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THE CRITIC:

A Maritime Provincial Journal.

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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

| | |
|--|--------|
| EDITORIAL. | |
| The Yearly Sacrifice..... | 1, 2 |
| The Civic Disfranchisement of the Responsible..... | 3 |
| Mr. Goldwin Smith..... | 3 |
| The Tash and the Cell..... | 1 |
| Notes..... | 1 |
| CONTRIBUTED. | |
| Diamonds and Gold in South Africa..... | 6-8 |
| A Trip to the Eastern Gold Districts..... | 12, 13 |
| MISCELLANEOUS. | |
| Chit-Chat and Chuckles..... | 3 |
| News of the Week..... | 4, 5 |
| Industrial Notes..... | 8 |
| Commercial..... | 8, 9 |
| Market Quotations..... | 9 |
| Serial..... | 10, 11 |
| Mining..... | 12, 13 |
| Home and Farm..... | 14 |
| Religious..... | 15 |

THE CRITIC,

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

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The proposal, which really seems to be seriously regarded by some American newspapers, to buy the Maritime Provinces for \$50,000,000, is, after all, but a legitimate outcome of the action of the Annexationists. The idea of being sold with the land, like a lot of cattle or a flock of sheep with a ranche, is probably not in the least repugnant to men without a spark of patriotism.

Every year the United States export to Great Britain millions of pounds worth of every description of farm produce. It is difficult to understand how the country which sends away annually an enormous surplus of food, is likely to realize to the Canadian farmer the splendid prices for cattle, grain, etc., which are being persistently dinned into his entranced ears by the Annexationists.

Halifax is indebted to the Archbishop for a suggestion for lighting the harbor with a line of electric lights down to the automatic buoy, to enable ocean steamers to come up in foggy weather. His Grace thinks about 15 lights on suitable buoys might be sufficient. We have also received from a contributor a suggestion to establish electric lights as danger-signals along railroads, on eminences, natural or artificial, to give notice of the stoppage of the line by accidents, and prevent further collisions. We do not feel competent to form a judgment, but we should be inclined to think His Grace's suggestion by far the more practicable of the two.

The Rate-Payers Association, in opening up the question of tax-exemptions, have touched upon a most important subject. The exemptions in the 1887-8 Halifax assessment amount to the decidedly large sum of \$1,650,000, divided as follows:—Churches, \$629,000; Sectarian Institutions, \$181,000; Other Institutions and Halls, \$850,000. While in the past 25 years the assessment has increased only about one-sixth, the tax exemptions in the same time have doubled. These facts should provide food for serious thought. While purely benevolent institutions might perhaps claim exemption, we have doubts about the advisability of exempting church property, halls, and colleges. The cities of the United States have, we think, shown wisdom in sweeping away all exemptions. We might do worse than to follow in their footsteps.

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England has recently quietly annexed a tract of country in Africa known as the Niger Country, which is said to be half as large as Europe. This is not altogether so bad for an "effete old monarchy," but we hope the whole territory is not so deadly in climatic influence as was the theatre of the "Niger Expedition" of 1840, or thereabouts, most of the survivors of which were debilitated and shattered in health for life. If not, the extensive colonization now going on by several nations, must enhance the value of fresh acquisitions in the Dark Continent.

It is reported that retirement with a step in rank will cease with the present year, after the end of which officers will retain only the rank they hold at the time. This order will no doubt induce a large number of retirements before the 1st January. The authorities are probably becoming alarmed at the portentous increase of the "Retired Lists." From the publication of the Army List for March, up to a fortnight ago, no less than 56 Colonels have retired from active service with the honorary rank of Major-General. This is piling it up with a vengeance.

A portion of the Press is luxuriating in elaborate accounts of the terrible character and tendencies of Prince William of Prussia, most of which are probably pure fiction. A wonderful mine of special knowledge seems to have opened itself to the compiler of newspaper yarns from the moment the Crown Prince was known to be suffering from a throat disease. Frederic the Great is likely to be nothing to William, and war will be proclaimed as soon as he ascends the throne. He declines to drink champagne because it is not a German wine, and would probably prefer French blood as a beverage. There is nothing he cannot do, and he is altogether an awful and gruesome young man.

The malcontents who devote themselves to decrying our duties on American imports, may not unprofitably take cognizance of a material advantage which has accrued to Manitoba from that policy. The people of that Province had, till lately, to pay a tax on imported coal, which, we believe, raised its price at one time to \$14 or \$15 a ton. Good coal, both hard and soft, has now been found within our own domain. If it has taken say sixteen or seventeen years to find available deposits with American coal at \$15 a ton, it seems more than probable that without the stimulus of that high figure, exploration would have been less energetically pushed, and that Manitoba would consequently still have been dependent on the States for fuel, while the discovery may be said to have assured her independent prosperity.

The secret, (or a good deal of it,) of the portentous increase of the rabbit in Australia, is coming to the light of day. There is a rabbit department in Sydney, and there is of course red-tape in it. There is an army of inspectors, overseers, and under strappers scattered far and wide, and—they get good salaries. Then there are thousands of rabbiters, who not only draw regular wages, but are also paid bonuses, and—human nature is human nature—voilà tout! The result is that the rabbits increase, and also the noble army of exterminators. The ill-considered idea of importation and acclimatization also bears fruit in other directions. The abominable sparrow, deer, and even foxes, have been cultivated, and so easy for existence is the Australian climate, that they are all developing into additional pests. The cockatoos were bad enough for the grain grower, but Australian settlers could not let what was well-enough alone.

THE YEARLY SACRIFICE.

Attention is being more and more frequently drawn by the Press to the lamentable loss of life which annually occurs among the fishermen and seamen who man the fishing fleets that hail from American ports. The number of vessels reported lost this year is 13, aggregating 843 tons. The estimated value, \$62,900, with insurance to the amount of \$51,455. The lives lost in these 13 vessels total up to 85, one of whom was run over by a street car. The remainder perished in direct connection with the work of their vessels.

Even these appalling statistics, which involve the destitution of scores

of widows and orphans, are less terrible than those of the preceding and some previous years. Last year, the fatalities stood—26 vessels, 1751 tons, value \$152,300; lives lost, 136.

An unpleasantly suggestive feature of the returns is the close approximation of the amount of insurance to the estimated value, and the public repute of the Gloucester owners for crazy and insufficient outfits, lends probability to the suspicion of that utter unscrupulousness which counts life as nothing against gain.

When we learn that the above amount of insurance—except the sum of \$6,140, held in Boston—was in the Gloucester Mutual Fishing Insurance Company, that circumstance does not tend to the dissipation of doubt, and we certainly derive no re-assurance from the well-known fact that very nearly all the 85 lives lost this year were those of men from the Provinces, and Europeans. This has notoriously been no less the case in former years, and we can imagine and appreciate the cynicism which would consider the lives of a batch of "Provincials" or Europeans, of small account in comparison with those of a crew of Americans.

But this is not the full extent to which the Marine Molochs of New England levy tribute of the souls of the Provinces to pass through the waters as sacrifices to their greed. No account is taken in bare statistics such as we have cited, of the numbers who, from hardship, fatigue, exposure, and, very probably, poor rations, come home irreparably damaged in health and constitution; and the lists given are only of Gloucester boats.

The Provincetown fleet has suffered even more heavily than that of Gloucester, and one vessel from that port was lost this year with a crew of 15 men, all Nova Scotians.

It is impossible to say what might be the loss of valuable Provincial life which might be revealed by fuller returns. It would probably be found to be a good deal over 100 "good men and true" of Nova Scotia alone. How long is this terrible annual sacrifice from the flower of Nova Scotia manhood to go on?

We read of old of Minotaurs, dragons, sea-monsters, Moorish tyrants, who demanded their annual tale of victims, until at last some hero arose and delivered the oppressed. But who is to deliver or awaken those who deliberately or blindly persist in self sacrifice to the New England Mammon—Moloch?

Is Nova Scotia so lacking in enterprise that she cannot herself employ her hapless fishers and mariners in seaworthy craft, and at rates which would stand between them and the destruction they court in volunteering to man the American schooners? She surely does not lack the means. Let the Press, therefore, throughout the land, continue to discuss the question, and let us see if this terrible yearly-recurring desolation of widows and orphans cannot be arrested!

THE CIVIC DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF THE RESPONSIBLE.

The new Assessment Act has now been thoroughly tested, and has proved in practice greatly superior to the old. Placing the responsibility for the taxes on the landlords, instead of the tenants, was decidedly a wise move, and in fact the principle underlying the whole Act is the correct one. There are, however, several points in the Act which we think would bear amending. Without taking up the high rates at which the Assessors, in their interpretation of the Act, are now assessing property, and which is such a sore point with the Rate Payers' Association, we will glance at some less-mooted points. We will first turn our attention to the powers given to the City Collector, in enforcing the payment of taxes, and the disabilities under which a delinquent tax payer is placed. The Collector has first—the power of distraining; second—the right to sue and issue execution, and third—all properties on which the taxes remain unpaid for three years are advertised and sold. His powers of enforcing payment are practically unlimited, and there is no loop-hole through which the tax payer can escape, but in spite of this, the delinquent has to endure another, and under the circumstances, a most unnecessary penalty—he is deprived of his power of voting at Civic elections. Some may be inclined to look on this as a providential release, but joking aside, it will be found on investigation to have a most detrimental effect. This disenfranchising of citizens, although, as we think, wrong in principle, might have been excusable under the old Act, but under the new, with a direct lien given on the property, it is most reprehensible, and should be at once abolished. Let us see how it works in practice. Non-property-owners, by paying a small poll-tax, secure the right of voting. Their interests at stake are very small, so small, in fact, that aldermanic candidates generally succeed in securing their votes by paying this tax. It matters little to them how incompetent or extravagant Civil officials may be, as dishonesty or negligence will not increase the tax upon them one iota. Hundreds, it may be thousands, of small property-owners, taxed all the way from ten up to forty dollars, find difficulties in meeting their taxes, which must be paid up in full thirty days before an election, or they are disenfranchised. Large owners, with perhaps properties in every ward in the city, whose taxes mount up to thousands, are disenfranchised, unless all their taxes are paid. They may have paid nine-tenths of the large sums due by them, and yet have no vote, while the payer of a paltry tax has. The result is, that the elections are now virtually in the hands of the firemen and the payors of poll-taxes; and while the vote of the former is generally cast for able and honest candidates, the vote of the latter is too often open to the most plausible manipulator. As a result, their vote has already placed in Civic power some men notably unfit for office. If the citizens of Halifax do not desire to be ruled by a most corrupt ring, they will insist on the alteration of a law which now disenfranchises the very men whose votes are necessary to secure good government. This is one important point, and there are others which we will touch upon on a future occasion.

MR. GOLDWIN SMITH.

We imagine that Mr. Goldwin Smith is, by this time, rated at pretty well his true value throughout the country he has been pleased to honor with his residence. The value is that of a "crank." We are not fond of slang, but that is the only word that expresses it. It seems not unlikely that in a few years, if he goes on developing as he has developed latterly, there will not be much to choose between Mr. Goldwin Smith and Mr. Gen. Francis Train.

It would be difficult to understand why a highly intelligent gentleman, who is filled with horror at the prospect of a disruption of the Empire, should be found doing his "level best" to break up the Dominion, were we not aware that, being a Professor of History, he had committed himself to the theory that it is the manifest destiny of Canada to be absorbed by the United States. The seer cannot afford to leave a stone unturned that lies in the way of the fulfilment of his predictions. Accordingly, Mr. Smith would move heaven and earth to sow dissension between the Dominion and its Provinces, if only heaven and earth would take some stock in his hallucinations. It is possible that his utter recklessness may be due to the little respect which has come to be entertained for his opinions.

Be that as it may, recklessness is beginning to be its own Nemesis. The excessive bitterness and violence of Mr. Smith's attack on the Dominion Government in the *Contemporary Review* cannot fail to produce the conviction that no government that ever existed could be quite as bad as the picture he draws of it in its dealings with Manitoba, and although his powerful pen may seem to his English readers to be a formidable weapon, the Canadian estimate of him is aptly conveyed in the words of a correspondent (evidently Canadian) of an English paper. "It is important that it should be realized that Mr. Smith is not a Canadian Patriot coming forward to save his country from ruin, but an alien academician with one fixed idea, upon the realization of which he considers that his reputation as a man of judgment and foresight depends. That idea is, to put it in one word—Annexation.

"In ten years time," said Mr. Smith in 1878, "Canada, from economic causes, will form part of the United States," and the rabid disruptionism of to-day is that he may be able to write hereafter, "This was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Prophet, S. aith."

THE LASH AND THE CELL.

We are heartily glad to think we discern signs of a reflux of the wave of mawkish humanitarianism which, for some years, thrilled the delicate nerves, and excited the sickly sensibilities, of feeble and ill-balanced minds on the subject of the "Cat."

It has lately seemed to be in process of becoming recognized that for some offences it is the only fitting and effective punishment—of course in addition to imprisonment. It is almost unnecessary to specify the particular crime to which it has been—happily, of late, with less maudlin reluctance than formerly—justly and properly meted out. We are in no wise ashamed of proclaiming that we should rejoice in its extension to every case of gross cruelty, brutality, and bestiality, towards man or animal. In cases of the outrage of females, we are free to confess that we have a good deal of sympathy with the summary proceedings of Judge Lynch, occasionally revealed to us in such cases by American newspapers. We are not, however, anxious to advocate the more heroic method, when a fair use of the humble "Cat" will, in all probability, suffice to stamp out crime of these descriptions. The cause of the remarkable efficacy of the nine-tailed implement is sufficiently known. The pitiless ruffian is, we do not say always, but nearly always, a miserable coward where the integrity of his own hide is concerned. Some accounts of recent floggings, if reliable, astonish us at the extraordinarily facile collapse of an apparently sturdy brute, physically and mentally, in nerve and muscle, after a number of lashes which almost moves the contempt of such as may have seen four dozen laid on by stalwart boatswains' mates, sometimes alternately right and left-handed, endured without a sound, and with scarcely a flinch. If, therefore, the "Cat" is a terror to the foul and cruel ruffian, such as no other punishment is, in the name of all outraged human, let him clearly understand that there will be no escape from it for him, whenever he brings himself within the grasp of the law.

