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# THE CRITIC.

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HALIFAX, N. S., DECEMBER 10, 1886.

{ VOL. 3.  
{ No. 60.

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## THE CRITIC,

Published every Friday, at 161 Hollis Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia,  
BY

CRITIC PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Edited by C. F. FRASER.

Subscription \$1.50 per annum in advance. Single copies 3 cents.

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Remittances should be made to A. M. FRASER, BUSINESS MANAGER.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

It is stated on good authority that during the recent strikes in Chicago every married man voted against quitting work, but as 75 per cent of the employees were unmarried, the counsels of those who had wives and children to provide for were unheeded. Marriage is a conservative influence which tends to prevent radical and ill-considered action.

The French Chamber of Deputies is evidently convinced of the advisability of taxing bachelors, but it yet remains to be seen whether the fine for celibacy will drive the bachelors from their state of single blessedness. Fortunes, not affections, control French marriages, and the impecunious man and the dowerless girl have indeed poor prospects of conjugal bliss.

The King of the Hawaiian Islands should be a happy man. He receives \$85,000 a year for the discharge of his kingly duties, and his opportunities for spending money are in a great measure limited. If the King were Governor-General of Canada, or President of the United States, he would find the salaries attached to these positions very meagre, and would soon strike for higher pay.

The many uses found for wire netting have led to its greatly increased production of late years. In 1842 its consumption in Europe is stated to have been only 10,000 yards per annum, while at the present time it is estimated to be about 40,000,000 yards per annum. In its production some 420 machines are employed, 300 of which are in operation in Great Britain, 100 in France, and only 20 in Germany, which latter country, curiously enough, is a large producer of the wire used in the manufacture of netting in England.

The Provincial elections held during the year have been phenomenal, records have counted for naught, and side issues have absorbed the attention of the electors. The “Riel” cry has greatly weakened and may possibly yet overthrow the Conservative Government of Quebec, which by both parties was previously admitted to be one of the best governments the Province had ever been blessed with. The “no popery” cry now threatens in the same way to weaken if not to destroy the Mowatt administration, which, although a Liberal government, has for years had the support of many independent conservatives. What have we in this country to do with race or religion, provided all creeds and all people, irrespective of their origin, are equal in the eye of the law.

Is federation to be the outcome of the growing demand for home rule in the several sections of the British Isles? Ireland and Wales are now clamoring for more direct home government, and Scotland is following closely in their wake. Canada has its federal, and New Zealand and Australia their provincial governments, but these are all in a degree subordinate to the Imperial Parliament. Are Ireland, Scotland and Wales to sink to the level of colonies, or are Canada, Australia and New Zealand to rise and form with them and England one grand united “British Empire.”

We expect rather too much of our party leaders. To them we look for the principles which are to lead to party success, and upon their shoulders we throw the obliquity of defeat. Sir John Macdonald and the Honorable Edward Blake stand out in bold relief against the political horizon, and from them the Conservatives or Liberals take their cue as to the course to be adopted or the plank to be laid down in the party platform. Are these leaders infallible, and their dictums beyond dispute? To the partizan it would seem they are, but to the independent thinker the idea that one leader is always right and the other invariably wrong appears absurd.

We talk glibly of the corruption which influences political contests in the neighboring republic, but we need not go outside of the Dominion for examples of this kind. In the late Quebec elections thirty Liberals, thirty-one Conservatives and four Nationalists were elected as members of the Provincial parliament, of these the seats of nineteen Liberals, eleven Conservatives and one Nationalist are to be contested. Wholesale and unblushing bribery is alleged to have been practised by both Tories and Grits, and if this be true the complexion of the Quebec Legislature will depend upon the decisions shortly to be given in the courts.

The thirteen New York boodle aldermen, who banded together to sell the franchise of Sharpe's Broadway Railway for a half a million dollars, pocketed \$20,000 apiece out of the transaction, and thought to keep their magnificent secret as dark as the tomb, but the present condition of these men should be a warning to boodle-grabbers. Of the thirteen worthies, one is in the State prison, three are in exile, one is undergoing his trial, two are dead, one is hopelessly insane and two have turned State's evidence. The remaining three have not yet been convicted, although their complicity in the fraud is beyond question.

When the people of St. John take hold of any matter they realize the necessity of united action. Liberals and Conservatives in our sister city are vying with each other in their endeavor to make St. John the winter port of the Dominion. Imperfect terminal facilities, limited wharf accommodation, and the prevalence of fog upon the Bay of Fundy, are brushed aside as trifling obstacles, and with one voice the people say, “St. John *must* be the winter port.” Had we in Halifax a little of this patriotic adhesiveness, St. John might shout herself hoarse to no effect, but then you see we have not, and so our great natural advantages count for naught.

The Bulgarians still have a lingering hope that some turn of the wheel of fortune will again enable Prince Alexander to become their ruler. We confess, were it compatible with peace, we should like to see the patriotic people of this Balkan State have their hearts' desire granted. Prince Alexander was a successful ruler in times of peace, and during war proved himself to be a commander of no mean attainments. He sinned in that he did not make his policy subservient to that of the Russian Czar, but the sin is one which would have been committed by any independent man of character who had a proper regard for the rights of those over whom he had been called to govern.

## MARINE INSURANCE.

Underwriting, or insuring against Marine risks, is of ancient origin, and is credited by some writers to the Phœnicians, but Marshall, in his able treatise on the law of Insurance, combats this idea; and while admitting that there is room for doubt, concludes that it originated with the Lombards, the name given the great Italian merchants of the 12th and 13th centuries.

Whoever is right, the large army of underwriters who thrive so well, while to the uninitiated they “toil not, neither do they spin,” may lay the “flattering unction to their souls,” that the business has all the respectability that age alone is supposed to give. As successful underwriting must have always lain in the knowledge that the vessel proposed for insurance was sea-worthy, it naturally follows that the business of the ship surveyor is also of great antiquity. A 1 at Lloyds is a familiar expression, which is recognized as the nautical equivalent for “first quality,” but here information on the subject usually ends Lloyds Register of British and Foreign Shipping, the institution granting the title in question, lately celebrated its jubilee, and the present seems an opportune time to give a short account of its origin and the work in which it is engaged. The primitive underwriter was probably a man well posted in shipping, who was capable of working his own surveys. As business increased, he probably employed experts to do his surveying and kept tabular lists of the vessels rated.

