprise is started at the expense of a good citizen who does not wish his name to appear at all in connection with it. It is designed to be conducted on strict business principles.

## FOREIGN.

Russia is said to be negotiating for leave to build railways in Persia.

According to the new budget the revenue of Turkey is £16,000,000 Turkish.

Another conspiracy to dethrone the Sultan of Turkey has been nipped in the bud.

News from Turkestan says the Chinese are concentrating against Kuldja, a post in Kashgar occupied by the Russians.

Russia has now 25,308 elementary public schools, in which are instructed 1,152,712 pupils, 193,871 of these being girls.

The amount of paper money in circulation in Japan is announced by the Government to be one hundred and fifty millions of dollars.

A fleet of Russian iron-clads and swift unarmoured vessels is gathering in the Chinese Seas, but for what purpose has not transpired.

The difficulty between Russia and China on the frontier is growing fast. It is reported that a Russian expedition from Yart Vernaic has been fired upon by Chinese troops and forced to return.

The British barque "Glamorganshire," which, while on a voyage from Hong Kong to Nagasaki, struck on an island in the Japanese sea, during a hurricane in September last, was got off by the help of the natives. A number of them immediately put off to the ship, which was rapidly filling with water, and assisted in pumping and in throwing overboard the ballast. The next day two mandarins, who could speak a little English, visited the vessel

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with fifty natives, and, with their aid, in the course of eight days a channel was cut in the coral reef, and the ship was floated and got clear of danger. The natives refused to receive any payment for their services.

Murders have so greatly increased in Switzerland that the restoration of capital punishment is to be discussed by the Council of State.

Mr. Sothorn has cancelled all his engagements in England and America, and will spend the winter in Italy. He has somewhat recovered from the attack of illness brought on by overwork.

The Russian Ambassador has presented a note protesting against the proposed new Turkish loan, and declaring that Turkey has no right to alienate her resources before paying the war indemnity.

Senor Francisco Agramonte, a resident of New York, owns a sugar plantation at Santiago de Cuba. He has recently released nearly a hundred slaves employed on it, going there himself to do so.

The first street railway in Rome now operates successfully from the Porta del Popolo, at the entrance of the Villa Borghese, to the old bridge of Ponte Molle on the Tiber, a distance of nearly two miles.

An important weekly newspaper is soon to appear in Rome under the direct inspiration of the Pope. It will be published simultaneously in five different languages; its nominal editor will be Count Conestabile of Perugia, and the real one Monsignor Pecci.

A statue is to be erected to the memory of Admiral Coligny, who was murdered on the night of the St. Bartholomew massacre. It is to be placed in the centre of the court-yard of the Louvre at Paris, which adjoins the spot whereon stood the house in which the Huguenot met his death. A committee has been formed to collect subscriptions.

Official reports show that the Russian Government banished, in the course of eight years, from 1870 to 1877, 1,599 persons to Siberia, 1,328 persons being Caucasian mountaineers. The Russian villages banished during the same time 36,165 men. It appears, therefore, that the villages with their self-government are much more severe than the autocratic government.

In Austria the controversy on the policy of the Government goes on with uniminished vigour. While the Hungarian delegation has assented by a large majority to the grant of twenty millions of florins for the occupation expenses of the year 1879, the Austrian delegation has resolved to reject the Government demand for a grant to build ironclads and to increase the number of army officers.

It is curious that while wolves have been for centuries extirpated in England, they should still flourish in France. The *Gazette de Metz* says that this year they have made their appearance near towns earlier than usual in winter seasons. The difficulty in getting rid of them lies in the immense extent of forest land. The wild boars, too, multiply rapidly, and make sad havoc in potatoe fields and vineyards.

An heroic act has just been performed by a young woman, at Boulogne, France. A man at work on a sloop just off the port fell into the water, and was sinking fast, when Mlle. Pay, daughter of a local wine merchant, who happened to be on the shore, jumped into the waves, and swimming to the drowning man, rescued him from death. On reaching dry land she received an enthusiastic welcome from the lookers-on.

#### RELIGIOUS.

The three Episcopal dioceses of Illinois—Chicago, Springfield and Quincy—are to be organized into the Province of Illinois, with an archbishop or metropolitan at its head.

The Pope has sent ten Jesuits to Central Africa to evangelize the countries traversed by Stanley and Livingstone. The mission will cost \$40,000, and the missionaries will take with them 500 porters, servants, &c., who will be unarmed.

Dr. Cumming's popularity has declined wonderfully within a few years past. His church, once the most crowded in London, is now nearly deserted. His credibility as a prophet having vanished, the people who formerly went to hear him are attracted elsewhere.

A Japanese printing house in Tokio has commenced the publication of a paper in the interests of the Christian religion. It is entirely a Japanese enterprise, none of the missionaries having anything to do with it, and is intended to give an account of what is going on in the religious world, as seen from Tokio.

The body of St. Francis Xavier was exposed to view on the 3rd inst., in the City of New Goa, the capital of the Portuguese possessions in India. The saint died in China in 1552, was beatified by Pope Paul V. in 1619, and canonized by Pope Gregory XV. in 1622. The remains were last exposed in 1855, and the countenance was then described as wearing an expression of holy calm and peace.