But there is another special class of misdemeanor which seems to us to call for a strong expression of public opinion. We suppose there cannot have been a year within the period covered by Railway Statistics, which has been so marked by terrible accidents as the one now drawing towards its close. Horror after horror meets our eyes in the morning papers 'till the announcement of a fresh hecatomb of victims falls upon almost paralyzed sensibilities. But when we are able to grasp the details, we are outraged to find that in almost every case the crushing, maiming, and burning of dozens at a time of fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, brothers, sisters, sons and daughters, is due to a callous disregard of precaution, for which there seems to be no adequate retribution if the delinquents escape the immediate consequences of their criminal foolishness, apathy, or negligence. We remember hearing, indeed we might say we knew, of a case some seven years ago, in which the driver of an afternoon or evening train, excited with liquor, swore he would reach Bedford or another place (not Halifax, which he was leaving) within a certain number of minutes. He did, but, we believe, many of his passengers had strong doubts whether they would ever reach Bedford or any other station alive.

It seems to us that the frequency of railway accidents due to rashness, carelessness, or wilful disregard of regulations, would justify special and severe legislation inflicting heavy terms of imprisonment on a convicted delinquent, whomsoever he might be.

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

A great many people hold theories who can't hold their tongues.

A man who pleads drunkenness as an excuse for crime expects to get off on a mental alibi.

An editor recently received a poem entitled "The Oyster Stew," with the request: "Please put it on your inside." He rather regretted that he couldn't.

In ancient times kissing a pretty girl was a cure for headache. It is difficult to improve upon some of those old-time remedies.—*Leicester Examiner*.

Jones (to his friend)—"Yes, old boy, I've determined to economize on car fare, and walk home from the office every day. By the way, let's go in and take something. It's a long walk home."

To how many has it ever occurred that beneath all our efforts and strivings there lurks the impelling force of pain, which, had we and the world in which we live remained as in the days of Adam, energy, zeal and devotion, would have been unknown characteristics of the human race. Hunger and thirst are the great whips of mankind, which impel us to seek for relief, and after these, but in a higher plane, are the whips of love, ambition and fame.

Mr. De Lono (on being introduced)—Miss Coquette and I have not before.

Miss Coquette (coldly)—Yes, I remember now.

"We will let bygones be bygones, for time heals all wounds and no doubt I was a very silly boy at that time."

"Boy?"

"I must have been; it was ten years ago, and your reason for refusing me was that you were old enough to be my mother."—*Omaha World*.

Could a shot from the Zaliniski dynamite gun sink the new ironclad "Trafalgar"? The *Baltimore Herald* and other American papers say yes. Well, perhaps it could if it made a hit. But our contemporaries may as well remember that the Zaliniski gun throw a shell only one mile, and that the "Trafalgar" will be armed with a gun that can throw huge shells five or six miles. Thus the "Trafalgar" while out of range could dismount the Zaliniski, and if the dynamite guns fired from fortresses are to sink great ironclads like the "Trafalgar," they must first be made to shoot further and they may then fare better.—*Sydney Advocate*.

THE COMINO CAT.—Fashion has long been favorable to dogs. Cats are now coming forward. Some charming belles at Luchon thought this season of using the Pyrenean cat—which is a pretty creature, and not so wild as it looks—as a *suivez-moi, jeune femme*. The notion sprang up in this way. A beauty down there was given in one of her excursions a lovely cat. But, as her arms were laden with mountain flowers, how carry it? A peasant suggested cutting a hole at one of the ends of a hand basket for needle work just large enough for the cat's neck to be held in without strangulation when the lid was fastened down. As the basket was padded and lined with satin and bedizened with fringe and ribbons, pussy did not object to being a prisoner therein and to being placed on the lady's bustle as a pack. There was no other means of carrying the feline unless there. So the basket was fitted up with strings to tie on the waist, and so borne into Luchon. The arrangement was daring, original and piquant. It found imitators, and in a few days there were not Pyrenean cats enough for the ladies' bustles. Fashion even dared to invade the sanctuary at Lourdes with a mountain tom or tabby on the dorsal hump.—*Paris Correspondence London Truth*.

A HEATHEN CUSTOM.—The recent decision of a case in Calcutta has directed attention to an extraordinary and, from a Christian and Western point of view, intolerable state of things actually prevailing throughout India. An Indian lady, who had been betrothed in childhood according to usage, declined, when the time came for consummating the absurdly premature contract, to live with the person who had been selected as her husband. The latter appealed to the courts, and the courts, following the letter of the law, decided in his favor. Thus a woman is forced—and legally forced—to spend her life with a man who is objectionable to her, because in her childhood her friends and his deemed it advisable to promise her to him. Unconsciously, all these years, she was the predestined wife of a husband who, when she came of age, had only to claim her as his own, and she had no resource but to go. But that is not the worst of it. In the nature of things it happens that the persons to whom many of these children are thus affianced die before they have attained what in India are considered years of wisely discretion. The consequence is that of some 21,000,000 widows in the Indian Empire, 79,000 are under nine, 207,000 are under fourteen and 382,000 under nineteen years of age. The Hindoos look upon this early widowhood as a punishment for sins committed in a former state of existence, and the result is that the condition of these poor children is most deplorable. They have to undergo penances which are dreadful to contemplate, and are subjected to all sort of reviling and other forms of persecution. A correspondent of the *Times* (whose initials are those of Professor Max Mueller) tries to interest the humane public in the lot of those unfortunates which, he says, is sanctioned by nothing in the Hindoo Scriptures and is mere superposition.—*Montreal Gazette*.

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C. J. MACDONALD,
Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Halifax, 18th Nov., 1887.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount enclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. M. Fraser.

Those who wish to secure pleasant and profitable reading matter for the winter evenings should note our exceptional offer which appears on page sixteen. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send THE CRITIC to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy-nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

Coal is now delivered at Plimonton, N. W. T., at \$3.50 a ton.

The traffic returns of the C. P. R. to 21st Nov. show an increase of \$45,000 for 1887. South-Eastern Railway is not included.

A branch of the Imperial Confederation League has been established at Ottawa, Mr. Dalton McCarthy, Q. C., M. P., being president.

The city of St. John is exercised at some startling developments of youthful depravity on both sexes. One portion of the revelations is quite of the *Pall Mall Gazette* type.

The Pictou Branch Railway was formerly opened on Monday with much festive ceremony. This additional step in development is matter of gratulation to the Province at large.

The length of the able and most interesting article "Diamonds and Gold in South Africa," written expressly for THE CRITIC, has crowded out Musical notes from this issue.

Mr. H. Norman, the "special" of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, is in Ottawa, on his tour round the world. Mr. Norman discovers a strong feeling in New foundland in favor of Confederation.

During the ten months of the current year, 16,286 immigrants have arrived in Manitoba and the North-West, being 6,221 more than the total immigration for the whole of last year.

A young colored woman, Miss Howells, outstripped all her competitors in the recent Halifax County Academy examinations. Her average was 83, a figure not reached by any other candidate for admission.

Wild fowls are remarkably plentiful in the neighborhood of Cypress Hills, North West Territories. 130 ducks and 18 geese are on record for a pair of guns there this season as the reward of four hours' shooting.

Judge Johnston has delivered judgment in the Halifax street car case, in which a driver was fined for driving, collecting fares, etc., on Sunday. He quashed the conviction of the lower court, and allowed the appeal with costs.

Large additions have been built to the snow sheds in the mountains of British Columbia during the past summer, and it is now thought that the railway is sufficiently protected against snow storms, and that no lengthy delays will occur as last winter.

The thermometer yesterday morning stood at about 8 degrees in the neighborhood of Halifax, and Mr. Donkin, the popular I. C. R. Conductor, reported it 2 degrees below zero at Truro, but at Winnipeg it was 30 degrees on the morning of the 28th ultimo.

The *British American*, a new journal, devoted to the concentration of the energies of the Anglo Saxon elements of the population of the United States to the highest political ends, promises to be a valuable addition to American journalism, and will call for further notice.

Quebec still carries on its organized and very discreditable efforts to drive the Salvation Army out of that city. Students are mixed with roughs in the demonstrations, and rowdyism seems quite acceptable to bigotry, which finds sanction from the greater part of the Quebec Press.

The *Herald* says Prof. Wiggins has broken out again, but the attack is a mild one. He says that there will not be a recurrence in North America of the disastrous earthquakes of the Southern States and Central America before 1900. He cannot say the same of Europe and the far east.

It is alleged that the steamer *Vancouver*, of the Dominion line, has made the fastest passage on record from Moville to Halifax. She left Liverpool Friday, Nov. 4, at 1.05 a.m., and arrived at Halifax at 8 p.m. on Friday the 11th, having been delayed four hours on the way by a break in the machinery.

The Rev. D. J. Macdonnell, a Presbyterian clergyman, noted for independence of thought, has considerably excited the advocates of total abstinence in Toronto, by preaching a sermon opposed to their extreme views. No utterance, it is said, nearly so strong has been given for a long time by a clergyman of Mr. Macdonnell's standing.

Rockingham, formerly known as the Four Mile House, has remarkably increased its dimensions within the last two years, and among the evidences of rising enterprise is a newspaper, *The Sentinel*, of which we have received the first number. The new sheet is very creditably got up. A new journal, in the French language, *L'Evangeline*, has also made its appearance at Digby.

The traffic of the C. P. R. has become so great that it is the intention of the company to double the capacity of their freight rolling stock. They will build between this and next year four thousand box cars and two hundred locomotives. In order to do this, large shops will shortly be built in the east end of Montreal, with a capacity of turning out ten cars daily. This will give permanent employment to 2,500 men.

The originators of the new company who are asking for government assistance to establish steamers between Halifax and several ports in the West Indies and South America, propose to run four trial trips, as to establish the character and extent of traffic at the outset. As parliament is not now in session, these gentlemen want the post office department to authorize them to carry the ocean mails at a rate already established by the department.

The hundredth anniversary of the introduction of the waltz, which occurs on the 20th of December, is an event which will deserve more than slight remembrance in this jubilee year.

The Quebec mob continued its riotous and fanatical persecution of the Salvationists up to Wednesday evening. The matter is now to be brought before the courts, with a view to test the legality of the Salvationist parades, and the person in charge has been arrested to that end. It may, however, be doubted whether the Quebec populace will respect a legal decision should it run counter to their fanaticism.

St. Andrew's day was duly celebrated on Wednesday evening by the customary dinner at the Halifax Hotel. About 100 gentlemen sat down. The banquet was on strictly total-abstinence principles, but was in every way a success. Greetings from various North British Societies in other provinces and countries were received, and patriotic toasts and excellent songs filled up the programme. The efforts of Mr. Hestlein and his staff gave every satisfaction.

A special from St. John's Nfld., says:—"The Government of the Island is preparing to enforce the Bait Act. Three steamers are being built, which will be placed on the coast to prevent smuggling on the part of the French fishermen. There will be no interference with exportation of frozen herring to the United States in February, as these are not for bait, but for commercial purposes. The French fishermen will not be seriously injured as all their nets will be sold in France for a good price, and all will be required there. This will greatly lessen the surplus in future for exportation after the French markets are supplied."

Harper's for December contains a finely toned engraving of Murill's "St. Anthony of Padua." An episode in a Russian state ball, treated in a dramatic way by T. B. Aldrich, is remarkable for mellifluous blank verse, well nigh faultless, yet instinct with the fire of naturalness. The Editor's Easy Chair has an appreciative reminiscence of Jenny Lind, blended with recollections of her great contemporaries, Grisi, Albani, Persiani, Mario, Lablache, and others. A charming article on Old Garden Flowers, two or three serials of merit, some more flowing verse, and "Precious Stones in the United States," with a well-colored illustration, make up the number.

The first concert of the season was given by the Orpheus Club with the Ladies' Auxiliary, at the Orpheus Club hall on Tuesday evening last. The audience was large, and, to judge from the comparative infrequency of *lete-a-lete* during the performance of the members, it must have included many lovers of high class music. The Club itself, with the Ladies Auxiliary, made a decidedly good impression. No. 1, the Bridal Chorus, was most pleasingly rendered, and with the exception of the closing bars, in which the sopranos lost confidence in themselves, the number was one of the most enjoyable of the Club's performances. No. 3, Spring's Message, by Gadi, was well sung, the harmonic effects being conscientiously given. No. 8, Chorus of Bacchantes, in which the contrasts are striking, fully tested the Club's ability to render successive fortzando and piano passages effectively, the work being so well done that an encore was insisted upon by the audience. No. 10, a Motet by Counod, which was the last number given by the Club with the Ladies' Auxiliary, was a glorious piece, but it should have been placed near the commencement of the programme, as coming after the lighter numbers, after the audience had been attentively listening for nearly two hours, its beauties failed to be appreciated as they otherwise would have been. Of the soloists, Mrs. Kennedy-Campbell has evidently had the greater advantages as to thorough musical training. Possessed as this lady is of a winning manner and a pleasing, well-trained voice, it is scarce surprising that she took the audience by storm, and was called upon for an encore. Mrs. Campbell's rendition of Scotch songs is simply inimitable, and, as she throws herself fully into the sentiment of the song which she is rendering, the effect is magnetic, and her audience feels drawn toward her by a secret yet irresistible influence. Mrs. Taylor sang in her sweet old way two charming songs, and her rich voice and clear articulation might well be envied by many professionals. Mr. Gillis sang "The Last Watch" with characteristic energy. Captain Colhoun, who has a fair natural voice, misinterpreted a very pretty song by singing "truew, truew, till death." Herr Klengenfeld delighted the audience by the playing of a violin fantasia, in which he brought out the fullest, richest, deepest and most majestic notes of his fine violin. Herr Klengenfeld's delicacy of expression and faultless execution, stamp him as a master of no second grade, and we have reason to congratulate ourselves that such an artiste is to make an extended stay in our city. If Mr. Porter, the conductor of the Orpheus Club, is able to give, during the season, four such concerts as that of Tuesday night, the subscribers for tickets will have no reason to regret the small outlay to which they were put to secure two seats for each evening.

A son of Joaquin Miller, the poet of the Sierras, is said to be in gaol in Nevada for horse-stealing.

Three Sioux Indian confined in jail at Helena, Mont., for horse-stealing, stabbed and killed two white prisoners. Two of them then hanged themselves.

One of the most atrocious crimes on record has been committed in Chicago. A German fiend named Hetzke, literally flogged his stepson to death with a strap, after a long course of brutality, from witnessing which the boy's mother had sickened and died.

A cold wave was experienced in the U. S. earlier than by us. At St. Paul the Ther. stood at 16 degrees below zero on the night of the 27th ult., at 28 degrees below at Fort Buford, at 10 degrees below at Helena, at 2 degrees above at Chicago, and the Mississippi was closed at La Crosse, where the temperature was 20 degrees below.

The Chicago *Canadian American* asserts that Mr. Wiman was sorely disappointed at not being nominated to a position in the Fisheries Commission.