From individual underwriters drawing up lists for their own guidance to their agreeing generally to place them at the service of their brothers in the business, is but a short, although considerable time, doubtless, elapsed before the latter result was reached. The oldest classified list of shipping extant dates only from the beginning of the reign of George III, but this document bears unmistakable evidence of being at the time a novelty. During the early years of the reign of Charles the II, the English Colonies were beginning to prosper, English commerce, notwithstanding oppressive fiscal laws, was on the increase and the business of the underwriter naturally followed. London then, as now, was the headquarters of the marine insurance business of the country and the London coffee houses, then of recent origin, were the meeting places of all connected with the shipping business; it is the name of the proprietor of one of these establishments that now lives in that of the great corporation of Lloyds.

Edward Lloyd (of whose personal history little is known, his proper name having been lost until recovered by the researches of a recent writer,) was evidently a man of great ability and foresight. Finding his house on Lower Street regularly frequented by underwriters, he evidently formed the determination of making it the headquarters of the business and to this end gave facilities for meetings, arranged for sales of vessels and cargoes, started a newspaper and practically identified his interests with those of his patrons. The newspaper was soon suppressed, but his labors were rewarded by his seeing his establishment—lately removed to Lombard Street—the centre of marine insurance, not only for London but for the kingdom. Three generations of underwriters met at the Lombard Street coffee house, and when in 1770, having formed an association, they removed to premises of their own, and shortly after to the Royal Exchange, they took the name of their old headquarters with them and thus it has come about that the greatest marine insurance corporation the world has seen, owes its name, and to a certain extent its origin, to a London coffee house keeper of the time of the Restoration, to whose memory the foreign ship-owning companies titles of "Austrian Lloyds," "North German Lloyds," etc., are additional tributes.

The oldest classified list of shipping before referred to, is dated 1764, but is somewhat mutilated. It is arranged in a form very similar to that of the register books of to-day, but had an entirely different system of designating the character or class of the vessels. How to express satisfactorily the condition of a ship by means of symbols was evidently about this time a disputed point, and it was not until 1775 that the vowels were formally adopted for expressing the character of the hull, the Roman numerals being used, and A 1 as the symbol for a first-class ship came on the scene.

To decide which shall be the classification, letters or numerals, used in describing ships of varying character is one thing, to give to each ship the class to which it is justly entitled is another and decidedly more difficult matter. So the London underwriters found, but instead of treating the question as one in which money interests were involved, they treated it as concerning themselves alone, and during the close of the last century came to a decision, the sole merit of which was its simplicity. London ship builders at the time got the highest prices for their work, and consequently were able to, and did, turn out the best ships. Further, it was self-evident that even a Thomas ship was not so good at the end of ten years as when launched. Putting these two things together the compilers of the Register decide to class ships simply according to their age and when they were built.

This description was manifestly unfair, as it practically placed a monopoly in the hands of a few ship builders and was otherwise most oppressive. It resulted after much vigorous agitation in the shipowners starting a new Register of Shipping, thereafter known as the "Red Book," the former or underwriter's register being known as the "Green Book."

During the thirty years that the rivalry lasted some advance was made, still, during the whole of that period the relationships of shipbuilders, shipowners, shippers and underwriters, one to the other were on an unsatisfactory footing. It is now conceded that the shipowner, being the person most directly interested in the ships taking a high class, should pay the expense of the survey. Sixty years ago, however, the opinion prevailed that the interested parties were the shippers and the underwriters. By the time a fourth of the present century had elapsed the rival Registers were in a hopeless condition, but ten years more of trouble and dispute elapsed ere differences were adjusted, jealousies set at rest and the "Red" and the "Green," now united, commenced a fresh career of usefulness under the title of "Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping," the new departure dating from January 1835.

### THE EXHIBITION A SUCCESS.

The great Indian and Colonial Exhibition which was opened to the public by Her Majesty the Queen on the 4th of May last, has closed after a successful season of six months. Of the five million visitors who passed the turnstile, a very small proportion had any clear conception of the extent and vast resources of the British Empire, and indeed to the average visitor, Canada, Cape Colony, Australia, New Zealand, and India, were but geographical expressions, conveying very little idea as to area, soil, or products. Barring the few who have been privileged to travel in the Colonies, and the Colonists who were visitors at the Exhibition, the great majority learned for the first time that the Britons beyond the sea were possessions of which the Mother Country might well feel proud, and which were destined to play an important part in the future of the human race. In the Exhibition John Bull saw the products of every zone, indeed, of almost every meridian that traverses the land, and the contemplation of such varied productions must have given rise to a natural and pardonable pride, when he considered that the Union Jack floated over the many countries there repre-

sented. The promoters of the Exhibition have reason to feel satisfied with the public interest manifested in the great show; and the exhibitors who, in many instances, have been prompted by patriotic motives to forward their exhibits, will, it is to be hoped, be fully repaid for their zeal and enterprise. So far as Canada is concerned, it may truly be said that Sir Chas. Tupper has done his best to see that the several Provinces of the Dominion were well represented, and the fact that the High Commissioner's efforts have been gratefully acknowledged by Canadian exhibitors may be taken as an evidence that Sir Charles threw into the carrying-out of this Exhibition all the force and energy which have characterized his political career. Sir Charles has been ably seconded by the Provincial representatives. Mr. W. D. Dinnock and Mr. C. R. H. Starr, being untiring in their efforts to make the display of this Province as attractive as the limited space and the comparatively small number of exhibits would allow. The Exhibition should have the effect of stimulating emigration to this country, and at the same time of building up a new and profitable exchange of commodities between the several portions of the Empire.