Mr. Mackay, of the Canada Presbyterian Mission in Formosa, who recently married a Chinese lady, says that she has become an active help-met in the work of evangelization. At every chapel, he says, women who never entered the doors before listen eagerly to the story of the Cross, and women who have been attending chapel have become less timid, and sit beside Mrs. Mackay on the front seat.

Active preparations are now in progress in London for the practical launching of the Wesleyan Thanksgiving Fund, which is expected to reach the sum of £200,000 to £250,000. It is stated that the first great meeting will be held in City-road Chapel, and is to be preceded by special sermons from the president of the conference (the Rev. J. H. Rigg, D.D.) and the ex-president (the Rev. W. B. Pope, D.D.)

The Evangelical party have sustained a defeat in their action against the introduction of Ritualism into Cork. The rector of Ballincully—Canon Dobbin—having failed to secure from either the Chaplain-General or the Secretary of State for War, any prohibition of the high Ritualism practised in the parish by the chaplain of the garrison, took the matter to the Diocesan Synod. There, in a calm, temperate fashion he memorialised the Synod to take steps to restrain these practices. Yet the resolution supporting the memorial was opposed in several ways, and at length the house was counted, and the matter fell through, because a large number of the members walked out.

The Bishop of Rochester, in a pastoral just issued, cautions the clergy of his diocese against joining those religious associations which are now becoming so common, and two of which—the Society of the Holy Cross and the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament—have lately superinduced much dismay and serious apprehension to the Church. "Quite apart from the doctrinal specialities of these two societies," he says, "I personally seem to discern in the general idea features of grave peril. They tend to separate the Church into small sections instead of compacting the unity of the whole. They attract vital heat from the centre to the extremities, and keep it there."

The English Court of Appeal has given judgment in a case which had been argued before it, affecting the religion of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Agar-Ellis. The father is a Protestant and the mother a Roman Catholic, and the question was whether a promise made to Mrs. Agar-Ellis by her husband before her marriage, that the children of the union should be brought up as Roman Catholics, could be retracted by him now. Vice-Chancellor Malins had decided that the children should be educated in the doctrines of the Church of England, and against this decision Mrs. Agar-Ellis appealed. Lords Justices James, Baggallay and Thesiger now held that the whole responsibility of the children's education should be thrown upon the father, and that no order should be made as to the religion in which they should be brought up.

Dean Stanley, preaching in Westminster Abbey for the first time since his return from the United States, remarked that we could not throw off the responsibilities which the past as well as the present had thrown upon us. Our far-reaching lines of ancestry and our wide-spreading dominions were around us like the mountains standing around Jerusalem. There was a vast area of hearers—flesh of our flesh, and blood of our blood—who watched us with a preternatural sensitiveness. All the good or evil of our doing might aid in raising or depressing these our brethren. Far more to them than any flattery or censure would be the examples of honest trade, of pure statesmanship, and of pure religious life and teaching; for they look with respect and regard upon these shores from which they took their reluctant departure, and which they still so dearly love.

#### ART, SCIENCE AND LITERATURE.

It is understood that Mr. Ruskin will decline re-election to the Slade Professorship at Oxford, on account of his ill health.

A chair in Russian literature has been founded at the University of Belgrade by Prince Milan, who acts at the instance of the Czar.

Gustave Dore's edition of Ariosto's "Orlando Furioso," with five hundred and fifty illustrations, will soon appear in Paris, after the labor of eight years.

The *Herald* reports that the Edison electric light is produced by incandescence of a high alloy of platinum and iridium, which cannot be melted at 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Mr. Tennyson's dramatic fire is not quenched by the cold water of the critics, and he is said to be at work upon a new dramatic poem, the chief figure in which will be Thomas à Becket.

M. Gérôme has in hand, besides his picture of the burning of Shelley's body, a picture of three conspirators, in the days of the First Napoleon's reign, engaged in close and animated discussion, and a sculptured group of Anacreon carrying an infant Love and an infant Bacchus.

Macmillan & Co. promise immediately an English translation by Mrs. Alexander Napier, of Dr. Moritz Busch's "Bismarck and the Men About Him During the War with France," a clever and amusing work, the original publication of which made quite a stir upon the continent.

A new Philadelphia paper starts out with communications from Oliver Cromwell, Lord Byron, and Diogenes. It calls itself *Mind and Matter*, and its editor asserts that in this department he will give nothing but that which he personally knows, or has every reason to believe, is from communicating spirits.

Some English and American art students in Paris have formed a "four o'clock sketching club" to utilize by lamplight the "time between daylight and dark," when daylight work is impossible and dinner is not ready. Its informal and social character, as well as the good results obtained, have made it quite a success.

Professor Heim, of Zurich, declares that the stone taken from the Drachenfels and employed in the most ancient parts of the cathedral of Cologne—the foundations and pillars—is in such a state of decay and chemical decomposition that the tumbling down of the whole edifice may be expected before the end of the present century.

The Paris Fire Brigade uses sulphide of carbon to extinguish fires in chimneys. This lights easily, burns readily, and gives off large quantities of sulphurous gas and carbonic acid, both of which prevent combustion. One hundred grammes of the liquid are put in a soap plate on the hearth and set fire to. There is no danger in its use, and the necessity for ascending the roof to cover the top of the chimney, which had to be done under the old system of burning sulphur, is done away with.