A large and intelligent audience listened on Friday evening at Chickering Hall, N. Y., to speeches from members of the deputation from the British Parliament, which came over to present to the President an address, urging international arbitration. The Mayor presided, and expressed his hearty approval of their errand.

Another negro ruffian recently assaulted a lady at night in a street of Baltimore, pounded her in the face with brass knuckles, and stamped upon her breast. A party of fifty or more men was at once organized to search for the ruffian. The negro is supposed to be George Parish, who recently completed a term in the State penitentiary. The posse have a rope with them, and are determined to lynch the negro. He has no doubt taken refuge in the mountains. It is to be hoped they will catch him.

The Empress Eugenie's illness is now said to be not so serious as at first reported.

The Home Rulers, both Irish and English, evidently dread a new Land Purchase Bill.

The latest intelligence of the political situation in France is that all efforts to induce M. Grovy to remain in office have failed.

Mr. Gladstone says he is under strict orders from his medical adviser not to attend any meetings, unless there is a special necessity.

The *Moscow Gazette* invites England to come to a friendly understanding with Russia, and to turn her attention to Germany as a dangerous competitor.

The Channel tunnel having been set upon by military opinion, the uneasy Franco-philes propose a bridge. It would only cost £40,000,000 or £50,000,000 stg.

The English people do not feel happy for any length of time without a scare. The mad-dog panic having somewhat subsided, they have now got up a leprosy scare.

West Australia is to have responsible government. The colony, though it has a population of about 40,000 only, is of enormous extent, and much attention has lately been drawn to its capabilities.

Lord and Lady Dalhousie died at Havre on Thursday week within a few hours of one another, the former of apoplexy. The cause of Lady Dalhousie's death is not stated. Both were well known in America.

Hanlan, who, however, seems to have made a gallant struggle, has again been defeated by Beach, the Australian sculler. The Canadian champion would, perhaps, have acted wisely if he had retired a year or two ago.

The relations between Mr. Parnell and his party have evidently become strained. Mr. Parnell has been indisposed for a considerable time. He is reported as having stated that he was not consulted as to the plan of campaign, and it would seem as if Mr. Davitt, and some of the more violent of Home Rule M.'s P., were taking the wind out of his sails.

At a banquet given by the Penchors of the Temple to the Prince of Wales, the band struck up the "Loulanger March." The Prince instantly ordered it to stop. Ignorance or thoughtlessness must have put the objectionable march on the programme, but it was just one of those cases in which the Prince can and does show promptitude and decision.

Dr. Luys, a Parisian proficient in the study of hypnotism, has been demonstrating mesmeric influence on a young woman at the Charity Hospital before a crowded audience. No doubts seem to have been entertained of the genuineness of an extraordinary control, but the experiments leave an unpleasant impression of pain and exhaustion, not to say a certain amount of cruelty to the subject.

An entire village in Wales is to be sacrificed for a reservoir of water to supply Liverpool. Woods, cottages, inns and churches will be removed, and in their place will be a lake, four and one half miles long, one-half mile to a mile broad, and eighty feet at its greatest depth. There will be three lines of pipe, each sixty-eight miles long, with filtering beds and secondary reservoirs. The aqueduct alone will cost £3,000,000, and it will be a finer thing than Rome ever dreamed of.

The *Times of India* informs us that a demand was made by a number of Buddhist priests who recently presented an extraordinary petition to the Governor of Ceylon, to the effect that Buddhist priests might be provided with separate carriages whilst travelling by train. To this his Excellency has replied that, when any number of monks are travelling, the station-masters will no doubt consult their convenience by placing them in the same compartment, but that the reservation of an empty carriage on the chance of a monk travelling was out of the question.

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SAM SMALL'S BROTHER.

Why Did God Make so Much Outdoors? Two Women's Experiences

"Sam Small, Evangelist"

The proverbial philosophy of "Old Si," the venerable plantation darkey, who gave to the world through the medium of Small's pen maxima of worldly wisdom, clothed in a vorbiage of irresistible humor, has found a permanent place in humorous literature.

Great surprise was shown when it was announced that he, having been converted under the ministrations of "Sam Jones," would become an evangelist.

At first thought, a humorist in the pulpit seems incongruous. Is it really so?

No doubt the mere buffoon attempting to turn men's hearts to solemn truths would meet with only contempt. But truth is not hidden in gloom. Genuine humor frequently illustrates and fastens in the mind bits of wisdom that would otherwise pass unheeded.

In his eulogy of Henry Ward Beecher, Rev. Dr. Parkersays: "Whenever he came among men, he brought June sunshine and music, and made even desponding and surly men feel that a fuller and warmer summer, 'the Kingdom of Heaven,' itself was 'at hand.'" That is genial christianity.

Mr Small belongs to a witty family. He has a brother connected with Army Knox's and "Fat Contributor's" *Texas Siftings*, a paper which has had phenomenal success in the field of humorous literature. Mr Frank A. Small is the present representative of that popular paper in England, and, like his distinguished brother, he takes a deep interest in the welfare of other people.

Under date of 48 Porten Road Kensington W. London, Eng, Sept. 27th, 1887, he writes: "While at Yalding in Kent yesterday, I met Prof. S. Williams, Head Master of the Cleaves Endowed school. In the course of conversation about America, Professor Williams remarked that Warner's safe cure had been of great benefit to his wife, who had been much troubled with a disordered liver. Warner's safe cure (an American preparation) was all she had taken, and she had experienced none of her old trouble for some months past.

Mrs. Annie Jeanes-Miller, editor of *New York Dress*, and a very popular woman in the fashionable world, says in her own magazine for October: "Warner's safe cure is the only medicine I ever take or recommend. In every instance it gives new energy and vitality to all my powers." This distinguished woman also says that for ladies this great remedy is "peculiarly effective."

Sam Small is likely to succeed as a moral teacher. When we remember how near together in human nature lie the fountains of laughter and of tears, the deep effect his discourses must have on the masses can easily be imagined.

"Why did God make so much outdoors?" exclaimed a little girl. We know not. He has made it and we should grow in it, broad, charitable and genial, judging everything by merit, not by prejudices.

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[FOR THE CRITIC.]

DIAMONDS AND GOLD IN SOUTH AFRICA

A Boer was once told that there are mountains, and even volcanoes in the moon, but that it is not inhabited by human beings.

"Thou," he triumphantly exclaimed, "neither diamonds nor gold exist there, because if they did, plenty of those d—d Englishmen would be after them."

It is now nearly thirty years since that band of fearless seekers after fortune was sent into a state of feverish excitement by the discovery of diamonds in the Vaal River, South Africa. Immediately after, at a place now called Kimberley, diamonds were found in extraordinary quantities, deposited in what appeared to be the crater of an extinct volcano. Then other similar deposits were quickly traced, and with the first, they became the centres of four separate mining camps, taking the names, which they still retain, of Kimberley, De Beers, Bultfontein, and Du Toits Pan mines. The diggings at the Vaal River are still carried on, and it is there that the purest and most valuable diamonds are found. Notwithstanding the awful difficulties of transport, which at that time meant a weary "trek" of 700 miles from Cape Town, taking 40 days to accomplish, a population of 40,000 persons flocked to the camps from every part of the world. Fortunes were made in a few days, and as quickly lost again. The mines presented a most animated appearance. Whole claims consisted of only a few square feet, and half, and even quarter claims, were often worked by different parties. For the first fifty feet down, the diamondiferous soil was of slightly yellowish tint, and the diamonds were easily taken from it. Suddenly, to the consternation of all, the yellowish ground gave out, and changed to what is known as hard blue ground. Tons of this were thrown away in the desperate efforts to regain the lost yellow ground, and many gave up their claims as useless.

By an accident it was found that the blue ground was richer than the yellow. Exposure to the atmosphere caused the blue ground to fall to pieces, and diamonds were exposed to view. This fact, and the increasing depth of the huge basins necessitated a more elaborate system of working. Those who had neither means nor enterprise to buy the requisite machinery or appliances, sold their claims, and companies sprang into existence. There is no need to follow the ups and downs of their career. They grew larger from their birth, and the probability is that the diamond fields will eventually fall into the hands of four companies. The largest of these at present is the De Beers Company, with a capital of about \$10,000,000. This company has lately taken over the French Company, who work in the Kimberley mine. The interest of the old workings has entirely disappeared. For instance, all one sees now is a huge basin in the Kimberley mine. This basin is 500 feet deep, and at the bottom of it are the head gears belonging to three large companies, the Kimberley, the French, and the Standard. The shafts are sunk another three or four hundred feet deeper than the bottom of the basin, and the diamondiferous strata still continues to be blue ground, as rich as ever, but of course more costly to work. From the head gears to the depositing floors and washing machines, which are on the old level, tube conveying the blue ground to be treated, are hauled on wires. This, and swarms of Kafirs ascending from, or descending to work, looking like large black flies, are all that the outsider sees of diamond mining. The companies are doing fairly well, but they sustain rude shocks at times from unlooked for falls of reef, which take weeks to clear. In spite of the most stringent laws, the I. D. B., (illicit diamond buyer), still flourishes. Not including what this clever gentleman sends off on his own account, the declared export of diamonds amounts to an annual value of \$15,000,000.

Diamonds and Jews could not be separated long, and the latter have reached such numbers, and developed, even for Jews, such astuteness, that they have come to be the curse of South Africa. There is plenty of agricultural land for them if they would turn their attention to it, but a Jew tilling the soil is a phenomenon never yet witnessed.

The journey through the Transvaal to Barberton, either from Kimberley or from Natal, is performed by coach. Should the unfortunate traveller select the wet season, he is not likely to forget the trip and its miseries. Such coaches! such post carts! Transvaal road making is constituted by removing all boulders over one cubic yard, and by filling up chasms more than five feet deep. All lesser obstacles must be avoided or overcome. To do either is a difficult matter on a pitch dark night. Bridges, too, are unknown in the Transvaal, and it is no uncommon thing to sit down one or two days before a swollen river. Upsets are the rule, on all portions of the road, and before the descent from the Devil's Kantoor, or down the Shoot on the Natal Road, the driver remarks, "You had better walk down here." Some traveller remonstrates, and says that he has paid an exorbitant fare to ride. "Very well," laconically replies the driver, "me and the conductor walks down," and the most obstinate man always yields at the first glimpse of the "difficulties." Sometimes, the coach comes down first; sometimes the mules. Sometimes both get down in five hours, and sometimes they never arrive at all! The distance from Kimberley to Barberton is 500 miles, and from Ladysmith, the terminus of the Natal railway, 290 miles. Goods and machinery are transported by bullock waggon from Ladysmith for the moderate (!) rate of \$125 per ton. Under favorable conditions, they may be expected in one month from the start. At certain seasons, some transport comes through Delagoa Bay, but though Delagoa Bay is only 140 miles from Barberton, for nine months in the year such an attempt means almost certain death to man and beast. A railway, to cover 75 miles of the distance, has been commenced, but this has happened twice before. Unless the railway be continued for the whole distance, it will not avail the gold fields much. Both the Kimberley and the Natal routes awaken bitter memories in the minds of all Englishmen. Soon after leaving Pretoria, Bronker's Spruit is passed, and the graves of officers and soldiers mark

where the treacherous Boers slaughtered the 94th regiment. On the Natal route, the Amajuba will always be pointed out as the scene of that black-letter day in the annals of the British army. Who was to blame? It has been said that of the dead, "Nil nisi bonum." Nevertheless, here is a fact which occurred on the day when the gallant 58th all but took the Boer entrenchments at Laing's Nek. Six young Englishmen, settlers in Natal, noticed 500 Orange Free State Boers stealing their way behind the Amajuba, and down the bed of the Ingogo river. They being crack shots, and having their rifles with them, begged Sir George Colley, whose attention was concentrated on Laing's Nek, to allow them, from a choice position among the boulders which commanded the bridge path by the river, to pick off these new arrivals. His reply was, "If you fire a single shot I will have you arrested. This is an Imperial affair!" The next day, the action on the Ingogo river was fought, when the artillerymen were picked off like pigeons, and the guns themselves were pitted all over by the furious fusillade directed towards them. The Free State Boers materially assisted their friends, the Transvaal Boers, on that day. Of Amajuba, the loss said the better. The panic which took place must ever remain a mystery. If a parcel of school-boys had simply stood their ground, and rolled down rocks, no Boer could ever have climbed that mountain side.

Some letters have lately appeared in the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, from its special correspondent, Mr. Murray. Mr. Murray writes on the South African gold fields. Special correspondents are but men. They meet with extraordinary attention and kindness when their mission is peace. They, therefore, write accordingly the most roseate descriptions of what they see with their eyes, whether it be before them, or in print; and whatever nonsense they hear is all put down as facts. Without attempting to emulate the wide knowledge which Mr. Murray acquired in a few days, the writer of this article will merely relate what came into his actual experience, or what he heard from reliable authorities, and not cribbed wholesale from that Ananias of literature, the South African press.

It is a matter of very great doubt whether, as an enthusiastic South African editor put it, "Our mountains are rotten with gold," is only a dream. The cry of "Wolf," in the shape of gold, has been uttered more than once in South Africa. A few years ago, some rich finds of gold, both alluvial gold and by hydraulicking, were made in the Lydenburg district of the Transvaal. The diggers were then driven out of their claims, and the company promoter appeared upon the scene. The notorious Lisbon Berlyn mine was floated for \$2,000,000. To the joy of the shareholders, one expert went to inspect the ground, and reported that he saw with his own eyes gold quartz to the value of \$125,000,000. This was too good to be true, so another expert was sent. He quickly returned, and agreed with the first expert in most of his statements, except in the value of gold to be seen. He saw \$150,000,000. Yet another was sent, and he saw \$250,000,000!

Champagne is dear at Lydenburg, it costs six dollars per bottle. Then came the appointments, any one of them worth more than that of a cabinet minister. Among them, an eminent professor was appointed as analytical chemist at a salary of \$10,000 per annum.