### GREEDY MONOPOLIES.

Monopoly is the curse of the age, through its exertion the people are robbed of their hard earnings, and the public called upon to pay through the nose for that which exists only by its sufferance. The patent system, although it has stimulated inventions, is responsible for many of the evils which arise from individuals or companies holding exclusive control of new discoveries or adaptations. We realize that many a man may toil for years in bringing to perfection and putting into shape an invention, but this is no reason why, if his discovery prove popular, he should continue to unmercifully fleece the public for a term of years, under the full protection of the law. Take for example the telephone; everyone now knows that the idea of transmitting sound by means of a telephone did not originate with Dr. Bell, and that the invention, so far as he is concerned, was simply the successful adaptation of mechanical and electrical appliances; but supposing the Bell telephone to be original in every particular, neither its inventor nor the present owners of the patent, have any moral right to charge the public such an exorbitant price for its use. Of course, this is in a measure the result of stock manipulation, for which Dr. Bell himself may not be responsible, but for which the American Bell Telephone Company is. Perhaps it is not surprising that the annual rental of telephones is so high, seeing that the stock is watered almost beyond precedent. We might cite as an instance the New England Telephone Company, the nominal stock of which stands at \$12,000,000; of this stock, the American Bell took up \$6,000,000, putting in its Boston Exchange at \$3,894,300, although the same represented an investment of but \$129,350. Such a transaction as this would have been impossible, had it not been that the patent laws of the United States gave to the owners of the telephone an unqualified monopoly. The interests of the public demand that, in granting of patents, conditions be specified that would prevent patentees, or those to whom they sell their rights, from exacting exorbitant remuneration. Let the inventor reap a fair reward for his time, labor, or ingenuity, but protect the public from monopolists, whose greed is insatiable, and who are ever ready to make money out of the public necessity.

### CIVILIZATION AND SUICIDE.

We occasionally hear the prevalence of self-murder commented upon as if it were a growing and peculiarly modern evil. Of this it would be hard to adduce sufficient evidence. For thousands of years men have taken refuge from "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" by a voluntary death from suicide, direct or indirect. Many a disappointed medieval knight joined a crusade or embarked on a foolhardy enterprise solely as a means of escaping from a life which held out to him no prospect of happiness. In the days of Roman and Grecian greatness, incessant foreign warfare or civil strife often brought the arrow of death to a willing and expectant breast.

The French author, *Garrisson*, points out that suicide is co-existent with civilization. The Old Testament furnishes only a few examples, notably those of *Samson* and *Saul*. At Rome, there was no suicide before the establishment of Roman pre-eminence, when it became common. When the life of the state ceased to be a fierce struggle with surrounding tribes, when the wealth and luxury of all countries found their mart in the Roman capital, when the Roman citizen knew no worthy foe except among his countrymen, when private ambition took the place of patriotic zeal, the failure of a factious scheme or the disappointment of a dearly cherished hope led many a Roman to turn the sword against himself. Among modern nations the Japanese show a peculiar fondness for self-destruction, accomplishing it generally by the horrible method of disembowelling. At what stage of civilization suicide first shows itself it would be difficult to determine; but it is easy to understand that in savage life the killing of others oftener suggests itself than the killing of self. The simple habits of life, and moderate aims of the savage, too, furnish little room for the sense of dejected helplessness incident to the more complex, less self-dependent life of the civilized man. Among the commonest causes of suicide are disappointment, mental derangement, and the want of an object in life. Any overwhelming affliction may easily prompt to suicide a man who is neither deterred by the fear of God nor strengthened by confidence in the wisdom of Providence. For the tendency to suicide, which, although probably not on the increase, is still a lamentable social evil, *Garrisson* suggests a rational treatment,—to render man's existence more varied by increasing the number of his ideas and his intellectual power.

TIT-BITS.

An English variety paper says that there is a complaint among young ladies that skirts hamper their movements in playing tennis, and that next season they will probably be dropped. Good gracious!

Reynolds, the dramatist, observing to Morton the thinness of the house at one of the plays, added he supposed it was owing to the war. "No," replied Morton, "I should judge it owing to the piece."

Professor (who has told the young men to bring in an essay on an original subject): "Well, Mr. Saunders what have you got to-day?" Collegian (who has spent the summer as a waiter at one of the mountain hotels): "Er—roast beef, roast pork, fish, and corn-beef hash."

A French marquis was riding out one day when he passed an old priest trotting along contentedly on a quiet donkey. "Ha, ha," exclaimed the marquis, "how goes the ass, good father?" "On horseback, my son, on horseback," replied the priest.

"Ah! Mr. Panier, have you been to any parties this last winter?" asked Glendolen de Smith of his friend. "No; but I have attended three balls." "Why, how delightful, weally! Where were they at?" "At the pawn-brokers," sadly sighed Mr. Panier.

Actress (to washerwoman, who has brought her bill): "How can you be so impertinent as to dun me in this way!" Washerwoman: "Impertinent! What do you mean? Who are you, I should like to know? If I choose to pay sixpence for a gallery ticket, you have got to faint on the stage for my amusement."

A couple of countrymen went into the General Post Office to send a telegram, without having any clear idea as to how it would be transmitted. The message was taken, and just as the pair were leaving, the big bell of St. Paul's struck one. Whereupon one of the rustics gave a jump, saying, "By jingo, there it goes, Jim!"

During a large dinner-party given by a gentleman, a young braggart, who sat next the portess Phoebe Cary, chose to deride his host, and said, "Miss Cary, 'tis very true that fools make feasts, and wise men eat them." "And it is equally true," responded Miss Cary, "that wise men say smart things, and fools repeat them."

"You are a comical fellow," remarked a Texas gentleman to a newly married friend. "In what respect?" "You might have married the pretty young daughter, but you went and married her ugly old mother." "Strategy, my boy. Don't you see how I headed her off from being my mother-in-law!"

A GENTLE HINT.—He had been courting her a long time, so long that she began to get tired; so one night she said to him: "John, who is author of the phrase, 'Man proposes?'" "I'm sure I do not know," answered John. "Why do you ask?" "Oh! I merely wanted to know who he was." "For what reason?" "Because I guess he didn't know what he was talking about." Five minutes later the wedding day was set.

Two natives of the Marquesas Islands have been carried to France. The story runs that, on the voyage, one of their fellow-passengers, fishing for a compliment, asked them which they liked best, the French or English. "The English," answered the man, smacking his lips, "they are the fattest."

"And a great deal more tender," chimed in the woman, with a grin that exhibited two rows of pointed teeth as sharp as a crocodile's.

An old maid of Chicago recently travelled eastward and took her first ride in a sleeping car. She was obliged to take an upper berth, and retired early. In the middle of the night she startled the whole car by a series of fortissimo shrieks. The porter ran to her assistance, and in answer to his inquiry as to her distress she replied that there was a man under the bed. After forty years of patient dread her worst fears were realized.