Martin Luther's will has been critically examined by a committee of experts, who, after comparing every word of the manuscript with a number of original letters in Luther's handwriting, have unanimously agreed that it is the genuine handiwork of the Reformer. The will was the property of the learned theologian, Johann Benedict Carpzovius, and finally passed into the possession of the Archduchess Maria Dorothea, who presented it to the Evangelical Church of Hungary, in whose archives it has ever since been preserved. Its present owners have never dared to assert its authenticity, while they have until lately feared to submit it to a rigorous examination by competent scholars, dreading lest it should be declared spurious.

#### LAW, MEDICINE, &c.

According to the proverb there is nothing new under the sun. Hence, perhaps, Dr. Huillet, late of Pondichery, undertakes to show that vaccination was known to a certain Dahwanatori, who flourished several thousand years before Hippocrates.

A conference of the Association for the Reform or Codification of the Law of Nations, which has held its meetings of late years in Brussels, Geneva, The Hague, Bremen, Antwerp, Frankfurt, and other great cities of Europe, will be held next year in London.

Dr. Brown Sequard, in a letter to the French Biological Society, states that milk moderately warmed, if injected slowly into a human artery, will revive a dying patient quite as much as injections of blood. He cites a number of cases in which he has successfully tried the experiment.

The New South Wales Parliament has made an important alteration in the marriage law of that colony. A Bill has been passed granting the wife a right to a divorce in the case of the husband's infidelity, and thus, in this respect, placing the wife on the same legal footing as the husband. The Bill has excited much discussion, and it is supposed that the Home Government will refuse to sanction the measure.

A series of examinations, made some time ago at the hospital at Edinburgh, develops the fact that the lungs of not less than one third of those who died when over forty years of age were in a condition that could be accounted for in no other way than by the supposition that at some period of their lives consumption had existed, and had afterward been checked or cured. Portions of the lungs had been destroyed, but the cavities formed had been healed by contraction and adhesion of their walls, or the disintegrated substance had been shut in by the formation of fibrous tissue. Similar conclusions have been reached in Paris, which seem to show that incipient consumption is more curable and more often cured than is generally supposed.

#### HUMOUROUS.

*Harvard Crimson*: There is very little that is really original in literature. That apparently most original song, "Whoa, Emma," is after all, only an expansion of Dr. Holmes's idea:

"Think, think, thou cruel Emma,  
When thou shalt hear my woe,  
And know my sad dilemma,  
That thou hast made it so."

The *Detroit Free Press* remarks: "It is a poor week when the New York detectives can't secure from fifty to seventy-five 'clews.' Having secured them, the detectives sit down and take a rest."

OPENED.—An old Scotchman, on marrying a very young wife, was rallied by his friends on the inequality of their ages. "She will be near me," he replied, "to close my een." "Well," remarked another of the party, "I've had two wives, and they opened my een."

EQUAL TO THE OCCASION.—An actress, playing in a piece in rhyme, had to begin a long speech with these words:—"I'll tell you about it with all my heart," but her memory failing her, she quickly added, "That is, if you'll permit me to look at my part!" and coolly pulling a manuscript from her pocket, she went on reading her lines.

Country parson (who is taking the views of his congregation regarding the introduction of an organ) to elderly parishioner: "Well, Donald, are you in favor of an organ?" Donald (tartly): "No!" Country parson: "Then you don't admire instrumental music, Donald?" Donald (severely): "If ye wull haaf music in ta kirk, let it pe ta bagpipes."

A young author, offering a five-act tragedy to a manager, described his work thus, "My play is a masterpiece; it must be a success, as I have tried to satisfy the public by making the action extremely tragic. All the characters die in the third act." "Then what personages occupy the stage during the last two acts?" objected the manager! "The ghosts of those whom I killed in the third!"

If any one should unfortunately suffer from a bruise, the most certain relief from the pain, and the speediest remedy for the removal of evil results, is BROWN'S HOUSEHOLD PANACEA and Family Liniment. It sets the blood in active circulation, the coagulation is broken up, and discoloration removed.

"A Slight Cold," Coughs.—Few are aware of the importance of checking a cough or "SLIGHT COLD" which would yield to a mild remedy, if neglected, often attacks the lungs. "Brown's Bronchial Troches" give sure and almost immediate relief.

## MUSICAL.

## MR. DESEVE'S CONCERT.

This concert was not very largely attended, owing doubtless to the insufficiency of the advertisements. Most of the audience belonged to the French-speaking class of the population; we say so the more confidently because many of them kept up a continual jabber throughout the evening, leaving us no doubt whatever as to the language spoken by them. The programme was an excellent one, and would probably have been very enjoyable if we had heard it performed; but, like the starting-post at a race course, it seemed made to run away from, and was more of a hindrance than a help towards understanding what was being performed. Pieces that were down in the second part of the programme were performed in the *first* part, and *vice versa*; some of the pieces promised were not given at all, and others were substituted without a word of explanation. For example, when on looking at the programme we were led to expect a prelude by Sebastian Bach, Mr. Deseve played a waltz, and when the programme indicated that a waltz by Alard was to be performed, Mr. Deseve favored us with the pathetic "Melody" by Vieuxtemps, which was not on the programme at all.