The floating of the Lisbon-Berlyn was so successful that the Balkis, with larger capital still, Spitzkop, and others, were speedily launched. Not one of these mines has ever paid one cent in dividends, nor will they ever do so, though the present has been considered a favorable time to resuscitate them. Some of them have never remitted one single ounce of gold. These mines caused the nares of South Africa, as a gold field, to stink in the nostrils of the British investing public, and the rush of the last two years has been paid for chiefly by South Africans. The only persons, beyond a few isolated cases of legitimate profits by gold mining, who have benefited by the last discoveries, are the rapacious Transvaal Government, the company promoter (hugely), the machine makers, and the Natal transport riders. Shareholders are nowhere. There are two insurmountable drawbacks to cheap gold mining in the Barberton district. The first is the scarcity of suitable mill sites, and the second is the high price of fuel, to say nothing of the enormous cost of all mixing and milling plant, and the subsequent cost of carrying on the works. Horses, mules, and oxen die by hundreds, and even the hardy donkey succumbs. Among human beings down in the valleys by the river, where the batteries must be erected, malarial fever plays havoc for four months in the year. The cost of living may be estimated from the following prices, which prevailed in Barberton up to June, 1887: flour, 18 cents per lb.; eggs, 12 to 25 cents each; rice, 18 cents per lb.; butter, one dollar per lb.; cheese, 75 cents per lb.; bacon, 75 cents per lb.; saddle-horse hire, 7 50 to 10 dollars per day. Mr. Murray calmly ignores these facts, but unblushingly asserts that the country teems with gold. He gives a few trial crushings of picked material, as though it were the average weekly crushing at the mine battery. It is very strange that most of the mines, about whose test crushings the newspapers printed the wildest reports, have gone down before the inevitable "steady ordeal by battery." Even the much vaunted (and justly so) Sheba, which gave a return of six to seven ounces from its first crushings, fell away to three ounces last April, improving again to 1,200 ounces from 290 tons crushed in May. As an instance of the cost of machinery, it may be noted that the 10-stamp battery belonging to Mr. Joseph Rraa, and situated 200 yards from the Shoba Battery, was sold on June 18, 1887, to the Golden Quarry Deep Level Co., for \$30,500. Mr. Rraa had exhausted all his fuel, and hardly knew where to look for more. For six months the battery had been working night and day, engaged in crushing at from \$6 to \$10 per ton, but it had only just paid expenses. Mr. Murray is quite wrong in his account of the discovery of gold in the De Kaap Valley.

Whoever has been to Barberton, and not heard of Moodie's Camp, which existed nearly three years before Barberton? Six or seven years ago, the Transvaal Government, being under obligations to a Mr. Moodie for surveying work done, proposed to liquidate its debt to him by a grant of

fourteen barren and worthless farms. Farms in the Transvaal range from 3,000 to 6,000 acres. Mr. Moodie, shrewdly suspecting the presence of gold, selected the farms in one block on the mountains to the north-east of the De Kaap Valley. His suspicions were well founded, and a camp soon plished on the spot. Nothing very extraordinary has been found there, and taking into consideration the capital sunk, the output of gold has been most meagre. The property is subject to ridiculous regulations, which are driving prospectors away. Leaving this camp for a day's shooting, a Mr. Barber came upon quartz containing visible gold in a creek about three miles from Moodie's. The town of Barberton is on this creek, and it is named after him. Prospecting parties then ranged the hills to the south, and in May, 1885, Edwin Bray and Griffiths discovered the Sheba. Soon after this two Cornish miners named Thomas came upon a rich lead, and managed to scoop a lot of gold out of it with rude contrivances.

An enterprising Jew paid them cash down \$300,000 for their property, about seven claims, and kindly offered it to the public for \$500,000. Taken greedily as soon as offered. This occurred in Sept., 1886, and two shafts were leisurely sunk to a depth of thirty feet, and the quartz rejected by the brothers Thomas was sent to the mill, the usual 6 to 10 ounces per ton being expected. The result, 5 dwts., was naturally disappointing. In June, 1887, it occurred to some reflective shareholder that machinery is a desirable, if not a necessary adjunct, to a gold mine, but on opening the financial cupboard, it was found in the same state as Mother Hubbard's. Another crushing was at once arranged for, which "Ananias" reports as yielding 18 ounces to the ton!! and in the next issue advertisements appear for \$100,000 more capital for Thomas' mine, which the philanthropic Jew offers at a premium "for the further development of this extraordinary mine."

There never were such "Olivers" asking for more as those South African Jews, but a few of them have got a "Roland for an Oliver" by this time. Were this a description of a concert, instead of a gold field, the bargain made by the brothers Thomas, as far as they are concerned, might be described in the words so dear to provincial critics, "beautifully rendered, and proved the gem of the evening."

The batteries of all the companies will be from five to ten miles away from the mines. The most cheaply worked mine is the Victoria, which has paid several small but steady dividends, with a return of 15 dwts. per ton. The Republic has had 2,100 tons crushed at a public battery, yielding 2 200 ounces of gold, but in the face of heavy transport and other expenses, failed to make it pay. The company is now erecting a 20-stamp battery, and the confiding shareholders, who subscribed \$850,000 to this mine, are awaiting results, which they will still be hoping for in the year 1900. The Oriental is another mine with a capital of nearly \$400,000, which sent 1,000 tons to be crushed at Krau's battery. This mine is near the Sheba, and the public firmly believed in at least six ounces to the ton. The result was 560 ounces of gold, or about 11 dwts. per ton. The public, although the quartz being sent down to the Oriental Battery, (in course of erection), was exactly similar to that crushed at Krau's, refused to believe the 11 dwts. tale, because the Board reeked of Jews, and among them, the sharpest of them all, one who might have sat for Dickens' "Fagan." The five dollar shares in Dec. last, were sold for one hundred dollars. The crushing at Krau's brought the shares down to fifteen dollars, and the public resolutely refused to let them go down below that price. The funniest part of the story comes in now. Mr. "Fagan," though laughing in his sleeve, (for with his 25 years' experience of diamond mining shares, had he not cleared out at the top?) became attracted by this last whim of the public, and went in heavily for the shares again at fifteen dollars, intending to give a first crushing with a vengeance when the Oriental Battery should be ready. The game has evidently failed, and "Fagan," hoist on his own petard, can oblige any one with 39,000 shares at five dollars each, the last quotation from London, because the mine being only one of 11 dwts., the shares are bound to fall to one dollar. One more Jew story, which will convey to the reader what has been going on in the South African goldfields, both at Barberton and Witwaterland for the last two years, and what will go on until the race of boobies becomes extinct. Similar stories could be related about 50 per cent. of the companies.

Perhaps the greatest swindle of all is the Kimberley Imperial. Upon the strength of a trial crushing reported to run 8 ounces to the ton, another Jew netted \$500,000 by putting his shares on the market and keeping other people's shares carefully locked up in his safe, when he ought to have delivered them to the rightful owners. He then gracefully retired from Barberton. Mr. Gardner Williams, the well known manager of the Beers Diamond Mining Company, visited the property in the interests of the shareholders. He denounced it in scathing terms, and the five dollar shares, once sold at sixty dollars, dropped to nil! During all this excitement, the Sheba five dollar shares changed hands at four hundred and fifty dollars. Mr. Murray might be asked why he does not mention Barrett's Berlin, Big Ben, Belfast, Pearl, and a host of other gigantic failures. It is a pity that the other parts of his letters are not written more in accord with his description, which is well done and truly given, of what he actually saw of the state of Barberton. The most astonishing statement of all is, "And the gold industry of the Transvaal is by far the largest and most remunerative South Africa has ever known." Indeed, Mr. Murray. Then where will you place the wool, diamond, and ostrich feather industries? Such arrant nonsense is sufficient to cause his other statements to be taken with many and large grains of salt. If Mr. Murray persists in placing gold as the leading industry of South Africa, it establishes the fact that "Ananias" fever is catching. The sound gold mining properties in South Africa can be counted on the fingers. Others have no capital to buy machinery, although large sums have passed through promoters' hands. Others have no gold and plenty of machinery, while all, more or less, smell too strongly of Moses and Aaron. The finest gold property at work, taking into consid-

eration extent, mining facilities, and fair yield, is undoubtedly the Forbes Concession in Sibiyiland. This concession, measuring 8 miles by 14 miles, is owned by a private company in London. The only reef worked, as yet, is the first one discovered. It is three hundred feet in length, and twenty feet in width, and yields from one to one and a half ounces to the ton. The quartz is a whitish-grey, very brittle. It contains a little visible gold. The batteries, one of which has been working nearly two years, are respectively 500 and 1,000 yards from the mine, which, so far, has been worked in an open cut from the surface. Each battery contains twenty stamps, with a good supply of water, and 110 feet fall on the turbines. Pigg's Peak, another mine in Sibiyiland, part of McLachlan's concession, promises well, but the 40 stamp battery is not ready yet. The Sibayi King has cut his country up into mining concessions, nor does he mind granting them twice or thrice over. The revenue thus derived by his employes in fattening women for the royal harem (18 inch waists have no chance), and in gratifying a newly acquired taste for champagne. Next in importance to Forbes', and far beyond it in richness, comes the celebrated Sheba. It has never at any crushing yielded less than 3 ounces, and it has once run as high as 6 ounces. The property consists of only 13 claims, and being the first company, it was floated with great difficulty for the reasonable and fair amount of \$75,000. The public, at one time, by purchasing its five dollar shares at \$450, put a value on it of \$3,375,000. The shares now remain steady at \$175, which is warranted, seeing that the mine earns 300 per cent per annum upon its original capital. Twenty stamps are at work, and preparations are being made to erect 60 stamps more. The formation is most extraordinary. The quartz is simply quarried out of the side of the hill, and the gold bearing reef is thirty feet wide. Visible gold is very rare in the reef.

Most of the South African gold is very fine. A 40 mesh is generally used, and even then, only 35 per cent. of the gold recovered is taken out of the mortar box, while 65 per cent. is caught on the plates. Prospecting in South Africa differs widely from prospecting in Nova Scotia. Quartz containing visible gold is not the rule, and the prospector's first implements after the pick are a pestle and mortar.

Strange to say, the Sheba mine is answerable for much misery in South Africa. Upon its reputation Barberton and Witwaterland have lived for 18 months. Every new mine was spoken of as better than or at least equal to the Sheba, and the bait took with astounding rapidity. Now is the reckoning, and very bitter it is to hundreds of ruined people. Never were gold fields so pulled before, while all the difficulties and cost of working were carefully kept in the background, and only realized by persons who are fighting them through. It may be taken for granted that in the face of the present working cost, nothing less than a reef four feet, and carrying one ounce of gold to the ton, will pay a very small dividend upon the absurd capital tacked on to each mine. As for Witwaterland, no solid work has been done there yet—no steady one year's crushing. The conglomerate exposed is more like a deposit. Deposits are treacherous. Certainly gold has been regularly displayed upon purple velvet in the shop windows of the large towns, ticketed, "All this gold, — ounces, from — tons, — mine, Witwaterland." Our friends the Jews see it, and go up the next dark entry to laugh, while the thoughtful man ponders over the large importation of English gold sovereigns into Africa, and wonders what becomes of them all. With all this puff and nonsense, the greatest amount of gold ever exported from South Africa in one year was in 1886, and it did not reach 35,000 ounces, or not much in excess of the export from poor modest Nova Scotia! According to "Ananias," great discoveries of gold are being made in Zululand, Natal, Knysna, Cape Colony, and behind Cape Town itself. We shall see what we shall see, but we must not forget that, according to Mr. Murray's glowing description, gold ought, two years hence, to be sent from South Africa to the value of millions of dollars annually. It is all wanted. The supply of gold for the world's wants has been short for several years.

Gold is the one thing in the world that has never been overproduced. This is the history up to date of gold mining in South Africa, pure and simple. No one denies that gold exists there, but it is very questionable whether, except here and there, the reefs run more than from 5 dwts. to 10 dwts. per ton. South Africa never can work a 5 dwts. mine, and it will take at least 5 years more to teach her how to make a 10 dwts. mine pay. The scarcity of water, and the great distance of the mill sites from the mines, constitute serious drawbacks to mining cheaply. The cost of timber and fuel, the backbone of a mine, is more than expensive there—it is frightful! An unfortunate transport rider, unlucky enough to break the pitch pine upright of a battery, was mulcted in \$100 for it.

Hundreds of disappointed diggers from Australia, America, and other parts of the world, regret the folly which induced them to go to a country where living is most unpleasant, and where gold mining at present exists on paper. Could one tenth part of the energy displayed in developing the South African gold mines be directed here, Nova Scotia would make her mark as a gold producing country. Gold will not jump out of the ground in her tangled woods like a Jack-in-the-box, and exclaim, "I am here." It must be looked for, and when found, the outlay on top must be small. If the capital thus expended represents the "whole capital and nothing but the whole," the returns will be magnificent, and dwarf any other profits in Canada. There will be failures of course, but if the outlay is small, they will hardly be felt. Nova Scotia is the cheapest mining country in the world. But, if the African energy cannot come without its accompaniments of deliberate fraud and extravagant capital, foisted on the world as evidence that it is the greatest gold-producing country in it—better to be without it altogether, for ruin must follow in its wake, ruin to a legitimate industry, and ruin to the dupes.

The comparison of gold exported by South Africa and by Nova Scotia per dollar of capital employed, makes a nice little rule-of-three sum very

much in favor of Nova Scotia. Suppose that \$1,000,000 represents the capital embarked in Nova Scotia gold mines. She exports 25,000 ounces per annum. Then, in the immediate future, South Africa, upon a capital of \$30,000,000 (vide Mr. Murray), ought to export 750,000 ounces per annum, or she will be left behind in the race.

Such an export is neither likely, nor possible. Therefore, Nova Scotia wins easily, and "quod erat . . ."

Dalhousie College, or the new Presbyterian Girls' School will kindly finish the quotation.

THE GOLDEN BUTTERFLY.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Wonderful strides have been made in the manufacture of smelting machinery of late years, and the Hartsfeld Portable Smelting Furnace and Mining Company of Newport, Kentucky, have acquired a well-deserved reputation for the superiority of their manufactures.

At their own furnace they employ eight men when on double turn, and have some forty men engaged in the manufacture of furnaces. The business outlook is excellent, and enquiries are coming in from South and Central America, Mexico, New Zealand, England, Germany, and the Dominion of Canada. The premises in Kentucky will not be extended, but a branch business may be opened up in Denver, Colorado, the great mineral centre of the United States. Mr. Keim has invented a water jacket cupola which will, no doubt, take the place of the old-fashioned one, as it saves labor and fuel, and prevents the burning out, which caused so much trouble in the old ones. It can be attached to the old ones at small cost, and some of the largest foundry men are going to adopt it as soon as their orders can be filled. All who have seen the drawings say that it exactly meets the want so long felt in this branch of the business. The company have just received a sample of ore from Auckland, N. Z., which assayed nearly \$7,000 per ton in gold and silver; it is in combination with antimony and bismuth. A new mining company called the Mexican Tin Reduction Company filed articles of incorporation at Newport, Ky., on Nov. 16th last. The capital stock, \$2,000,000, was subscribed by J. C. Ottinger, S. H. McMahan, F. W. Maxwell, J. H. Leslie, and B. W. Keim. The mine is located in Durango, Mexico, and the veins have been prospected to a depth of forty-five feet, showing them to be true fissure veins. The ore assays from three up to twenty-eight per cent., and is probably the richest tin discovery ever made. The company will place a Hartsfeld furnace on the property as soon as it can be built, and will add others as the mine is developed.