"A LECTURE ON 'FOOLS' IN ONE.—"On one occasion when Dr. Vincent was introduced by Dr. Henderson, who was to lecture on "Fools," he said: "We are now to have a lecture on fools by one (long pause and loud laughter from the audience, when the president concluded with the clause) of the wisest men in the country." The lecturer advanced to the desk and responded: "I am not half so big a fool as Dr. Vincent (another very long pause and still more hearty laughter from the audience) would have you suppose."

TRUE POLITENESS.—When "Thad" Stevens was a young lawyer in the Pennsylvania Courts, he once lost his case by what he considered a wrong ruling of the judge. Disgusted, he banged his law books on the table, picked up his hat, and started for the door with some vigorous words in his mouth. The Judge, feeling that his dignity was assailed, rose impressively and said: "Mr. Stevens!" Mr. Stevens stopped, turned, and bowed deferentially. "Mr. Stevens," said the Judge, "do you intend by such conduct to express your contempt for this court?" And Stevens, with mock seriousness, answered: "Express my contempt for this court! No, I was trying to conceal it, your Honor!"

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## 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.

It is now over two years since THE CRITIC was established. Its readers have had a good opportunity to judge of the tone, character, enterprise, and worth of the journal, and if they deem its merits are worthy of their continuance and support, we ask their co-operation in still further increasing its circulation. Any subscriber renewing his subscription will, upon forwarding to this office \$2.50, be entitled to two copies of THE CRITIC for the ensuing year, one to be mailed to his own address, the other to any person he may desire. Ask your neighbor to club with you for THE CRITIC when you next renew your subscription; or, if you have a brother, son, or relative, resident in any other part of Canada or the United States, send in your order for two copies, and we will send the absent one THE CRITIC for the next year, post paid.

Navigation for the season is about closed in Prince Edward Island ports. The steamer plying between Summerside and Shediac has been taken off the route.

Reports from Ottawa says that an extensive renovation is in progress about the Commons and Senate Chambers. The flurry about the work is considered as indicative of an early session.

The Government has renewed its contract with the British American Bank Note Co., for supplying the bank bills, postage and revenue stamps and improved post cards.

Mr. Collingwood Schreiber reports the progress being made in the construction of the Short Line as satisfactory. Some difficulties have been experienced as to the location of a portion of the road, but these, it is stated, have been overcome. The success of Halifax as a winter port depends largely on the location and grading of this line, which, it is to be hoped, will be such as to make it a successful commercial highway.

Montreal has experienced in the past year one serious flood and does not relish the idea of a second dose of this kind, hence it is proposed, by the aid of iron-prowed tugs, to keep the channel of the St. Lawrence clear throughout the winter. The contract is a somewhat heavy undertaking, but Montreal is willing to sacrifice much to avoid a repetition of last spring's disaster.

Messrs. Rhodes, Curry & Co., have taken a contract for erecting a \$17,000 building in Yarmouth for the Boston Marine Insurance Company. This firm will also supply the doors, windows, stair work, and inside finishings for the North Sydney Post Office. No falling off of business is to be noted. The factory is kept running, as at last report, and the wintry weather has not checked operations or impeded the rush of business.

Col. William Blair, ex-M. P. P. is to receive a government appointment in connection with the experimental farms now being established in different parts of the Dominion. Col. Blair's many friends will be pleased to learn of his appointment, and the government may well be congratulated on having secured the services of such a practical and well-read agriculturist as the Colonel has proved himself to be.

Mr. A. W. McLeod, of New Glasgow, has been appointed Travelling Secretary to the Y. M. C. Association. Mr. McLeod is a young man of much ability, and is well fitted to discharge the duties of his new position. With such a zealous agent in the field, the Associations throughout the Maritime Provinces will be revived, and it is probably that many new branches of the organization will be formed in many of our country towns.

An unfortunate suicide took place in Halifax on Tuesday morning, when Richard Lewis, City blacksmith, employed by the Board of Works, discharged two revolver shots into his body with fatal effect. Lewis had been suffering from mental depression and domestic troubles for many weeks previously, and his death was no doubt brought about by temporary insanity.

Purchasers in search of suitable Christmas gifts should not fail to make a visit to the crockery and glassware establishment of J. R. Jennett. Mr. Jennett has been in the business for years, and his great experience enables him to purchase a large stock of the rarest and finest china and glassware at the lowest prices. His establishment is filled to overflowing with useful and beautiful articles, just the thing for Christmas gifts, and they are offered at prices to suit all purchasers.

In Ontario and the West the thermometer during the past few days is reported as twenty below zero, a point seldom, if ever, reached in Nova Scotia; while in the Western States blizzards and snow blockades are daily recorded. In this Province we have had an unusually open season, no snowfall having taken place until Friday of last week, when about four inches fell in the Annapolis and Cornwallis Valleys. In Halifax we had no snow until Sunday last, when between six and seven inches fell, making excellent sleighing.

A new light house is being erected on the western part of Emerald Isle, Shelburne Co., by J. Bowser, government contractor, near the site of the harbor light put up by Mr. Wrayton some years ago, which it supersedes. The building, commenced Nov. 5th, is fourteen feet square; the lantern is to have an elevation of fifteen feet, and it will probably be lighted up during the present week. Mr. Arthur Wrayton is to be the keeper of the light, which will prove an invaluable guide to mariners and fishermen along that part of the coast.—Cape Sable Advertiser.

There must be something wrong with the climate of Halifax. No sooner does a new regiment land here than the men begin to desert and leave for parts unknown. Several privates of the York and Lancaster Regiment now fail to answer the call of their names from the muster roll.

The Marine Department has chartered the sealing vessel "Neptune," of St. John's, Nfld., formerly employed on Hudson's Bay exploration survey, for the winter service between Prince Edward Island and the mainland.

The good people of Kentville have voted almost unanimously to have their thriving town incorporated. Within a few years, Kentville will probably have a warden, town council, street lamps, water works and possibly a municipal debt.

The paper read by the Rev. Dr. Burns before the Historical Society, gave some interesting facts with respect to the early days of the Presbyterian Church in this Province. The Dr. dealt, in his own happy style, with matters over which a century has rolled its weight of years, which in a new country like this is relatively a long period.

It has just been discovered that the polling subdivisions as laid down in the voters' lists for the Ontario Parliamentary elections recently prepared, are not in accordance with the statute, which provides that not more than 300 voters shall be included on one subdivision. As about half of the subdivisions, as at present laid down, have more than that number, a change will have to be made. The published lists contain also the names of 817 women voters, erroneously placed therein.