Miss Morrison-Fiset made her *debut* before a Montreal audience on this occasion, and was very well received. She has a well-cultivated soprano voice, and sang in excellent style throughout the entire evening. Her enunciation is not perfect, and her upper notes sounded rather thin; but her voice seems under thorough control, and she has evidently studied in a good school. Madame Christin was unable to perform her solos owing to a severe cold. She essayed the opening part of "O, mon Fernand," but had the good sense not to proceed further; however, judging from her general style and phrasing, we think she is no ordinary singer, and shall be pleased to hear her under more favourable circumstances. Mademoiselle Sym played one of Liszt's abortions called a "Hungarian Rhapsody;" it is the fourteenth of these productions, and, to our thinking, an utterly meaningless composition. We were reminded of the request made by a countryman to Ole Bull, that he would "hurry up tuning that ere fiddle, and give us some music." Liszt's "Rhapsodies" are immensely difficult; we join with Dr. Johnson in wishing they were impossible. In the second part, Miss Sym played Chopin's "Ballade in A flat," and showed to much more advantage; she also played a duet with Madame Beliveau, written by Geria, on airs from "Belisario," but, though the execution was good, we imagine neither of the ladies ever heard the opera, nor have any idea of vocal music.

Mr. Deseve played very well; he produces an excellent tone, and is possessed of great executive skill. Once or twice we fancied his stopping was not perfectly in tune, but generally his performance was highly creditable, and we welcome him as a valuable addition to our local artists. M. Honorius de LaMothe was announced as a tenor, but might have been anything else for any distinctive characteristic shown by his singing. He has neither voice, style, execution, or any one of the many qualities which go to make an artist—except, indeed, unlimited self-possession. We were treated to a long operatic aria sung in the most monotonous manner, in a tone usually denominated "nasal"; and though many persons in the audience yawned audibly several times, and others, regardless of the singer, talked aloud throughout, he persevered manfully to the bitter end, leaving the platform without the accompaniment of even satirical applause.

We would recommend Mr. Deseve in future to adhere to his programme if possible; if from some unforeseen causes a change may be necessary, to make some apology to the audience; and if he cannot get a tenor who knows how to sing, to do without one altogether.

## BLIND TOM.

This celebrated individual has again visited our city, and though we should be very sorry to class his entertainments with the musical events of the season, we take the opportunity of committing a few of our thoughts respecting him to paper.

This young man is blind, black, and an idiot, (at least he is supposed to be deficient in intellect) and is announced as a musical prodigy, performing feats never before accomplished by untrained musicians. Now we have no reason to doubt that the man is blind, that he is black is self-evident, and as to whether he or his hearers have the most brains we will not hazard an opinion; but that he is a phenomenal musician we unhesitatingly deny, and having heard him play may, perhaps, express an honest opinion respecting his performance.

Blind Tom plays the piano better than many amateurs, and better than some professionals. This is to be expected; he has done little else for years, and is in every sense a professional pianist. Few musicians indeed spend so much of their time at the instrument, and the wonder to us is, not that he plays so well, but that he does not play better, considering the opportunities and advantages he possesses. He plays two or three tunes at once. There is not a musician of any pretensions in this city who can not do that; indeed, if there be any difficulty in the matter, it is in the discovery of three tunes which will harmonize, which neither Blind Tom nor any one else has yet done. All organists who can perform Bach's fugues, play four tunes at once, and these of the most elaborate kind.

It may be urged that Tom is blind. Now is this a disadvantage? Is it not a well-known fact that in a blind man the senses of touch and hearing are increased, so that his want of sight is rather an advantage than otherwise? We have in our mind's eye a well-known Montreal amateur, who can see and yet plays in a manner vastly superior to Blind Tom, although like the latter he is unacquainted with musical notation. The performance of this gentleman is, to our thinking, far more wonderful, inasmuch as he not only plays better than that dusky artist, but he does a thousand and one other things that Blind Tom cannot engage in, so does not give his sole attention to music.

We have no objection to Blind Tom making all the money he can, although we should like to know what proportion of the profits this apparent tool of his employers receives. Is any provision being made for him, or does, as we suspect, the guardian "make the money and the blind boy the music"? Again, we think it is cruel and an abomination that this poor unfortunate lad

should be dragged before the public and that the misfortunes with which he has been loaded should be made a means of gaining money for others. The sight, to our mind, is disgusting, and we heard a lady exclaim during the performance that "his appearance made her feel ill." We also admit the right of people to pay their money to hear a blind, black man do what hundreds of seeing, white men can do much better, even though they have not had any musical training; but we do not understand why a third-rate negro pianist should draw a larger audience of educated musical people than a first-class American or European artist, simply because he is black, and blind, and pretends to be an idiot.

## CHESS.

At the solicitation of many friends and subscribers, we have the pleasure of announcing our intention to establish a weekly Chess Column, having secured as Editor a gentleman well known in Canadian chess circles.