COMMERCIAL.

Closing shipments to outports for the season have well kept up the volume of trade transactions, but no substantial change has been undergone in the general business situation. The results of the fall trade have fully borne out the favorable expectations that we entertained and expressed earlier in the year. It is true that numerous complaints have been made of keen competition, and of over-trading, but these are mainly confined to the sections west of Toronto, and in the Maritime Provinces there has been little cause for fault-finding in these respects. Payments, as a rule, have been well made, and the percentage of renewals, accommodation, etc., is generally considered as moderate.

The money markets continue to be tightening, and bank discounts are higher and more difficult to obtain.

An Ottawa despatch states that Hon. Mr. Bowell, the minister of customs, has decided that all additional sums payable under section 8 of the customs act for undervaluation, are in future to be treated as being purely of the nature of increased duty, and not fines or seizure monies. Consequently no appraisers or other customs officers concerned in raising of such valuations will be entitled to participate as heretofore by way of award in respect to monies so collected. The change has been made in order to remove the dissatisfaction which existed to a greater or less degree among importers in reference to cases where the penalty might be held to be consequent upon an interested view of valuation of any class of goods being taken by appraisers of customs. This recent decision of Bowell's is confirmatory of a promise made by him last session, when alleged unsatisfactory and objectionable features of the system of awarding fines were under discussion in the commons.

A little breeze has been caused by a petition which was handed in to the City Council at its last meeting, signed by representatives of the Temperance League, asking for the removal of the City Chief Inspector of Licenses, on the ground that he has not fulfilled the duties of the position to the satisfaction of the two petitioners. The City Council appointed a special committee, composed of one Alderman from each ward, to hear the petitioners, and to report at some future time whether the complainants have any real grievance. The consensus of public opinion, so far as we are able to judge it, is that Mr. Mackasoy administers the present foolish and unreasonable law as well as any person possibly could, and uses every effort at his command to carry it out. The operation of the License Act of 1886, accentuates the truism that in a free community any law which has not the support of a majority, or at least of a respectable minority of the people, cannot be enforced, and that attempting to carry out such laws which lack popular support, has an injurious effect on the people by breeding in them a contempt of all law. The decisions of County Judge Johnston in the "liquor cases," where he reversed the judgments of the City Stipendiary, both on the law and the facts, were received with almost

universal satisfaction, and will doubtless be a salutary lesson to the lower court, which has shown a strong disposition to "dispose with justice" according to its own prejudices, rather than in accordance with the evidence produced before it. The probable outcome of this ill-judged attempt to minimize the valuable services of so thorough a temperance man as the present Chief Inspector, will be to recoil upon the fanatical "temperance" clique by disgusting real temperance men and women, and we have reason to believe that the City Council will shortly reiterate the protest against the present Act that it tendered when the License Act of 1886 was originally introduced to the Local Legislature.

The last issue of the *Montreal Trade Bulletin*, under the heading "A Smart Transaction," publishes the following:—"One of the smartest transactions ever accomplished in banking or brokerage is said to have taken place in connection with the Central Bank failure. It appears that a few days before the bank failed, a broker in Toronto and one in Montreal were engaged to flood the market with all the Central bills they could push on the banks and the public, and the very next morning after the failure the same brokers offered to buy them back at 10 to 25 per cent. discount, and we are informed that they secured a good lot of the bills they had previously circulated at par, at a fat discount. Now the question is, who received the profit on these bills, the bank or the brokers?" We can only say that so far as the public is concerned, it makes but little difference which scooped the plunder, but the moral is that our bank bills should be secured by the government, and thus such swindling operations would be impossible.

The following are the assignments and business changes in this Province during the past week:—W. E. Crowe & Co., produce and Comm., Halifax, Wm. Edward Crowe only partner; Thos. McDonald, general store, Guysboro, offering to compromise at 20 cents on the dollar; M. A. Fisher, general store, Somerset, N. S., succeeded by J. B. Thomas; Robert R. Waterman, butcher, New Glasgow, assigned to James Roy; Jesse Cunningham, saw mill, Melrose, Guysboro, assigned to Donald McDonald; Ronald Ellis, general store, North Sydney, assigned to M. L. McInnis.

Dry Goods.—Actual trade has been comparatively light, and the market is without material change. Most merchants in this line are utilizing the present interval between seasons in taking stock, preparatory to making arrangements for the spring trade.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—There has been a good active business done in hardware and iron goods generally at steady prices. Ingot tin continues to advance in the markets of the world, London showing an access of £6 10s. to the quotations of last week. Dealers in Canada claim that they are now selling tin at 5c. to 8c. less than they can replace stock at. Warrants are cabled at Glasgow at 39s. 8d., and No. 3 foundry in Middlesborough at 31s. 1d. Late London cables are tin, spot, £145 10s., three months futures, £140 Market quiet. G. O. B. Chili bars, £51 10s. Philadelphia telegraphs that the steel rail situation has not yet changed, and buyers are still holding off, believing that holders cannot maintain their position. Quotations are \$32.50 to \$33.50, but these figures are merely nominal. Quite a number of orders have been booked for light sections at \$36. A heavy business has been done during the past week in bar iron. In pig iron prices are held firmly for standard and special brands, but a few makers are shading for inferior brands. Large quantities of bridge iron are being shipped West, and now enquiries are arriving from the New England and Middle States. Foreign material is not wanted at present prices, and large blocks of foreign Bessemer have been offered at 50 cents below the asking figures of a fortnight ago. The steel workers' scale for 1888 has been presented at Pittsburg to the manufacturers for signing, and calls for a 10 per cent. advance all round. All iron and steel workers who are members of the Knights of Labor have been notified that they must surrender their connection with that organization and join the Amalgamated Association.

BREADSTUFFS.—Business in flour has been very quiet, the bulk of what has been done being on local accounts, the market ruling steady. Prices have experienced no modification. Beerholm's cable says:—"Cargoes off coast—wheat firm, corn, nothing offering; on passage and for shipment—wheat and corn quiet and firm. French country markets firm. At Liverpool spot wheat and corn are firmly held. In the United States grain and flour centres no movement of importance has transpired, and figures have been steady and firm."

PROVISIONS.—Owing to the advance of prices in the West for mess pork, a little steadier feeling has been infused in our market. A fair demand for hogs has been evident, but packers are reluctant to commence to buy yet, as prices are regarded by them as too high. Butchers are trying to bear the market, but their efforts do not meet much success, because receipts are very light.

BUTTER.—Our latest English advices are as follows:—"The low price of Irish affects the value of Finest American and Creamery, just as best grades of Margarine interfere with stale or second quality of the genuine article. Prices are therefore irregular, holders being anxious sellers. We quote, nominally, choice fresh creamery 95s. to 100s.; and lower grades 60s. to 85s., according to condition and flavor. We quote Cork Firsts, 112s., Seconds, 98s.; Thirds, 89s., Fourths, 76s.; Finest Kiel, 125s. to 130s. per cwt."

CHEESE.—This article has been in slow demand, and prices remain unchanged on both sides of the Atlantic. It looks very much as if our warnings of the course of this trade are to be fulfilled, and that holders who refused to accept fair offers a few weeks since, may be unable to place their stocks, except at a material shading from cost prices. Messrs. Hodgson Bros., of Liverpool, write under date of November 12th, as follows:—"There has been a steady demand for finest September make, and imports being light, holders are firmer in their values, and an advance of 1s. per cwt. on this grade is maintained—58s. to 59s. having been freely paid for

best lots, while some holders have asked 60s. The market is less active to-day, but remains steady and firm at 58s. to 59s. for choice September, colored or white, and 50s. to 56s. for Augusts. Mediums at 20s. to 35s. only sell slowly, and must be cheap to tempt buyers; ripe summer goods also sell slowly at 40s. to 50s., but the stock, though still large, is being gradually reduced.

APPLES.—Late English cable advices are to the effect that the apple markets there have improved. Liverpool quotations are 18s. to 20s. for choice fruit. A cable from Liverpool says that at a recent auction sale there the demand for American apples was very active at the following prices: Baldwins (good), 14s. 6d. to 18s; Baldwins (common), 10s. to 13s; Greenings, 13s. 6d. to 16s; Spies, 14s. 6d. to 17s.; Soeks, 16s. 6d. to 17s. 6d; Golden Russets, 14s. to 15s., and Newton Pippins, 16s. to 17s.

SUGAR, ETC.—The market for refined has been firm and active, and a large business has been done in both granulated and yellows. The general grocery trade has been fairly active, and all staple goods have been moving in satisfactory volume, while jobbers have made a full country distribution. The Montreal Trade Bulletin reports on the molasses trade in that city as follows:—"Barbadoes molasses has a firm market, and the sale of about 700 puncheons was reported, said to be at 30c., but holders ask 37c. for small lots. Quite an active demand has set in for molasses, and within the past few days several large transactions in Barbadoes have taken place at an advance of 2c. to 3½c. per gallon. This sudden change is said to be owing to the discovery that a considerable portion of the molasses hold in Quebec, and which it was expected would be put on this market, is in a sour and unmerchantable condition. Stocks at Montreal in first hands will not aggregate over 1,600 puncheons against 3,000 at this time last year, and 5,000 the year previous. We learn of sales of Barbadoes in 50 puncheon lots at 37½c., and two cars were sold for Hamilton account at 37c. Porto Rico has also been enquired for, with sales at 32½c. to 33c. Trinidad and Antigua has been placed at 28½c. to 30c. The great bulk of sound Barbadoes having passed out of first hands, the demand must now of necessity settle upon the Porto Rico, Trinidad and Antigua, part of which has been imported from the United States."

HAY.—A Montreal contemporary says that considerable quantities of hay have been shipped from that port to the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland this season, the last sales reported being at \$11.00 to \$11.25 per ton pressed, the latest shipment being for Sydney, C. B. Quite a number of shipments have also been made recently to England and Scotland, where hay has been very scarce, owing to the drought of the past summer; and now we learn that a demand has sprung up for good pressed hay for Boston and other New England points, a number of car loads having been purchased within the past few days in this city and in the country for American account. Large, therefore, as was the hay crop in this Province, and especially in this vicinity, it will in all probability be wanted between the home and export demand. In this market the price of choice pressed timothy is \$1.50 to \$2 per ton less than at this time last year.

TEA AND COFFEE.—No change of importance has occurred in the tea market since our last writing, but the demand has continued to be good, and it may be said that business has ruled fairly active and prices have been steady. The demand for coffee has been comparatively light, and a decidedly weak feeling prevails, though we do not think that quotations should be changed.

FISH.—The local fish market has ruled dull, and but little has been done. Fat mackerel especially has felt the absence of demand, and we have found it necessary to shade down our quotations. Our outside advices are as follows:—Montreal, 28th November.—"There has been a good business in green cod with sales of mixed No. 1 and large at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per bbl. Dry cod is quiet, with last sales reported at \$3.75 to \$4 per quintal. The sale of Labrador herring has been interfered with by the large offerings of straights from Quebec, which have flooded the market and brought down prices, sales of French Labradors being reported at \$3.50 per bbl. Choice brands of Labrador proper are quoted at \$4 to \$4.25. Sales of B.C. salmon have transpired at \$10 to \$11.50 per bbl., and Newfoundland at \$11.50 to \$12 per bbl." Gloucester, Mass., 28th November.—"We notice cargo sales of shore mackerel at \$14.50, \$17, and \$25 per bbl. for 2's, 1's, and extras. Bays, \$11, \$13, \$15, and \$20 for 3's, 2's, 1's, and extras; chub 2's, \$12. Last sales of halibut, 9½ and 6 cts. per lb. for white and gray, cargo lots. Georges codfish selling from vessel at \$3 per cwt., cargo lots; Bank do., \$2½ and \$1.40 for large and small. We quote best Georges codfish at \$4.75 per quintal for large, and \$3.50 for small; Bank, \$3.50 for large, and \$3.25 for small; Hand line do. \$4.25 and \$3.50; Flemish Cap \$4; Shores \$4 and \$3.50 for large and small. Dry Bank \$4.12 to \$4.25; medium \$3.25. Cusk \$3; pollock \$2.50, slack-salted do. \$3; haddock \$2.50, and hake \$2. Boneless and prepared fish 3½ to 5 cts. per lb. for hake, haddock and cusk, and 5 to 6½ cts. for codfish, as to style and quality. Smoked halibut 6 to 9c. per lb.; smoked salmon 15c. per lb.; haddock 6c. per lb. Medium herring 16 cts. per box; tucks 15c.; lengthwise 13 cts.; No. 1's 12c.; smoked mackerel 11c. per lb. Good fat herring \$5 to \$6.25 per bbl.; medium split, \$3.50 to \$3.75; medium gibbed \$3.37 to \$3.75; round shore \$3.50 to \$3.75; East-port \$3; pickled codfish \$5, haddock \$4, halibut heads \$3.25; tongues \$6; sounds \$11.50; tongues and sounds \$8; alewives \$3.25; trout \$14.50; California salmon \$15, Halifax do. \$17." Barbadoes, 15th November.—"Owing to a good demand for export, the cargoes of the Energy and Leander have met with ready sale in lots at \$16.50 to \$18 for large and \$16 for medium. Salmon, ex latter vessel, sold at \$10.07, and 285 bbls. split herrings at \$3.17½." Havana, 19th November.—"Codfish have been selling the past week at \$6.50, and close at the same price with moderate demand. Last sale at St. Jago was at \$6.25, and Porto Rico at \$6. Haddock and hake have advanced to \$5.75, and \$5.25 respectively, as stocks are not large. The enquiry for haddock has been better than for hake."

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

WHOLESALE RATES.

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

GROCERIES.

Table listing various grocery items such as SUGAR, TEA, MOLASSES, BISCUITS, and their respective prices.

BREADSTUFFS.

PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

Quotations below are our to day's wholesale prices for car lots net cash. Jobbers' and Retailers' prices about 5 to 10 cents per bbl. higher than car lots. Markets quiet and steady. Breadstuffs are sold fine. Cornmeal scarce, 10c to 15c. dearer.

Table listing various breadstuffs and produce items like Flour, Oatmeal, Corn Meal, and their prices.

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

PROVISIONS.

Table listing various meat and provision items like Beef, Pork, Lard, and their prices.

These quotations are prepared by a reliable wholesale house.

FISH FROM VESSELS.

Table listing various fish items like MACKEREL, HERRING, SALMON, and their prices.

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

LOBSTERS.