W. H. Johnson, the well-known piano and organ dealer, has a very large stock of the finest instruments from the leading manufacturers in both the United States and Canada. It will only be necessary to mention his Knabe and Chickering pianos, as these makers are acknowledged to be the best in the world. Hallet & Davis, and other leading makers are also in stock, and this combined with a large selection of organs, presents a most tempting display to the Christmas purchasers. All the instruments are encased in the richest woods and are finished in the most artistic style. Special prices will be made to close up the year's business.

Twelve bridal couples left Washington lately in the same Pullman. The railroad men called it the "sugar train."

Jo. McDonald is to be the next Senator from Indiana. He educated himself, learned harness-making and read law while stitching leather.

A Minnesota missionary says that Indians do not get drunk because they love liquor, but because they regard it an honor to be tipsy.

Miles Standish is to have a statue in Boston. It will be in a sitting posture, which is wrong. Miles should be more standish.

Cornell University will confer no more honorary degrees. Its skeepskins must be won by passing examinations.

The new library building in Washington is so large that it will take two centuries to fill it with books at the rate of 25,000 a year.

Thirty Apache children are to matriculate at the Government Indian School. They are expected to forget the Indian summary methods of their scalping sires.

Minneapolis mill-owners are endeavoring to amalgamate the several companies located in that city. The new company which will have a capital of \$10,000,000 will, it is thought, control the American flour market.

The Chicago Inter-Ocean says the most sensational as well as the heaviest defalcation which has taken place in Chicago in many years has just been brought to light. Miner T. Ames, the millionaire coal merchant, is the victim, and Theodore S. Nise, his confidential book keeper and cashier, and Secretary of the Chicago & Minn. Coal and Coke Company, is the perpetrator of the robbery, which is estimated at \$100,000, and may exceed that amount.

O'Donovan Rossa, who has recently been superseded as chief executive officer of the Fenian brotherhood in the United States, has published a letter explaining that hitherto he has not been free to act as he desired, but that hereafter he is ready to second any measure which will injure England. The Irish patriot leaders have denounced Rossa in no measured terms, and certainly the cause of Ireland can never be advanced by the support of a man who has no regard for life or property.

The vendors of oleomargarine in the United States still find the manufacture of bogus butter a profitable enterprise. According to the evidence taken before a committee of Congress, oleomargarine is extracted from horns, hoofs, livers, lights and whatnots made palatable by flavoring. In one State its manufacture has been stamped out by a law which obliges its makers to color it blue. If Congress had made a similar provision oleomargarine would have been unmarketable until the fastidious public learned to use the blue substitute for butter.

The new combined letter sheet and envelope is in great favor and demand. Many cities have had orders filled to the amount of \$25,000 each, and Chicago has received \$100,000 worth. The postoffice officials will put them on sale at all the smaller offices as soon as the demand from the larger ones is complied with. Soon after this "letter sheet and envelope" was introduced, complaint was made that there was too much loss in the use of them occasioned by blots, misdirections and a desire to change the message after it had been written. This objection was communicated to Postmaster-General Vilas, and he has instructed all offices selling the sheets to exchange them on the same basis that they are authorized to exchange stamped envelopes if the stamps are not disfigured.



The Pennsylvania Railroad Company will shortly run workmen's trains, morning and night, between Elizabeth and New York, stopping at Newark. It will be about one cent per mile. The cars are to be run between 5 and 8 in the morning and 5 and 7 in the evening, to begin on Dec. 15. If the experiment pays the system will be made permanent.

The second session of the 49th Congress of the United States was opened as usual by a speech from the President. Mr. Cleveland's address occupied three hours in delivery. Among other things the President said that the government of China would meet the Washington government half way in devising a comprehensive remedy by which an effective limit of Chinese immigration, joined to the protection of those Chinese subjects who may remain in this country, may be secured. He recommended a convention between the United States and certain other powers for the protection of ocean cables. The message recommends that the revenue laws shall be so amended as to cheapen the price of necessities and give freer entrance to certain imported materials. He directed attention to the defenceless condition of the sea coast defences and expressed hopes that effective steps might be taken to improve them. He recommended that a central penitentiary for the United States be erected, and condemned the system by which the public lands of the country were being illegally appropriated. Of the fisheries dispute the President says the recommendation contained in the last message, in relation to the mode of settlement of the fisheries rights in waters of British North America, so long a subject of anxious difference between the United States and Great Britain, was met by an adverse vote of the senate, and recent negotiations were instituted to obtain an agreement with her majesty's government for the promulgation of such joint interpretation and definition of the articles of the convention of 1818, relating to the territorial water and shore fisheries of the British provinces, as should secure Canadian rights from encroachments by United States fishermen, and at the same time insure the enjoyment by the latter of the privileges guaranteed them by such convention.

France and Mexico have concluded a treaty of commerce.

Russia is in financial difficulties, to meet which she is endeavoring to negotiate a loan of 75,000,000 roubles in Paris.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalen, which is upwards of 200 years old, was partially destroyed in a recent London fire; the total loss, including other buildings, being \$500,000.

The latest news from Burmah is more peace-assuring. The Dacoits have of late been quiet and the people appear better contented with British rule.

The S. S. Umbria which refused to take on board three bags of American mail matter has made the Cunard Company liable for heavy damages on account of such refusal.

It is proposed to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee by a monster review, in which 200,000 men are to take part. Canada, Australia and India will send their contingents to participate in the great military pageant.

Mr. Gladstone has intimated assent to the active agitation of the question of disestablishment of the Welsh Church. He intends, early in the coming session, to move that the time is ripe for the discussion of the subject.

Sad indeed is the lot of the Scottish Crofters. Their indebtedness to their landlords and to the shop-keepers is far beyond their ability to discharge, while the low price of beef raised by them, and the failure of the herring fisheries, makes the outlook for them doubly black.

The relations of France and Germany are said to be seriously strained, but it is not probable that either of these powers is prepared to take the first step towards creating a rupture. The memory of the campaign of 1870 is yet fresh in the minds of the combatants.

The French Ministry which supported the budget estimates for military purposes prepared by General Boulanger has, owing to the opposition to such excessive taxation, sent in its resignation to President Grevy. Monsieur Floquet has signified his willingness to form a new cabinet.