It seems a matter of regret that such an ancient game as chess—fayoured as it has been by some of the best and wisest of princes, and practised at one time even more extensively than at the present day by all classes of society—does not meet with more encouragement in the periodical press. This does not, we are sure, arise from a dearth of chess players or chess readers, and there is no reason why journalists should not chronicle the doings of chess players, either as Clubs or private individuals, when they give prominence to billiards, cricket and lacrosse. As it is, there are only three weekly periodicals in Canada that have chess columns. That chess, however, has its popular side is abundantly evident from the large amount of interest manifested in matches and tournaments, and in many towns there are Clubs, while at the Mechanics' Institutes and the reading-rooms of the Y. M. C. A. chess is played to a considerable extent. In Ontario this is undoubtedly the case, but in Quebec there seems to be much less interest manifested,—a curious circumstance, when we remember that among the population are such masters of the game as St. Amant, Des Chapelles and La Bourdonnais. The chief reason for this we believe to be the want of communication between chess players. To awaken an interest and to supply this want will be the object of the Chess Column in the CANADIAN SPECTATOR.

But chess has two other phrases; namely, its scientific side and its literature. Like all pursuits in which the mind has any share, chess assumes upon occasions a scientific character. It must be remembered, however, that in one sense the game of chess can never become a mathematical certainty. It must always preserve the character of being that which by its original profession it is bound to be—a representation of actual warfare. This is the true reason why chess has preserved its interest among all nations who have ever been devoted to its study, and it may be stated as a most curious circumstance in the history of the game that its progress and decline have always been proportionate to the greatness or fall of the country in which it has existed. This can be traced in the histories of India, Persia and Arabia in the past, as well as in France, England and Germany in more recent times, and should form a powerful incentive to the cultivation of the game in Canada, while it tends to prove that chess is not the idle sedentary pursuit which many deem it to be. We are convinced that, while a country indulges in manly out-door exercises, its inhabitants will never become physically enervated; and also that, while chess is a national mental pastime, they will never lose their intellectual energy. Problems form one chief branch of scientific chess. These have been in all ages a source of study, instruction and amusement as much to the composers as to the solvers. By some they have been called the poetry of chess, but even the most elegant and ingenious of them have no intrinsic value unless accurate. To obtain this accuracy will be the earnest endeavour of our Chess Editor, and to secure a popularity, which abstruse problems of four or five moves can rarely command, no problem of more than three moves will be inserted, while a really clever and ingenious two mover will always have the preference.

It is impossible that a game such as chess should not have a literature of its own, and accordingly we find that the very first book printed in England was Caxton's "Game and Playe of the Chesse," 1474, and the fertility of the subject may be inferred from the fact that the library of the late Professor Allen, of Philadelphia, numbers over one thousand volumes. Within the last twenty-five years, or since the publication of Mr. Staunton's "Handbook," in 1847, more treatises have appeared than in any previous century. New ones, too, are constantly appearing, and will always meet with an early notice and impartial criticism.

In the conduct of the Chess Column no feature of the game as here touched upon will be overlooked. Each number will contain one problem and one or two games, all carefully selected, and such literary and miscellaneous notes and information as may be of interest to chess readers. It is also the intention of the Editor to commence at an early date and continue, as space will admit, a series of short lessons from which any one, so minded, may learn to play. These, he trusts, will have the effect of inducing many persons to become acquainted with a game replete with never-ending variety, amusement and wholesome mental exercise. While proposing all this, the Editor is well aware that his success largely depends on the encouragement he receives from the public and his contemporaries. While, therefore, he hopes to obtain sufficient original matter, he will not overlook the masterpieces of European and American chess. He confidently appeals to chess players and chess journals in Canada and abroad for that support without which success would indeed be difficult.

Problem No. I. will appear in our next issue. Contributions of Problems and Games are respectfully invited.

All correspondence intended for the Chess Column must be addressed to the Chess Editor, CANADIAN SPECTATOR Office, 162 St. James Street, Montreal.

Messrs. Lajoie, Perrault & Seath, official assignees, beg to draw attention to the sale of the Real Estate in the matter of F. Geriken, as advertised in our columns.—*Adv.*

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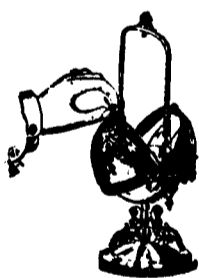
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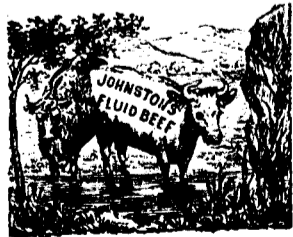
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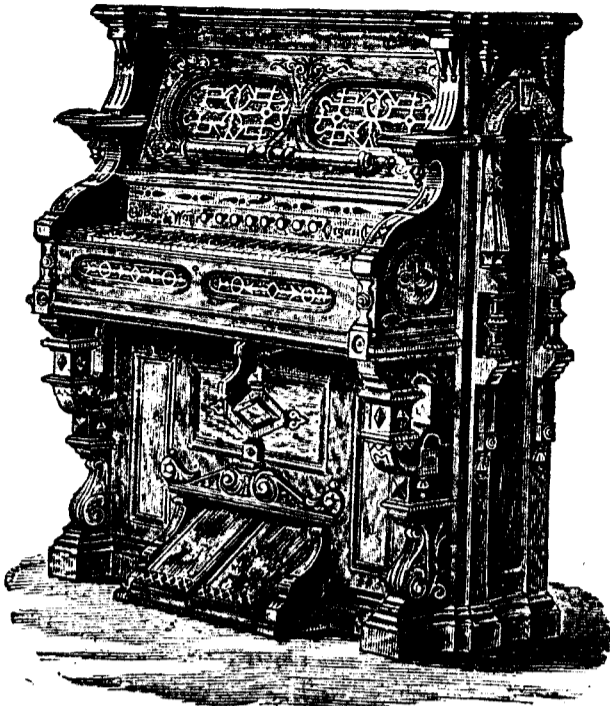
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NOTHING GENUINE UNLESS BEARING THE AUTOGRAPH  
OF THE MANUFACTURER,

**JAMES DALGLEISH.**

**T. SUTTON,**  
HAIR DRESSER AND PERFUMER,

114 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET.