Table listing lobster items like Nova Scotia (Atlantic Coast Packing) and their prices.

The above quotations are corrected by a reliable dealer.

LUMBER.

Table listing various lumber items like Pine, Spruce, Hemlock, and their prices.

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

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Table listing various butter and cheese items like Nova Scotia Choice Fresh Prints and their prices.

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

WOOL, WOOL SKINS & HIDES.

Table listing various wool and hide items like Wool-clean washed, Ox Hides, and their prices.

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

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

Table listing various fruit items like Apples, Oranges, Lemons, and their prices.

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

POULTRY.

Table listing various poultry items like Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, and their prices.

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK—at Richmond Depot.

Table listing various live stock items like Steers, Oxen, Fat Steers, and their prices.

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer.

SADDLE AND SABRE.

(Continued.)

"Delighted to see you, Mr. Devereux. Are you up in town for long? Heard you were dining with my husband last night; but I suppose they don't give you a long furlough from Cambridge?"

"No," laughed Charlie; "very short, indeed, but I hope soon—yes, very soon—to have done with it. I have a chance of entering the army, and if that comes off I shall cut Cambridge at once. Don't you think I shall be right?"

"Yes, indeed, I do," replied Mrs. Kynaston. "You will make a very fair Dragoon, and I don't think you 'frame' for anything like bookwork."

"That's just what Lettie says!" exclaimed Charlie.

"Yes. The life will just suit you—and remember I speak as a woman having experience."

"I don't think I am clever," replied Devereux, laughing; "but you needn't tell a fellow so, Mrs. Kynaston. I think I can ride a bit and play a decent game of billiards. I had some tough battles with the Major the other night, and had decidedly the best of it."

"Perhaps he was not in form," replied Mrs. Kynaston, drily. "My husband takes a good deal of beating in a general way."

"And I flatter myself I do also," rejoined Charlie, a little piqued. "No, I honestly believe I am a few points better than the Major."

"Well, perhaps it is so," replied Mrs. Kynaston, "only recollect that my husband has had far wider experience than you have had. He is apt to play carelessly except for money."

"We had a trifle on, just to make it interesting," replied Charlie.

"Well, perhaps you are the best," said Mrs. Kynaston, indifferently, "only I wouldn't be too sure. How is Polestar?"

"Doing wonderfully well, I hear, and very much improved since we got so disgracefully beaten at Lincoln. I hope to avenge my defeat there in the autumn, and that you will be there to see it."

"I hope so too," rejoined Mrs. Kynaston. "But our movements at present are very uncertain. The Major never makes up his mind until the end of the season, and very often not until the end of October."

Major Kynaston's movements were in good truth governed considerably by his financial success on the Turf, as his wife confided to Lettie, but Mrs. Kynaston was not likely to enter into such confidences with Charlie.

"And when do you expect to go up for your inspection? Lettie told me all about it, and I know that you are to be paraded before Major Braddock. I trust that the wine may be properly iced, and that the cook may have done his *dévoirs* dextly," continued Mrs. Kynaston, laughing. "I suppose you know that a mistake in a side dish, or the claret served at an undue temperature, may nip your aspirations in the bud?"

"Yes," replied Charlie, joining in her laugh. "I have heard that Major Braddock regards dinner as a very solemn function; but we are to dine at his own club, and surely there should be safety in that. I should think the chef for his own sake would do his best for Major Braddock."

"There is much worldly wisdom in your speech," rejoined Mrs. Kynaston. "Gourmets like Major Braddock 'back their bills,' and make bitter the lives of both cook and committee should even their mutton-chop not be done to the exact turn."

"Let us hope the Fates will be propitious. And now, Mrs. Kynaston, I must wish you good bye, for I have but just time to pack up my traps and catch my train."

"Good-bye, and may all success attend you. Write as soon as you know; or, better still, come and tell me you are to be a Dragoon."

Kate Kynaston sat plunged in reverie for some time after Charlie had taken his departure. She knew her husband too well to suppose that the light-hearted boy would have any chance with him at cards or billiards. What could Dick mean? He surely did not intend to plunder such small game as Charlie Devereux, and yet that the latter had any chance with her husband at billiards or cards she did not believe for one moment. Poor Kate! it was far from her nature to turn hawk, and she had winced at first when her eyes were opened to the fact that Dick Kynaston got his living for the most part by his skill in all description of 'play.' But she soon grew callous, and even stooped to make use of her own smiles and bright eyes to lure men into her husband's net. Yet she was loyal to her favorites, and Dick, though he ruled her with an iron hand, on the whole knew that now and again she would stand no plundering of the innocents. It was on behalf of the young ones Kate chiefly interfered. Her elder admirers, she deemed, ought to be able to take care of themselves, but she would interfere sharply sometimes on behalf of her boyish adorer—and she was just the sort of woman whom quite young men especially worship. I don't mean to say that Kate Kynaston had not plenty of men of all ages at her feet, but she had a quiet way with her that put "young ones" at their ease in the first half-hour. No, she would not have this thing. She would tell Dick that he must stay his hand as far as Charlie Devereux was concerned. She knew that was wild, and she knew that he was weak, but she would not have it on her conscience that she stood by and saw this boy ruined on the threshold of his career. She was submissive in general, and Dick Kynaston was not the man to bear the thwarting of his schemes quietly, but this matter should be speedily settled between them, and she would let him know that Charlie Devereux must be spared.

Then her thoughts ran back to the old channel. She did not deceive herself in the least. She knew that her liking for Gilbert Slade was growing on her. She knew it from the dismay with which she had learnt that he had interfered in Charlie Devereux's behalf at Lettie's request. Gilbert, she argued, must be much struck with that young lady to take all this

trouble on her brother's account. She had taken a great fancy to Lettie, but unfortunately she had taken an equally strong one for Slade, and when two such friendships clash it is pretty safe to predict that the woman will be thrown over in favor of the man.

Again, Mrs. Kynaston had chosen, in virtue of her prior acquaintance, to regard Gilbert Slade as her own peculiar property. How very slight that acquaintance had been was shown by the fact that when he met her on old Tom Devereux's drag at Lincoln he had failed to remember her. True, Gilbert had devoted himself to her upon that occasion more than to Lettie, but a man would have laughed at Mrs. Kynaston's entertaining such an idea that she held right of vassalage over Gilbert, though a woman would perfectly have understood it, and have divined in a moment that the friendship of those two would be of short duration now that Mrs. Kynaston's jealousy was aroused. That lady, rousing herself at length from her reverie, sprang to her feet, and as she paced up and down the drawing-room, was quite as determined that Lettie Devereux should never wed Gilbert Slade, as that her husband should not plunder the brother.

XIV.

CHARLIE ON PROBATION.

Gilbert Slade contrived to see a good deal of Miss Devereux during this last fortnight. As the diplomatist who had the arranging a meeting between Charlie and Major Braddock on the most favorable terms, he found it necessary to consult Lettie very often. The Major usually, and more especially at this time of year, had pretty numerous engagements in the dinner way. Therefore it was necessary to ascertain, first, what evening would suit him. Then it was imperative that Charlie should be written to, and told that if anything should prevent his attending on that occasion he must telegraph at once, as otherwise he would create a most unfavorable impression on the Major, who regarded engagements of this sort as bonds of the most solemn description. Charlie also had to be cautioned against the heinous sin of unpunctuality. Very fond was the Major of laying down the axiom, that to be late on such an occasion was an insult both to your host and his cook. When in the army he had been always given to harrying the subalterns about being late for mess. Unpunctuality on other parades he might look over, but not on this one; so that altogether Gilbert was a good deal in Onslow Gardens. However, at last everything was arranged. Charlie had been most carefully tutored, as far as Lettie, inspired by Slade, could do so by the post. He had even been tutored into studying "Lucille," and warned, if he saw a fair opportunity, to fire off the following quotation from that poem:—

"We may live without friends,
We may live without books;
But civilised men
Cannot live without cooks."

"I am so very anxious," said Lettie, when the important day was finally fixed. "I do so hope Charlie will acquit himself creditably. I have done as you told me. I have warned him to be highly-appreciative of the good things set before him, but to be a little diffident as to giving an opinion about the wine."

"Quite right," said Gilbert laughing. "Very young men are apt to set up as judges in that respect, and I know that always moves Uncle Bob's wrath. I even once heard him assert that no man knew anything about wine until he had had a fit of the gout."

"But," cried Lettie, "men don't always have the gout, do they?"

"I fancy my uncle and his cronies are unanimous concerning that complaint. We must only hope that he is not disposed to it just now."

"It is very good of you, Mr. Slade, to take all this trouble for me, and I am very grateful to you; but I feel wofully nervous about Charlie's ordeal. Your uncle seems somewhat peculiar."

"Not at all, Miss Devereux; not more so than the generality of mankind. The only thing is that, as I want Charlie to show to the best advantage, I'm giving you a chart of the country. We have most of us peculiarities, and it is just our clashing of these that makes people take a dislike to us when we first meet them."

"It is very good of you, and I can't be sufficiently grateful."

"Don't think of it," interrupted Gilbert; "I'm only too pleased that I managed to arrange the matter before my time was up. I must leave London the day after to-morrow, and I was so afraid that it might not come off."

"But I shall see you again before you go?" said Lettie.

"Oh, yes, I'll come down to-morrow afternoon, if you'll allow me, and tell you how things went off. And now I must say adieu. Depend on it, it will be all right, Miss Devereux. Uncle Bob is a good-natured fellow, though perhaps over-fond of his dinner, and has always done anything I wanted;" and with these words of encouragement Gilbert Slade took his departure.

Lettie was very anxious that Charlie should get into the army. She had been greatly pleased with the enthusiasm he showed at the prospect, and it was therefore no wonder that she should be anxious about his success.

"It's odd," thought Lettie, "but really at present his chance seems to depend on the caprice of a middle-aged gentleman." Then she thought how very kind Mr. Slade had been about the whole business; and then I think her whole reverie rather concentrated itself on Mr. Slade himself. It is a very easy transition, when the subject is a good-looking young man, to glide from "how very kind" to "how very nice" he was, and from that to those day-dreams in which all young ladies are prone to indulge, and to what answer she should give if ever he should ask the momentous question, and from that the whole thing dies away in a background of orange flowers, bridesmaids, rice, and old slippers.

The fateful evening at last arrived. Charlie Devereux, having compared his watch with the Horseguards in the afternoon—the one authority on

time that Major Braddock recognised, to which all other clocks were expected to bend—arrived at the Thermopolium at least ten minutes before the appointed hour. Gilbert shook him heartily by the hand, and said, laughing,

"This will do. Uncle Robert is not here himself yet. Don't forget the hints I have sent you; I know you'll excuse my doing so, but of course we have a point to carry: appreciative but not demonstrative about the dinner, and somewhat diffident on the subject of wine; bear in mind it's all the Major's ordering; and everything is sure to be good, or else I prophesy a very stormy morrow down below for the cook and butler."

"I shall do my very best," rejoined Charlie, "to profit by your hints. As I am terribly in earnest about this thing, I hope I shall pass muster. Anyway I can't sufficiently thank you, Slade, for the trouble you have taken about it!"

"Nonsense," replied the other, "but hush, here comes the great pasha himself."

"To the minute, Uncle Robert. Let me introduce my friend, Mr. Devereux."

The Major shook hands cordially with Charlie, but at the same time Gilbert noticed an extremely puzzled expression on his countenance. As they went upstairs to the coffee-room, Major Braddock took advantage of an opportunity to whisper to his nephew.

"Deuced odd, Bertie, but I'll swear I have seen your friend before."

"Not likely, I think," rejoined Slade. "Some likeness probably misleads you."

"Not a bit of it," rejoined the Major testily. He had been hurried; his valet had forgotten his buttonhole, and had to be despatched in a hansom cab in hot haste in search of this indispensable adjunct at nearly the last moment. Still mystified and troubled in that mild way, in which not being able to call a face to our collection does bother us, Major Braddock sat down to his dinner. But the clear turtle was undeniable, and by the time the glass of Madeira, its natural sequence, had been swallowed, the Major dismissed the subject, and had given himself up to enjoyment. The dinner proved a success on every point. The champagne was iced to a turn, the claret was warmed to a nicety, and Charlie, with the aid of the few hints he had received, had no difficulty in passing as what he really was, a genuine unaffected gentlemanly young fellow. It was evident that he had found favor in the Major's sight, and when the quotation was dexterously fired off over a wondrous cunning *salami* that appeared as the dinner wore on, the Major exclaimed:—

"My dear young friend, allow me to congratulate you. You have the making of an epicure, and a considerable rudimentary knowledge of the highest art of civilization. I have little doubt that in course of time you'll be as good a judge of a dinner as I am!" And the Major uttered these words in the same manner that another man might have suggested a Victoria Cross or a K.C.B. ship as goals in a military career. "It is to be regretted," continued the Major, glancing sadly down at his own portly proportions, "that the acquirement of such knowledge does spoil the figure, but as Mr. Weller remarked, and he must (in his rough way) have been one of us, 'Width and wisdom go together.'"

After a couple of cigars, Charlie, in obedience to a hint from his Mentor, took his departure.

"He'll do, Bertie; he'll do! As nice a young one as I have seen for some time. I shall have great pleasure in doing all I can for him. I cannot think who his face reminds me of—God bless my soul! I have it now!—being here recalls it to my memory. That is the young fellow I saw about a fortnight ago playing billiards in the next room with that old robber, Dick Kynaston. And I'll tell you what, Bertie, my boy; if Devereux has got any money, the sooner you give him a hint the better. I know what Dick Kynaston can do on a billiard table. And during the little time that I looked on he was playing with young Devereux as a cat plays with a mouse."

"I shouldn't think Charlie Devereux was worth Kynaston's attention in that way. Of course he knows them. They were up hunting in his country all last season. But I'm very glad you like young Devereux, and hope now that you'll give him a lift."

"I will, I will! But don't say too much about it, Bertie; for I don't want to disappoint him; and—it may not come off."

"Quite good enough, Uncle Robert, to know that you'll do your best. But I'll be careful not to arouse undue expectations."

The next afternoon Gilbert wended his way to Onslow Gardens to tell Lettie what had been accomplished.

"Most satisfactory, I assure you, Miss Devereux. Major Braddock was perfectly satisfied with your brother, and pronounced him a very nice youngster. I have done everything possible, and though, of course, we can't be quite certain, yet I have little doubt my uncle will obtain him a nomination. The examination, of course, is Charlie's affair, but I don't suppose that will bother him much."

"Whether it bothers him or not, he must pass it," rejoined Miss Devereux, laughing; "even if I have to turn schoolmistress, and hear him his lessons daily. However, I have no fear about that. Charlie will work hard enough, if it is wanted, with an object in view. And now, do you really leave London to-morrow?"