King Milan has received the deputation of the Bulgarian notables. It is reported here that the Bulgarian Regency will make overtures to King Milan to induce him to become a candidate for the Bulgarian throne, with a view to arranging a union between Servia, Eastern Roumania and Bulgaria.

The Sultan of Turkey has signified to the Czar that in the event of the Bulgarian Sobrange not complying with the wishes of Russia he will order Eastern Roumelia to be occupied by Turkish troops. If this programme be carried out it will seriously complicate matters in the Balkans, but it is doubtful whether the Turkish Porte will take any decided steps.

A committee of the Cabinet is preparing a land bill for Ireland, based upon the extension of the Ashbourne Act. It limits the tenant's purchase of lands to holdings under 60 acres. If the commission sanction the transfer, the Imperial treasury will advance the amount, the commission paying four-fifths to the landlord and retaining the other fifth until the tenant's annual instalments amounted to one-fifth of the stipulated sum. Tenants' repayments shall extend over 39 years, with interest at four per cent. The total sum necessary to be guaranteed by the treasury is estimated at \$120,000,000. Sales under the Ashbourne Act having already exhausted the Parliamentary grant of \$25,000,000, it is reported the Government, trusting to Parliament's retrospective sanction, has ordered the treasury to continue to make advances.

Letter from FRANZ LISZT,  
"The King of Pianists."

(TRANSLATION.)

Messrs. CHICKERING,—

It is very agreeable to me to add my name to the concert of praise of which your Pianos are the object.

To be just, I must declare them perfect (perfectissimus, superlatively perfect.)

There is no quality which is foreign to them. Your instruments possess, in a supreme degree, nobility and power of tone, elasticity and security of the touch, harmony, brilliancy, solidity, charms and presence, and thus offer a harmonious ensemble of perfections, to the exclusion of all defects.

Pianists of least pretensions will find means of drawing from them agreeable effects, and in fact of such products—which truly do honor to the art of the construction of instruments—the role of the critic is as simple as that of the public, the one has but to applaud them conscientiously and with entire satisfaction, and the other but to procure them in the same manner.

In congratulating you sincerely upon the great and decisive success obtained at the Exposition at Paris, I am pleased to anticipate the happy continuation of the same in all places where your Pianos will be heard, and I beg that you accept, gentlemen, the expression of my most distinguished sentiments of esteem and consideration.

ROME. (Signed) F. LISZT.

W. H. JOHNSON,

Sole Representative of the CHICKERING PIANO in Halifax.

High Grade Pianos

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Has the largest stock of FINE PIANOS in the Maritime Provinces, in Grands, Squares, and Uprights, cased in various kinds of choice woods, the makers include "KNABE" and "CHICKERING," the two oldest and most reliable Piano Manufacturing firms in America.

Also, the celebrated "WHEELLOCK," "HALLET & DAVIS," "STEVENSON," "NEWCOMB," and "DOMINION," etc.

Special Prices and Terms to end of year.

"BELL" Organs.

A Car Load of these famous Instruments just opened. Also, a Car Load of the celebrated DOMINION ORGANS, which received the Gold Medal over 132 competitors at the World's Fair, Antwerp, 1885.

Don't fail to write us for Prices, and you will save money and be sure of a first-class article.

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163 HOLLIS STREET.

Handsome Dressing Gowns,  
Fancy Wool Wrappers,

Cardigan Jackets and Vests, Silk Umbrellas,  
Scarfs, Ties and Collars,

Silk Pocket Handkerchiefs, Silk and  
Cashmere Mufflers.

STUDS & SCARF PINS.  
And everything suitable for Gentlemen's  
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SPLendid STOCK TO SELECT FROM.

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Fixtures, Chandeliers, Electro Plate, &c.

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NAVY PATTERNS ALWAYS IN STOCK.

N.B. - During Christmas Holidays I will  
dispose of all goods, Wholesale and Retail,  
at COST.

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Look Out and Don't Be Too Late.

Send in your Orders in time for CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR.

CAKES, BUNS & SHORT-BREAD.

The Best and Cheapest place in the City.  
CAKES made with any motto printed suitable  
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F. W. CHRISTIE,  
Bedford Station, Halifax Co., N. S.

## RELIGIOUS.

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

A well-known merchant of this city on Saturday presented Rev. Dr. Patridge, of St. George's, with a cheque for \$100, to be distributed among the poor at his discretion. Such an act is deserving of mention. Would that others of our men of means might take the same method of distributing their charities. None can know so well as the parish clergy the cases really deserving of aid, as they are almost always the last to apply for it.

The Lord Bishop has gone to Yarmouth to hold a special Confirmation. A Mission has lately been held in that town, and this Confirmation is one of the outward results of it.

The attention of Church of England people should be directed to a book recently published by Rev. A. W. Little, of Portland, Maine. It is entitled, "Known for being a Churchman," and is a convenient and readable manual of facts and principles of the Church.

Another book of interest to all students of the Old Testament has just come from the press. It is an exposition of the book of Daniel by the Very Rev. R. Payne Smith, D. D., Dean of Canterbury. Dr. Smith is one of the greatest Hebrew and Aramaic Scholars of the day, and while his book differs widely from that of Dr. Pusey on the same subject, it will command general attention.

## PRESBYTERIAN.

Rev. R. Logan, late of Newfoundland, has become the pastor of a Presbyterian Church in California.

Presbyterianism in the Southern States has made rapid progress during the last twenty years. In 1866 there were 823 ministers, 92 licentiates and candidates, 1,291 churches, 68,664 communicants, and about 21,000 Sunday-school scholars. This year there are 1,085 ministers, 336 licentiates and candidates, 2,198 churches, 143,743 communicants, and nearly 100,000 Sunday-school scholars.

## METHODIST.

According to the latest reports, the membership in connection with the Methodist Church in the United States amounts to 3,685,600.

We desire to extend a cordial welcome to the Rev. Dr. Lathern on his assuming editorial control of the *Westyan*. May he be as successful in his new sphere as he has been in the ministry.

The Southern Methodist Church has 4,406 itinerant and 5,943 local preachers, with a membership of 990,994.

Last year over a quarter million dollars were collected for Church extension by the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

A sustentation fund to increase the stipends of Methodist ministers in the poorer districts of New Brunswick and P. E. Island to \$750 per annum, is being started in St. John. \$14,000 will be required for the purpose.