Gentlemen favouring the above establishment will have their Haircutting, Shaving, &c., properly done by experienced operators.

A nice stock of Toilet requisites from the best makers to select from at reasonable prices.

114 ST. FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET,  
Old Post Office Building.

**Canada Paper Co.,**

374 TO 378 ST. PAUL STREET,  
MONTREAL.

Works at Windsor Mills and Sherbrooke, P. Q.

Manufacturers of Writing, Book, News and Colored Papers; Manila, Brown and Grey Wrappings; Felt and Match Paper. Importers of all Goods required by Stationers and Printers.

Dominion Agents for the Celebrated Gray's Ferr Printing and Lithographic Inks and Varnishes.

WEEKLY TEST.

Number of purchasers served during week ending Dec 14th, 1878	5,117
Same week last year	4,696
Increase	421

**S. CARSLY'S**

**EMPRESS CLOTH,**  
New lot of Empress Cloth, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 16c per yard.

**FRENCH CLOTH.**  
New lot of French Cloth in all the newest shades, to be sold at 30c per yard.

**S. CARSLY,**  
393 AND 395 NOTRE DAME STREET.  
**CAMEL'S HAIR.**  
New lot of Camel's Haircloth, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 38c per yard.

**WORSTED SERGES.**  
New lot of Worsted Serges in all the newest shades, to be sold at 71 1/2c per yard.

**GERMAN CLOTH.**  
New lot of German Cloth, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 31c per yard.

**S. CARSLY,**  
393 AND 395 NOTRE DAME STREET.

**IMPERIAL.**  
New lot of Imperial Cloth Serges, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 29c per yard.

**TURKISH CLOTH.**  
New lot of Turkish Cloth, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 20c per yard.

**ALL-WOOL EMPRESS.**  
New lot of all-Wool Empress Cloth, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 29c per yard.

**S. CARSLY,**  
393 AND 395 NOTRE DAME STREET.

**SILKEN SHOWER.**  
New lot of Silken Shower Cloth, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 38c per yard.

**FIRE FLY.**  
New lot of Fire Fly Cloth, in all shades, to be sold at 27c per yard.

**BERLIN MIXTURES.**  
New lot of Berlin Mixtures, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 20c per yard.

**PEAL DE CHAMOIS.**  
New Set of Peal de Chamois, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 38c per yard.

**S. CARSLY,**  
393 AND 395 NOTRE DAME STREET.

**LYONS SERGES.**  
New all-Wool Lyon Serges, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 45c and 48c per yard.

**SCOTCH HOMESPUN.**  
New lot of Scotch Homespun, in all the newest shades, to be sold at 22c per yard.

**S. CARSLY,**  
393 AND 395 NOTRE DAME STREET.

**JOHN GARDNER,**  
DISPENSING CHEMIST,  
(From LONDON, ENGLAND.)  
1307 St. Catherine Street West.  
Sole agent by appointment for Cheavin's

**RAPID WATER FILTERS**

**WILLIAM E. SHAW,**  
GENERAL AUCTIONEER.

OFFICE AND SALESROOM:

195 St. James Street, Montreal.  
Best stand in the city.

**GENUINE NEW YORK  
SINGER SEWING MACHINES**  
THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

Buy only the  
GENUINE.

Beware of  
COUNTERFEITS.

None genuine without  
our Trade Mark stamp  
on the arm of the  
Machine.



THE SINGER MANUF'G. CO. SOLD IN 1877  
**282,812 MACHINES,**  
Being the largest number of Sewing-Machines ever sold by any Company in a single year. Machines sold on monthly payments.

**THE SINGER MANUF'G. CO.,**  
281 NOTRE DAME STREET,  
MONTREAL, P. Q.

FOR SALE.

ONE OR TWO BRAND NEW SINGER  
SEWING MACHINES of the best pattern.  
Address, P. O. Box 350, Montreal.

ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF FUR TRIMMING IN STOCK OR CUT TO ORDER, AT REYNOLDS & VOLKEL'S, 427 NOTRE DAME STREET.

SQUIRREL BOATS, BLACK AND NATURAL, EXTRA FINE AND LONG, AT REYNOLDS & VOLKEL'S, 427 NOTRE DAME ST.



**GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY OF CANADA.**  
**STEAMSHIP "TEXAS,"**  
 Of the Dominion Line, will sail from PORTLAND, Me.,  
**TO GLASGOW DIRECT,**  
 ABOUT THE END OF JANUARY NEXT.  
 For rates of Freight on grain, flour, oatmeal, apples, butter and cheese, apply to JOHN PORTEOUS, General Freight Agent, Montreal.  
 Other Steamers for Glasgow will be despatched during the winter, of which due notice will be given.  
**JOSEPH HICKSON,**  
*General Manager.*

**GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.**  
**TENDERS ARE INVITED UP TO THE 31st inst.,** for the supply of Timber and Lumber required for the construction and repair of Rolling Stock for the ensuing year.  
 Specifications may be obtained on application to Mr. HENRY WALLIS, the Company's Mechanical Superintendent at Montreal.  
 The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.  
**JOSEPH HICKSON,**  
*General Manager.*  
 Montreal, December 6th, 1878.

**GOVERNMENT RAILWAY.**  
**Q., M., O. & O. RAILWAY.**  
**SHORTEST AND MOST DIRECT ROUTE TO OTTAWA.**  
 Until further notice, Trains will leave HOCHELAGA DEPOT as follows:—  
 Express Trains for Hull at 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Arrive at Hull at 2.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m.  
 Express Trains from Hull at 9.10 a.m. and 4.10 p.m. Arrive at Hochelaga at 1.40 p.m. and 8.40 p.m.  
 Train for St. Jerome at 5.00 p.m.  
 Train from St. Jerome at 7.00 a.m.  
 Trains leave Mile End Station ten minutes later.  
 For Tickets and other information, apply at the General Office, 13 Place d'Armes Square.  
**C. A. STARK,**  
 General Freight and Passenger Agent.  
**C. A. SCOTT,**  
 General Superintendent.

**SHORTEST ROUTE VIA CENTRAL VERMONT R. R. LINE.**  
 Leave Montreal at 4 p.m. for New York, and 9 a.m., 4 and 6 p.m. for Boston.  
 (1st) Express Trains daily, equipped with Miller Platform and Westinghouse Air Brake. Sleeping Cars are attached to Night Trains between Montreal and Boston and Springfield, and New York via Troy; also, between St. Albans and Boston via Fitchburg, and Parlor Cars to Day Express between Montreal and Boston.  
**TRAINS LEAVE MONTREAL:**  
 9 a.m., Day Express for Boston via Lowell.  
 4 p.m., Mail for Waterloo.  
 4 p.m., Night Express for New York via Troy, also for Boston via Fitchburg, arriving in Boston 7 a.m., and New York 7.15 a.m., next morning.  
 6 p.m., Night Express for Boston via Lowell, and New York via Springfield.  
**GOING NORTH.**  
 Day Express leaves Boston, via Lowell, at 8.30 a.m., via Fitchburg 7.30 a.m., Troy at 7.45 a.m., arriving in Montreal at 8.45 p.m.  
 Night Express leaves Boston at 5.35 p.m., via Lowell, via Fitchburg 6 p.m., and New York at 3 p.m., via Springfield, arriving in Montreal at 9 a.m.  
 Night Express leaves New York via Troy at 8.30 p.m., arriving in Montreal 12 m., excepting Saturday nights, when it will leave New York at 4 p.m., arriving in Montreal at 9 a.m. Sunday morning.  
 For Tickets and Freight Rates, apply at Central Vermont Railroad Office, 136 St. James street. Boston Office, 322 Washington street.  
**G. W. BENTLEY,** J. W. HOBART,  
 Genl. Manager. Genl. Supt.  
**S. W. CUMMINGS,**  
 General Passenger Agent.  
 Montreal, 10th June, 1878.

**CENTRAL REGISTRY OFFICE FOR SERVANTS.**  
 Fruits, Flowers, &c., always on hand.  
**J. SMITH,** 54 St. Antoine Street.

**Insolvent Notices.**  
**Insolvent Act of 1875**  
 AND AMENDING ACTS.  
**SALE OF**  
 VERY DESIRABLE  
**MANUFACTURING**  
**PREMISES,**  
 WITH WATER POWER,  
**BY AUCTION.**

In the Matter of  
**TEES BROS.,**  
 Insolvents.  
 The undersigned will sell by Public Auction, at his office, No. 353 Notre Dame Street, Montreal, on  
**FRIDAY, the Tenth January, 1879, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon,**  
 that valuable lot of land belonging to the above Estate, known as No. 1,054 on the Cadastral Plan and Book of Reference of the St. Ann's Ward, Montreal, situate on the Canal bank, opposite the St. Gabriel Locks, and corner of Seigneurs Street, containing about 27,820 feet, with Water Power, Brick Factory and other Buildings thereon erected.  
 Terms and conditions made known on day of Sale, and further information may be obtained on application to the undersigned.  
**JOHN TAYLOR,**  
*Assignee.*  
 Office of TAYLOR & DUFF, }  
 353 Notre Dame Street, }  
 Montreal, Dec. 19th, 1878. }

**SKATES! SKATES!**  
 For X'mas and New Year's Gifts,  
**FOR SALE CHEAP,**  
**At T. W. BOYD'S,**  
**241 Notre Dame Street.**  
 Skates Ground and Repaired.