"Yes. Leave is up, and I must return to York. It is not a bad quarter, but no place seems a good one when you want to be somewhere else. By the way, you are very intimate with the Kynastons, are you not?"

"Yes," rejoined Lettie. "That is, with Mrs. Kynaston. I like her very much. She is as bright as she is pretty, and can be so excessively amusing."

"But," said Gilbert, "I gather you don't care much for Major Kynaston?"

(To be continued.)

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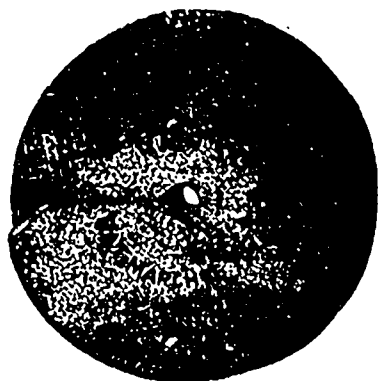
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MINING.

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A TRIP TO THE EASTERN GOLD DISTRICTS.

(Concluded.)

(From our Staff Correspondent.)

Attached to his dwelling, Mr. Hayward has a store, and just off of it a snug office, where we spent the evening, his time being pretty well taken up in receiving reports from foremen, settling accounts with the men, and drafting working plans of machinery to be ordered. The new 15 stamp mill has been ordered from the Truro Foundry and Machine Company, and will be put up as soon as a site has been determined upon. The largest owner in the Empress mine is Mr. North, the wealthy pork packer of Boston, who receives good dividends from the property, which he values very highly. Mr. Hayward has become interested in a patent railroad lubricant, which is going to revolutionize that business. He has taken hold of the matter with his usual vim, and is going to open a factory in the States. Bar Harbor, the noted summer resort in Maine, is his home, and he was at one time part owner of a very large hotel in that town, which he built and furnished in an incredibly short space of time. He is a valuable man in the development of our gold resources, and it is to be hoped that this Province is not to entirely lose his most beneficial services. He is comfortably situated at Renfrew, as his father and mother are both with him, and extend to all visitors a most cordial hospitality.

Refreshed by a sound night's sleep, I awoke to find that it was still raining heavily, with no prospects of fine weather. At noon Mr. Hayward ordered his horse out, and taking our seats in his comfortable covered buggy, which was liberally supplied with all appliances to ward off the rain, we drove slowly into Enfield in time to catch the train for Halifax. I had intended visiting the two celebrated gold mines at Rawdon, but as they were just about being transferred to the English purchasers, so well represented in this Province by Captain John Nicholls, M. E., I deferred my visit for the time. The Oldham District, where Mr. J. E. Hardman, M. E., by his perseverance and ability, has achieved such promising results, was only three miles from Enfield, but in my anxiety to reach home I also passed it by. The gold districts in Guysboro County, and at Montague and Waverley, in Halifax County, have still to be visited, and then all the important gold mines in this Province will have been visited and described by THE CRITIC's special representative. In my trip to the Eastern Gold Districts I have been careful to confine my statements to the facts, and in no case have I been guilty of exaggeration. Anyone may follow in my footsteps and see exactly what I have described. Nothing could prove more detrimental to the gold mining cause than an undue puffing of the condition of the industry. It is generally in the hands of able men, who, by careful management, are earning good dividends for their companies, or, in many instances, for the individual capitalists who own the mines. I was simply astonished at the extent of the business, the number of miners employed, the benefits to the country from the large sums paid out in wages, and the great value and superior quality of the machinery put up, the best of which is now manufactured in this Province. I had heard fabulous stories of the amount of gold that was lost in the tailings by the improper treatment of the ore, but in no case did I discover this to be the fact. The ore is generally free milling, and the percentage of loss, determined by frequent tests of the tailings and assays of the ore, was so small that it would not pay to put up the necessary concentrating machinery to save it. The gold mines are all so accessible, and it is so easy to gain full information in regard to them that only by a most inexcusable want of caution can purchasers be deceived. The majority of failures in the past have been caused by an insane desire to squander capital in putting up expensive mills before the quantity or quality of the ore had been determined. As a mining engineer of great ability and large experience put it, "where Nova Scotia Gold mines are fairly bought and well-wrought, there are no better mining investments in the world." Each district seems to have its peculiarities, and it is only by constant watchfulness that the managers are able to solve the riddle, but once solved, they know about where to look for the pay streaks in the veins, and when it is time to discontinue operations. There seems to be a very limited field for large stock companies expensively managed, but there are any number of properties which, if honestly and skillfully worked, would pay good dividends on a capital stock of say \$100,000, while many good properties might be purchased all the way from \$10,000 to \$60,000, and prove bargains at that. The Dufferin mine is a wonderful property, and I understand its owners have refused \$500,000 in cash for it. It is an exceptional mine in this Province, although the gold mining industry is still in its infancy, and there is no reason why dozens of Dufferin mines should not be discovered. The Oxford has proved a splendid investment for its American owners, and its manager, Mr. J. M. Reid, has already opened up so many new leads, all gold-bearing, that it will take years to exhaust the ore supply now ready for the miners.

At Beaver Dam, Carriboo and Moose River, mining operations are in the hands of thoroughly practical men, and as a result, all the properties being worked are paying handsomely. The Empress mine at Renfrew is a grand property, and would bear stocking for a large sum. Besides the developed mines, there are hundreds of good prospects in all the districts which could either be purchased outright for a small sum, or in which an interest would be given for the capital to develop. The mistake made by the owners of

MINING.—Continued.

undeveloped properties is in holding them at too high figures. Only two or three years ago, a gentleman arrived in Nova Scotia, representing millions of Australian capital. He made a trip to some of the gold districts, was favorably impressed with the evident value of the properties inspected, but when he asked the prices, he found them so out of all reason, that he left the country in disgust, and did not invest a dollar. It is amusing to see how prices jump up the moment a probable purchaser arrives. Men who, the day before, would gladly have taken five hundred dollars for their areas, now want \$5,000. They fail to sell, of course, and the next month, would almost part with them for a plug of tobacco.

One great drawback to the advancement of gold mining, which has often been dilated upon in THE CRITIC, is the facility with which speculators get hold of large tracts of areas in the best gold districts which they will not work, and for which they demand the most exorbitant prices. The Mining Act needs to be so amended that it will be impossible for these baronets to hold properties unless they work them. When I speak of speculators, I do not intend to include another class of men whom I think are deserving of every indulgence, and that is those who, in the past, have purchased areas and worked them at a loss until their capital was exhausted, and they could do no more. It seems to me that men of this description should be given ample time to secure capital or sell out their interests in the areas.

The Government now derives a large revenue from the leasing of mining areas, and the Royalties paid on gold; and in view of the fact that most of the roads leading into mining camps are in a miserable condition, it would seem only just that a portion of this revenue should be set aside for the purpose of keeping the old mining roads in repair, and for building roads into new districts. If there is one class above all others whom the Government should deal liberally with, it is the gold miners, and I trust that another season will not be passed without some special provision being made to facilitate the building of mining roads. In closing, I desire to tender to the managers and owners of all the mines visited by me the thanks of THE CRITIC for their uniform kindness and hospitality to me as its representative. Every facility has been furnished me to visit all parts of the mines, and no attempts have been made to mislead or cause me to overstate the prospects.

A more able, unassuming, hard-working and agreeable lot of gentlemen it would be hard to meet; and I shall long remember with feelings of unalloyed pleasure my trip to the Eastern Gold Districts.

ADIOS AMIGO.

GOLD RIVER DISTRICT.—The property of Messrs Gammon, Fulton and Foster, in this district, is being thoroughly prospected, and a mill will be put up as soon as the developments warrant.

The property of the Bridgewater Company, under the management of Mr. Willis, is rapidly being brought into shape; and from the number of gold-bearing leads now opened up, bids fair to become a very valuable mine.

VOULER'S COVE.—This property, which was unearthed with a great flourish of trumpets, seems to have subsided and fallen into a comatose state. We should like to hear from the district, and hope the discoverers have really struck it so rich that they remain dumb solely from amazement.

KAMPER SYNDICATE.—Nothing new has come to hand in regard to the Kamper Syndicate scheme, which may prove of the greatest value to this Province, where Mr. Kamper has evidently determined to operate. In this he certainly shows great wisdom, as in no other part of the world are there greater natural advantages for the manufacture of iron and steel. The coal and iron fields in close juxtaposition are of the greatest extent, the facilities for transportation are unsurpassed, and the cool, bracing climate is suitable for the work. Once attract the great capitalists of Europe in this direction, and the strides this Province will make in wealth and population will exceed the wonderful growth of the Southern States. The days of wooden ships are numbered, but with cheap iron and steel manufactured in the country, there is no reason why, in ten years from now, the iron ships of Nova Scotia should not be as celebrated as are her wooden ones to day. The Wizard's word to produce all this is "capital," and who knows but that Mr. Kamper may prove the Wizard.

WHITEBURN DISTRICT.—Judging from the last returns at the mines office from the Graves Gold Mining Co. (formerly the Parker Douglass mine,) 124½ ounces from 100 tons crushed, the Whiteburn district continues to improve. "The McGuire" mine, in the same district, is a small bonanza, the average yield being over four ounces to the ton.

BROOKFIELD DISTRICT.—Good reports continue to be received from the Brookfield mine, which has proved a steady gold-producer ever since it was opened up, a year ago last July.

Our correspondent was in error in stating that the Empress mine was the only one in the Province whose back stopes had been adopted, as Captain Nichalls is conducting his mining operations at Uniacke on that principle, which will also be introduced into Rawdon as soon as practicable. The United Rawdons are a very fine property.

Mining has been begun at the Queen's mine, Uniacke, which, although managed by Captain Nichalls, is owned by quite a distinct company from the one operating on the old McClure et al properties, and which is also under his management.

MONTREAL, 172 D'ARBOUR St.
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F. W. CHRISTIE,

Member of the American Institute of Mining Engineers.

Gold Mining Properties Examined, Reported on, and Titles Searched.

Information for Investors in Nova Scotia Gold Mines. Estimates obtained for Air Drills and Air Compressors for Mines and Quarries, and Steam Drills for Railroad Contracts.
Reference: Commissioner of Mines for Nova Scotia Address Letter or Telegram, BEDFORD STATION, HALIFAX CO., NOVA SCOTIA.

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HALIFAX, N. S.

GOLD MINING PROPERTY

FOR SALE AT

15 Mile Stream Gold District.

Lease No. 89, containing 30 Areas, and adjoining the Egerton Gold Mining Co, who are now working
Eight Leads have already been found on this Property.

Lease No. 90, containing 20 Areas, has a shaft down on Main Lead 90 feet, and has been worked continuously for three years with good returns.

Leases Nos 91 and 114 have each 10 Areas. Also Dwelling House, Barn, Mining tools, Boilers, Donkey Engine, etc. etc, and about 230 Acres of Land.

Further information may be obtained by application to

JAMES HUDSON, Mining Engineer,
Box 116. PICTOU, N. S.



POST OFFICE,

HALIFAX, N. S., 26th November, 1887.

NOTICE.

On and after MONDAY next, 28th instant, mails will close at this office daily as follows:
For the Northern and Eastern counties of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, New Brunswick, and the United States, at 6.45 o'clock a.m.
For the Upper Provinces; and second mails for the United States, New Brunswick and principal offices on the line of the Intercolonial railway at 1.25 o'clock p.m.
Second mails for Bedford, Shubenacadie and Tintino at 4.20 o'clock p.m.

The mail for the UNITED KINGDOM, per Canadian packet, at this port, will close every SATURDAY at 12 o'clock, noon.
H. W. BLACKDAR, Postmaster.

Valuable Coal Mining Property FOR SALE,

Situated in Cumberland County, Nova Scotia,

AND KNOWN AS THE

Styles Mining Company's Property.

This property consists of five square miles, and is only distant from the celebrated Spring Hill Coal Mines, seven miles. It is on the north dip of the Spring Hill coal basin, and the out-crop has been traced for two and a quarter miles.

Two seams have been developed, the upper being 6 feet in thickness, and the lower, which is separated from the upper by a thickness of strata of about twenty feet, being four feet in thickness.

The indications point to the existence of other seams on the property.

The coal is of superior quality, and has been pronounced by consumers the

Best Coal for Domestic Purposes they have ever used.

For Gas and Steam Purposes, it is unequalled.

The late Mr Hartley, a most efficient member of the Geological Survey of Canada, reported as follows:

"The analyses show the coal to belong to the class known as highly bituminous, in fact, cooking coals in character very similar to those of the North of England, known as North Country, or NEWCASTLE HARDY COAL."

"The high rate of volatile to fixed combustible matter should render the coal in common with the Newcastle Coal, which it resembles, an admirable gas coal while in the amount of sulphur it falls much below the average of Newcastle Coals, (which contain about nine tenths of one per cent., as determined by the Admiralty Steam Coal Tests), therefore the gas obtained from it should be very easily purified."

"The coke of the coal appears in every way well adapted for iron smelting, as it is firm and rather compact, and in content of ash and sulphur, will compare most favorably with that from any coal in the Province."

The position of the Styles mining areas is very advantageous in relation to the opening up of the seams, and also of connection with the Intercolonial Railway, which passes within a mile and a-half of the property.

The Spring Hill Mine is acknowledged to be more advantageously situated for shipping its coal than any other mine now being worked in the Province. The Styles Mine is quite as advantageously situated, and commands the coal markets of Montreal, Quebec, the United States, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland.

The new tariff has given an impetus to the manufacturers of iron, and as the coke of the Styles seams is specially adapted for iron smelting, the probabilities are that in a few years a home market will be found for most of the output.

Parties desiring to purchase will be furnished with full particulars on application at

THE CRITIC OFFICE, 161 HOLLIS ST.

HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsworthy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

FARMER, SHUBENACADIE.—Your attention, you say, has been drawn to the question of dehorning cattle by some "articles" in the farming column of THE CRITIC. It is right to point out to you that this is comparatively a new question. What you style "articles" have, in reality, only been extracts. Personal observation has not lain within our experience, all we have hitherto been able to do, therefore, has been to give the best experience we could extract from good agricultural periodicals.

The subject has apparently been much more taken up in the States than in Canada, and notably in California. Nevertheless, it has attracted attention here, and we shall, from time to time, give such information as we can command. We have at hand now a communication to the *California Patron*, from a gentleman of that State, detailing personal experience, for which we cannot find room till next week.