There is a proposal to hold a convention of Methodists from all parts of the world in the United States in 1891.

## BAPTIST.

Rev. C. R. Harrington, Baptist missionary to India, is on his way to that country.

The corner stone of the new Baptist Seminary at St. Martin's, N. B., was laid on the 9th instant.

The new Baptist Church on Spring Garden Road will, it is expected, be finished early in January.

At a meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia College held last week, it was decided to appoint a teacher of Modern Languages for the balance of the present term, with a view to permanent appointment of a professor next year.

## CATHOLIC.

We have seen the calendar of Ottawa College for the academic year, 1886-87. It is published in neat pamphlet form of 131 pages. It fully explains the workings of that institution, its full and efficient staff of professors, with the aid of a well stocked museum, library and scientific apparatus department, rank the university among our best Canadian ones. It has three faculties—Arts, Science and Theology. The terms of study are four and three years respectively, at the end of which time the usual degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts, Science, and Engineering are conferred. The course in Arts is replete in every sense, and only differs from that of other universities inasmuch that Mental and Moral Philosophy is not taught till the last year, and study in that subject is there conducted in Latin—thus affording excellent practice to the eager student. It is certainly a credit to the denomination under whose control it so rapidly flourishes. Its alumni is graced by two Nova Scotians, Messrs. Haggarty and Hamilton, of Sydney, who received the Bachelor's degree in 1884 and '86 respectively.

It is said that the Holy Father has decided to raise another American prelate to the cardinalate in the person of Archbishop Kondrick. The authority for this statement is the "Noridades", a Spanish organ. The Spanish Consul in this city says he has received like advices from Madrid.

Rev. Father Morris, of Newfoundland, preached a very instructive sermon on the "Immaculate Conception," in St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday last.

The President of Ottawa College died last week. He was chaplain to a Canadian battalion in the North-West during the recent rebellion. His career as a clergyman, scholar and educator, is perhaps not surpassed in the Dominion.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Queen Victoria has spent exactly twelve days, and no more, in Ireland since her coronation forty-nine years ago.

Amongst the appropriations by the Hawaiian Legislature we notice, "To Koolapoka, \$2,000." If it cost that too cool it, heating it must be a burden to the taxpayer.

Maharane Surnomoyee, a generous Hindoo lady in Calcutta, has given \$75,000 to found a hall of residence for native women students of medicine. The government has contributed ground for the building.

According to a Parisian contemporary, Succi's celebrated liquor is not only an antidote to hunger, but to poison. At the end of his fast he will administer one dose of poison to an animal and another to himself. The beast will die, and Succi, fortified by his mysterious cordial, will remain alive. At least, so he says.

Queen Victoria has received from Glasgow a present that is said to be, in charming fancy of design and exquisite workmanship, worthy of the great Buonvenuto Cellini himself. It is an elegant parasol, the handle of which is a globe of gold, representing the earth, upon which her Majesty's possessions are marked by incrustations of precious stones.

The Emperor William and Empress Augusta have decided to confer medals of distinction upon couples celebrating golden or diamond weddings after an exemplary life. The medal will bear on one side an effigy of the Emperor and Empress, and on the reverse side the following message from Paul's Epistle to the Romans:—"Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, steadfast in prayer."

An English paper characterizes the lectures of Henry Ward Beecher as "sermons, with the right of applause." This same paper also contains the following anecdote of the famous preacher in 1864: A young man from the country having been introduced to Mr. Beecher, asked him how he should find his way to Plymouth Church. "Take the ferry and follow the crowd," promptly replied Mr. Beecher.

A clergyman writes to the *Boston Advertiser* that he recently preached in one of the oldest churches in the "old" city of London. As he entered the porch he was met by a rotund and dignified beadle, who led him to the vestry room, and pointing to two decanters said, "Will you take sherry or port, sir?" The parson smiled at, not with, the beadle, who then explained that about three hundred years ago a good woman of the parish, dying, left a certain sum for the purchase of "wine and sweetcakes for the clergy," and since that time wine and cakes have been regularly supplied at each service.

The *Wiltshire Telegraph* of October 23 contains the report of a very important and instructive investigation by Dr. Campbell, Medical Officer of Health for Calne, into the cause of a certain outbreak of cases of lead poisoning in the months of August, September, and October, which had puzzled him for a long time. The cases occurred chiefly, almost entirely, in men, and coincided roughly with harvest work. Examinations of drinking-water, beer, tea, coffee, bread, and various cooking utensils gave no light. The occurrence of seven acute cases about three weeks since, two almost fatal, led to the discovery of the real source of mischief. The wife of one of the men explained that her husband had drunk some home-made rhubarb wine. She was sure "it could not contain poison of any sort," as she was very careful in selecting and cleaning her rhubarb, and as for the sugar and barm, they were all right. Besides, the vessel was a beautifully clean glazed earthenware pan, in which she steeped it for a fortnight or three weeks to ferment." Here was the source of the poison, as Dr. Campbell says:—"As is well known, this glaze contains 60 per cent. of white or red lead, and during the process of fermentation the acids of the fruit used, with the acetic acid or vinegar generated, act on the glaze and dissolve the lead, forming acetate or sugar of lead, a powerful irritant poison even in small quantities."

A young friend asked me once to show him some elephants in undress, writes the foreign correspondent of a contemporary, and I took him along with me, having first borrowed an apron and filled it with oranges. This he was to carry while accompanying me in the stable, but the moment we reached the door the herd set up such a trumpeting—they had scented the fruit—that he dropped the apron and its contents and scuttled off like a scared rabbit. There were eight elephants, and when I picked up the oranges I found I had twenty-five. I walked deliberately along the line giving one to each. When I got to the extremity of the narrow stable I turned and was about to begin the distribution again, when I suddenly reflected that if elephant No. 7 in the row saw me give two oranges in succession to No. 8, he might imagine he was being cheated, and give me a smack with his proboscis,—that is where the elephant falls short of the human being,—so I went to the door and began de novo as before. Thrice I went along the line and then I was in a fix. I had one orange left and I had to get back to the door. Every elephant in the herd had his greedy gaze focused on that orange. It was as much as my life was worth to give it to any one of them. What was I to do? I held it up conspicuously, coolly peeled it, and sucked it myself. It was most amusing to notice the way those elephants nudged each other and shook their ponderous sides. They thoroughly entered into the humor of the thing.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## AN EVENING REVERIE.