**DR. CODERRE'S EXPECTORATING SYRUP,** for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, &c.  
 Dr. CODERRE'S Infant's Syrup, for Infantile Diseases, such as Diarrhoea, Dysentery, Painful Dentition, &c.  
 Dr. CODERRE'S Tonic Elixir, for all cases of Nervousness, General Debility, and diseases of the skin or blood.  
 These valuable remedies are all prepared under the immediate direction of Dr. J. EMERY CODERRE, M.D., of over 25 years' experience, and are recommended by many leading Physicians.  
 For sale at all the principal Druggists.  
 For further information, we refer our readers to  
**Dr. J. EMERY CODERRE, M.D.,**  
 64 St. Denis Street,  
 Mon

**ELOCUTION.**  
**MR. NEIL WARNER** is prepared to give Lessons in Elocution at No. 58 Victoria street. Gentlemen's Classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.  
 Private Lessons if preferred.  
 Instructions given at Academies and Schools on moderate terms.

**Insolvent Notices.**  
**Assignee's Sale**  
 OF THE  
**"ST. LAWRENCE HALL"**  
 AND OTHER  
**CITY PROPERTIES.**  
**Insolvent Act of 1875**  
 AND AMENDING ACTS.  
 In the matter of  
**F. GERIKEN,**  
 of the City of Montreal,  
 An Insolvent.

The undersigned Assignee will offer for sale by Public Auction, at the office of Lajoie, Perrault & Seath, Nos. 64 to 68 St. James street, on  
**MONDAY, 23rd December instant, at Eleven o'clock a.m.,**  
 The following  
**VALUABLE PROPERTIES,**  
 Forming part of the above Estate:—  
 The Property on St. James and Craig streets, known as "The St. Lawrence Hall," being Lots Nos. 202 and 205 on the Official Plan and Book of Reference of the West Ward, and containing 20,112 feet.  
 The Property adjoining the above and forming the corner of St. James and St. Francois Xavier streets, being Lot No. 203 on the Official Plan and Book of Reference of the West Ward, and containing 5,820 feet, occupied by the Medical Hall and others.  
 The three story Brick Dwelling House and Vacant Lot, adjoining No. 163 Bleury street, and known as Lot No. 806 on the Official Plan and Book of Reference of St. Lawrence Ward, and containing 4,384 feet.  
 The Stores and Dwelling-Houses forming the south-east corner of St. Urban and Vitre streets, being Lot No. 481 on the Official Plan and Book of Reference of the St. Lawrence Ward, and containing 10,905 feet.

Terms of Sale, which will be liberal, permit to view the properties, and full information upon application.  
**C. O. PERRAULT,**  
 Assignee.  
 Office of  
 LAJOIE, PERRAULT & SEATH, }  
 Montreal Dec. 12, 1878. }

P.S.—The Furniture and other Effects of the St. Lawrence Hall will be offered for sale by Auction about the **FIRST WEEK IN FEBRUARY NEXT.**

**WILLIAM DOW & CO.,**  
**Brewers and Maltsters.**  
**SUPERIOR PALE AND BROWN MALT,**  
 India Pale and Other Ales, Extra Double and Single Stout, in wood and bottle.  
**FAMILIES SUPPLIED.**  
 The following Butlers on y are authorized to use our labels, viz:—  
 Thos. J. Howard . . . . . 173 St. Peter street  
 Jas. Verrie . . . . . 19 Aymer street  
 Thos. Ferguson . . . . . 289 St. Constant street  
 James R. van . . . . . 112 St. Urban street  
 Wm. Bishop . . . . . 97 1/2 St. Catherine street  
 Thos. King . . . . . 144 Ottawa street  
 C. Maiso . . . . . 588 St. Dominique street.

**VICTORIA MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.,**  
 OF CANADA.  
 HEAD OFFICE, Hamilton, Ontario.  
**W. D. BOOKER,** **GEO. H. MILLS,**  
 Secretary, President.  
**WATER WORKS BRANCH**  
 Continues to issue policies—short date or for three years—on property of all kinds within range of the city water system, or other localities having efficient water works.  
**GENERAL BRANCH:**  
 On Farm or other non-hazardous property only.  
 RATES—Exceptionally low, and prompt payment of losses.  
**MONTREAL OFFICE: 4 HOSPITAL STREET.**  
**EDWD. T. TAYLOR,**  
 Agent.

**TO THE MUSICAL PUBLIC.**  
**WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED**  
 FROM  
**ALBERT WEBER,**  
**FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK,**  
 AN ASSORTMENT OF HIS  
**UNRIVALLED GRAND, SQUARE**  
 AND  
**UPRIGHT PIANOS,**  
 which will be sold during the Holidays at a large reduction on New York prices. The concurrent testimony of all great musicians of the present day is that

**ALBERT WEBER'S PIANOS**  
 are superior to all other instruments in action, power, tone and durability, and particularly in that prolongation of tone, or singing quality, which makes it so desirable an accompaniment to the human voice. On all these points of excellence and the general superiority of the WEBER PIANOS, see the letters of  
**STRAUSS,**  
**NEILSSON,**  
**CARRENO,**  
**PATTI,**  
**ALBANI,**  
**ROZE-MAPLESON,**  
**RIVÉ KING,**  
 and the leading Pianists and Musicians of the present day.  
 Call and examine the Pianos, and compare prices at the Weber Piano Agency.  
**New York Piano Company's Rooms,**  
**183 ST. JAMES STREET,**  
*Descriptive Catalogues Free by Mail.*

REYNOLDS & VOLKEL, FURRIERS, 427 NOTRE DAME STREET. LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S FINE FURS A SPECIALTY.