CANADIAN FRUITS.—Lord Landsdowne has transmitted to the Colonial Office the report of the Minister of Agriculture relative to the growth of Canadian fruits, which, as shown by the Colonial Exhibition, awakened interest in England. Professor Saunders, director of the experimental farm of Canada, has furnished details which are read in England with great interest.

J. A. H.—Thanks for your communication. It is a point on which we feel strongly, and we are generally glad to give space to sensible articles, indicating kindness to, and patience with, animals. We subjoin the paragraph you enclose:—

"A writer in the *Scottish Farming World* gives some excellent advice when he says 'always speak to a cow as if she were a lady, and speak to and treat a bull as if he were a gentleman.' Animals possess far more intelligence than is usually attributed to them, and will remember harsh treatment or an injury for a long time. It is no mark of superior management of animals to see the owner approach them with harsh words and blows that cause them to shrink away to some corner of the yard for fear of injury. It is far better for every one to so treat animals as to inspire confidence and love—let them feel that in you they have a protector, and they will be much more ready and willing to obey your requests. Kind words spoken to animals are by no means wasted, and if they sometimes are playful, indulge them, but not from fear commence to use harsh and severe words. It is better to indulge an animal of high spirits, holding a steady rein of control, rather than to break all its spirit by rough usage. Many animals are ruined in spirit if not rendered absolutely vicious by severe and wholly unnecessary treatment. The animal that cannot be subdued by kindness is not worth keeping."

In Italy they fatten Turkeys with walnuts. Thirty days before a turkey is killed, one walnut is stuffed down his throat. An additional walnut is given each day, so that on the 29th day he gets 29 walnuts. He is then immensely fat. We should think he may be too fat; but then the proportion might be modified, supposing walnuts to be obtainable. We have never had an experience of turkeys fattened in this way, but we should think it probable a distinct, and perhaps fine flavor would be imparted to the flesh. "But," our readers will say, "what good is this to Nova Scotia farmers?" None, perhaps, as it stands; though all the walnuts we ever get in the grocers' shops throughout Canada might, if they were cheap enough, be better employed in fattening turkeys than in distressing human stomachs, and nauseating human palates. But the butternut is, in fact, a walnut. Might it not, therefore, be utilized to this end, where it grows?

H. K., HANTSPOUR.—We know of no better medium for preserving eggs, after all, than the simple old plan of packing in dry silt, and perhaps those done up in lime and salt pickle come out next. This last is the most frequently used by packers for winter markets. We do not much believe in the other dodges—for they are little more which people are from time to time persuaded to try. Grease, oil, varnish, beeswax, and other devices are, we think, decidedly detrimental for this reason—that the eggshell is porous and readily absorbs ill-flavors, which any of these substances are more than likely to impart. Anyone may realize this who considers how soon an egg will imbibe the disagreeable flavor of straw, which is a little musty. Depend upon it, plain salt is the best.

Of course salt may, under unfavorable circumstances, get damp, but even so, it does not lose its purity; while bran, which, as long as it is dry, is not bad, would contract mustiness by damp. Sawdust too, which otherwise would not make bad packing, is likely to impart the unpleasant flavor of deal. Lime, of course, is pure, but we hold any addition to salt to be mere gratuitous and needless trouble and expense.

THE HORSE'S FEET.—Few farmers give that attention to their horse's feet that they should give. Most men rub and curry very well, perhaps, and many take great pride and plenty of time in smoothing the horse's hide; but seldom is it that they think of that most indispensable part, the horse's feet, and stop to give them that little attention and inspection that is almost daily necessary.

The feet of the horse require as much attention as the body, and some horses' feet more. Without sound feet the horse is not of much service for

labor. A horse's feet may become unsound by having to stand in a filthy stable. The floor and bedding of the stable should always be dry, and the manure that is caked under the foot every morning should be carefully removed by the groom. As often as necessary the foot should be pared, and the frog examined as to soundness and hardness. A little alum water and brine should be kept at hand, and the frog of the foot mopped with it once a week to keep the frog sound and hard. A soft frog causes the animal to get lamed easily, and so he cannot travel or work well.

Sometimes stones or other hard substances get fastened in the foot, and if not removed cause lameness. Copperas thrown over the manure of the stable to destroy smell, will tend to keep the hoof sound. It is well to sprinkle it over the stable frequently, if for no other purpose to cure the unpleasant smell that often attaches to the feet of the horse. Plaster will have the same effect, and is very useful to prevent the loss of ammonia from the manure.

J. EVANS.—Yes, it may be very advantageously used. Flaxseed (or linseed) is one of the most valuable foods and medicines combined, and is much more overlooked than it should be. It is invaluable in affections of the chest and lungs, and many who are weakening from such causes might, we believe, be saved by a free and continuous use of the decoction of it, while eating the raw seed every now and then is known to be a great benefit. It is soothing to the stomach and intestines, and is also rich in food for muscle and bone. Its value as an ingredient in food for cattle and pigs is great. For these latter, which soon acquires a liking for the taste of it, we have seen the following formula strongly recommended. One pound boiled with ten pounds bran, or grind one bushel flaxseed with eight of oat. Then mix 100 lbs of the ground oats and flaxseed with 200 lbs. of bran.

Our American cousins, despite their proverbial smartness, seem to have only recently found out that the Dorking fowl is pre-eminent as a table bird. We used formerly to cross the grey or colored Dorking (not the white, which are somewhat too tender for the climate of Canada,) with good barn door fowl, to give strength and hardihood, retaining the chicks which developed the Dorking marks, of which the five toes are the chief, and they were in all respects satisfactory. We take the following from the *American Agriculturist*:—

"The Dorking is now being given a higher place in the appreciation of the American people, as its excellence as a table fowl has attracted attention. The finest and most savory meat that can be placed on the table is a capon from a cross of the Dorking and Game, while the cross of the Dorking with Asiatic breeds of hens makes a very fine market fowl. The Dorking is an average layer. That is, while it lays a large number of eggs compared with some breeds, yet it is not equal in that respect to the Leghorn or Minorca, but as a strictly egg producing and market fowl combined, it has no competitor, especially if the size of the carcass and quality of the flesh are considered. The Dorkings feather very rapidly when young, and unless fed carefully are not as easily raised as are chicks of the Asiatic breeds, but when crossed on other breeds, this difficulty is removed. All Dorkings have five toes on each foot, which distinguishes them when dressed and placed on the stalls. They are very solid, compact birds, and active foragers, being hardy when matured, and as free from disease as any brood."

OUR COSY CORNER.

A table cover of cream oatmeal cloth can be decorated with satteen, representing the trunk of a tree, with branches, foliage, birds and climbing vines, all applied on and worked out in needle-etching.

Lisse galloons are worked with silk and chenille in Oriental colors for trimming evening silks. Galloon braids are used to cover parts of the costume as though it was a contrasting fabric. Underskirts will be entirely covered with it, also the cuffs of sleeves, back-forms of basques or vests.

FRENCH TOAST.—Beat two eggs very light; add to them one pint of milk. Slice baker's bread or nice light home-made bread and dip the pieces into the milk and eggs, letting them lie long enough to be thoroughly moistened and yet not fall to pieces. Fry a delicate brown in hot, fresh suet. Serve with sugar.

Brown paper baskets are easily made at home large enough to give away with flowers or fruit. Baskets sent to a friend containing samples of home products are seldom returned, as all know who have tried sending such gifts. Stout brown paper and gilt double-stemmed pins, such as are used for a packet of bills, are all the material necessary.

A mantel border of garnet plush is described for its quaintness and apparent simplicity. A scroll of gold thread ran the whole length, on each side of which triplets of melon-seeds secured at the far end with a gold bead were laid at regular distances from each other. The fringe was made of gold beads and seeds; the latter were evidently boiled or baked, which darkened the shade considerably.

GINGER SNAPS.—One pint of molasses, one cup of brown sugar, one cup of butter, a little salt, one tablespoon of ginger or half ginger and half cinnamon can be used if preferred, and one tablespoon soda. Stir the spices into four cups of flour. Heat the molasses, sugar and butter to the boiling point. Dissolve the soda in a little hot water and stir it into the heated ingredients, holding them over the flour, as they may foam and run over. When the flour has been stirred in, if the dough does not seem stiff enough, add more flour, and roll out very thin.

RELIGIOUS.

METHODIST.

The next general conference of the Methodist Episcopal church of the United States will discuss the question of admitting women as delegates.

There are now 78 persons connected with Bishop Taylor's mission in Africa.

The mission band connected with Grafton Street church, gave a very enjoyable concert last Tuesday evening.

Judging from the success of the sacred concert held last week in Grafton Street church, we would recommend that a similar one be held in the near future. The organ recital by the organist, Mr. Powell, called forth much praise.

The collections for missions throughout the Maritime Provinces are much in excess of previous years. The desire of the general committee to raise this year \$250,000 in Canada for missionary purposes will doubtless be realized.

Sir William McArthur, whose death took place lately in London, was a prominent Methodist. He contributed largely to the schemes of the church and other benevolent enterprises.

The one hundred and fifth session of the Methodist Episcopal Conference (South) was held at Danville, Va., on November 16th.

PRESBYTERIAN.

The call from Perth, Ont., has been accepted by the Rev. Mr. Cruikshank, of Montreal.

Rev. R. D. Ross, at the earnest solicitation of his congregation at Wolfville, has declined the call to the Presbyterian church at Springside, Colchester Co.

In order to facilitate arrangements for uniting the two Presbyterian churches of the town, the Rev. J. F. Dustan, late of Truro, has resigned the pastorate of Knox church, Brandon, Man.

Rev. D. M. Gurdou will be inducted into the charge of St. Andrew's church, of this city, on the 27th December.

It is stated that the Rev. K. C. Murray, who went to India about three years ago as missionary from the Presbyterian Church in Canada, will probably return to this country, on account of ill-health.

A large audience was present last Sunday afternoon at the dedication service of the hall erected by Chalmer's church. Addresses was delivered by the pastor, Revs. Dr. Burns, Dr. Pollock, Dr. Forrest, and others.

The weekly publication of the Rev. Dr. Talmage's sermons, is beyond parallel. Beside the English-speaking nations, including Australia and New Zealand, the sermons are regularly translated into the languages of Germany, France, Italy, Denmark, Norway, Russia, and India. It is stated that in the United States 13,600,000 copies of the entire sermon are printed every week, and about 4,000,000 in other lands. An arrangement has been made for the publication of Dr. Talmage's Friday evening talks.

Rev. Dr. Marian Vincent has accepted the chair in the Union Theological Seminary, New York, to which he was elected some time ago.

The First Presbyterian church of New York was organized in 1717, and for 170 years has worshiped without instrumental music. A few days ago, the sound of the organ was heard for the first time in this church. The new pastor, the Rev. Richard D. Harlan, headed the movement for instrumental music.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

No communication has yet been received from the Archbishop of Canterbury about the appointment to the Bishopric; but a rumor is afloat that a brother-in-law of the Archbishop of York has been selected. This is probably a canard, as it is not at all likely that a selection has been made while the documents are confessedly imperfect.

The new school-room of St. George's Parish will be ready for occupation by the first of January. It is a handsome and commodious structure, and will cost about \$5,000.

The Right Rev. the Bishop of Newfoundland is in the city, and has been preaching in various churches. His Lordship is on his way to Bermuda, where he winters.

The Rev. A. C. Jones has been appointed to the Parish of Smith and Hamilton, Bermuda. He had been incumbent of Milton, P. E. I., for about two years.

The New York Churchman has a description and illustration of Truro Cathedral. This is one of Pearson's most successful designs, and is the first cathedral built in England since the Reformation. Its cost, up to the time of consecration, has been \$550,000.

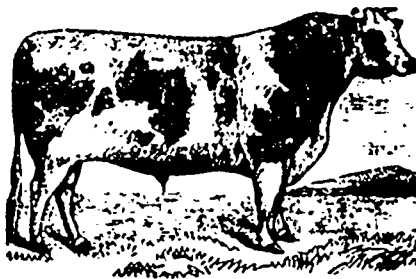
BAPTIST.

Rev. J. H. Hughes has removed to Franklin Park, Mass., and commenced work as pastor of the Baptist church. It is to be regretted that so many of the Baptist ministers of the Lower Provinces have, within the past few years, removed to the States. The cause, we believe, is to be found in the fact, that in many cases the stipends granted are entirely inadequate.

Fifteen Baptist missionaries sailed for India about a fortnight ago from New York.

Rev. J. H. Robertson will shortly become pastor of the F. C. Baptist church at Beaver Harbor.

There are one hundred and eighty-four pastorless Baptist churches in the State of New York.



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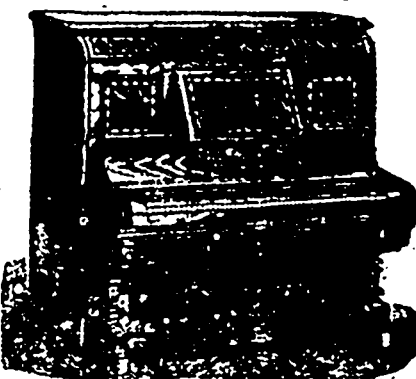
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Are prepared to furnish the above MILLS at short notice and on reasonable terms.

These Mills have been tested with all the other mills now in use, and are superior in their operation to any other, especially as regards refractory ores. Several tests made with this Mill at Yarmouth, show a great saving over the Stamp Mill. Also, in cleaning up, which can be done in from Twenty-five to Thirty Minutes. It will perform the work of a 15 Stamp Mill, and do it better.

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The Great Strength Giver.

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RELIEVES Swellings, Contractions of the Muscles, Stiffness of the Joints, Sprains, Strains.

HEALS Bruises, Scalds, Burns, Cuts, Cracks and Scratches

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MRS. RACHEL SAUNDERS, Dalhousie, Lun. Co.

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1. The Widow Hedon Papers. This is the book over which your grandmothers laughed till they cried, and it is just as funny to-day as it ever was.
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3. Back to the Old Home. A Novel. By Mary Cecil Hay, author of "Hidden Perils."
4. Dialogues, Recitations and Readings, a large and choice collection for school exhibitions and public and private entertainments.
5. The Standard Letter Writer for Ladies and Gentlemen, a complete guide to correspondence.
6. The Frozen Deep. A thrilling Novel. By Wilkie Collins, author of "The Woman in White."
7. Red Court Farm. An interesting Novel. By Mrs. Henry Wood, author of "East Lynne," etc.
8. The Lady of the Lake. By Sir Walter Scott.
9. The Lady of the Lake is a romance in verse.
10. In Cupid's Net. A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne."
11. Amos Barton. A Novel. By George Eliot, author of "Adam Bede," "The Mill on the Floss," etc.
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