Where have I lived, or where have known  
That angel being that wrapt my life  
In vapors of a purple shewn  
In days of yore?  
Or where are all the stars that staid  
And twinkled in the firmament  
Of bliss that compassed me  
When day was o'er?

Have I abode in Fairyland?  
Have I been far from pain and grief?  
Has Eldorado been my home  
Through many years?  
Or what dark demon hath beheld  
And envied me, and set a snare  
To ruin me and give me back  
To grief and fears?

O dark and hateful mystery!  
O false and fickle friendship's breath!  
O world of dark deceit and woe  
Once more unbend  
And give me back one day—*one hour*  
Of that glad life that I have lost,  
With that sweet angel then as now,  
My only friend

Weymouth, Nov., 1886.

LAMACE.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## A TRAVELLER'S EXPERIENCE ON THE TRAIN.

It was a glorious October day; the morning sun came streaming through the car windows in rays of dusty golden notes; the distant hill tops were enveloped in clouds of mist, a sharp frost had colored the leaves of the hardwood trees in various shades of crimson, gold and brown, their brilliancy making an excellent background for the sombre spruce and hemlock.

On the ground and pole fences shaded by these overgreens the sun's rays had not penetrated and last night's frost lay white and thick.

In summer these woods were jubilant with the songs of many birds, now only the shrill scolding scream of a solitary jay, perched on a frost bedecked pole, was to be heard, high above the rattle of the car wheels, as if in angry protest at the sure and steady advance of king winter. I entered the car just as the train boy opened his bundle of morning papers, and for a time nothing was visible of the greater number of my fellow-passengers but feet, hat-crowns and hands of all degrees of size, shape and color holding papers.

A great deal of character comes out in the way in which an individual reads the newspaper.

Across the aisle sat an old gentleman and his daughter. I know that his heart's love was politics by the angry way in which he rustled his paper when he found the latest speech of his favorite political leader curtailed to make room for an elaborate description of the Duchess De Morny's trousseau, and the question discussed with all due solemnity, whether Mrs. Cleveland wore her hair elevated on the top of her head or twisted at the nape of her neck, and while his pretty daughter is revelling in the descriptions of the Duchess's gowns, he gruffly remarks to the occupant of the seat behind them, "that he does not know why such a sensible man as Editor Blank allows such trash to be printed in his paper."

Number two acquiesces outwardly as to fashion, and inwardly for politics also. He turns directly to the stock exchange reports. The weddings and gowns of all the nobility in Europe might be described, the eloquence of Gladstone on Home Rule thrill English speaking people the world over, the fisheries dispute might bring the whole American navy to anchor off Halifax and threaten "vengeance dire," all this is nothing in comparison with the mysterious mazes of figures in the American and European market reports.

As he reads the frown disappears from his forehead, his eyes brighten, the lines around his mouth relax, to-day's paper has good news for him, and consequently he grows genial with the politician, gets introduced to the pretty daughter, and thenceforth his paper lies undisturbed on the seat while he talks earnestly and confidentially to the pretty girl.

The irrepresible young man in a loud plaid suit who had persisted in "talking horse" to a dyspeptic looking clergyman until so severely snubbed that he had left the "old duffer" for the more congenial society of two bright looking French Canadian drummers; and these three were making bets as to the final issue of the stock brokers "chance acquaintance."

My seat mate, a fine looking old Scotchman, had been a sea captain. I conjectured that from the careful manner in which he followed the long columns of arrivals and clearances. Presently he took off his glasses, folded his paper, gave it a little pat of satisfaction, and began talking to me of the subject nearest his heart.

"For its size and population there is no country in the world that can compete with Nova Scotia. Her ships and captains are to be found the world over.

I have four sons at sea; one reported at Tasmania in this paper, also one in a pioneer ship to a port in Patagonia.

Every person in our village has an interest in the sea, and our ministers have always an earnest if unpoken Amen when they pray that those on the deep 'may be brought to their desired haven.'

I never felt so homesick in my life as I did one Sunday last summer in a church out West, the minister prayed for everything and everybody excepting 'those that go down to the sea in ships.'

Then with a garrulous attention to detail, which Dana truly says is born of the monotony of long voyages at sea, he told me stories of "adventure wild" of shipwrecks in polar and tropical seas, of perilous passages round

the "Horn," of coal laden ships afloat in mid ocean and the thirst and famine of crews compelled to take to the boats, of the superstition he firmly believed, of fated ships, compelled to pay tribute of a man every voyage. And thus spake on that ancient man the bright-eyed mariner, until the howls of a child whose mother had been so engrossed in the fiction department of her paper as to be utterly oblivious of the fact that her four-year-old son had taken a very perilous position on the arm of the seat. A sudden lurch, a glimpse of deliant boot heels, and then the fat passenger rescues and reverses the small boy.

Small boy with eyes tightly shut and mouth wide open is terribly ominously silent, the initiated put their hands over their ears, and in another second small boy has entered for competition with the engine whistle, in a deep bass, while the infant in flowing draperies answers in a shrill treble from the opposite end of the car.

Then the following remarks are in order: "Poor 'tittle fellow did he hurt his 'tittle mouth." "Why don't the woman shut that brat up?" "Here's a cake for the poor dear." "If you don't stop crying the bears will get you."

In spite of threats of boo-men and bears he howls on until bought off with a shining ten cent piece by the captain, who evidently understands the value of money as a soother of grief in childhood as well as in more mature years.

During the commotion quite a number of passengers had left, mostly men who sought peace in the smoking car.

Several had reached their destinations. Two of these were evidently on their wedding tour, the amusing incident of her ear-ring which was in her ear when we entered the semi-gloom of the snow-sheds and when we came out was lying on the fur collar of her husband's coat, where it was seen by a lover of fun, and returned with a great deal of ceremony to the confused bride.

Another passenger who left us is to be found on every train. She is the woman who has the window and shade adjusted half a dozen times by as many people. She has bundles, shawls, and baskets innumerable, with which she fills her own rack and those of her neighbors, she pokes people with umbrellas, stifles them with smelling-salts, loses her checks, keeps the conductor waiting while she hunts high and low for her ticket, loudly declares that some one has stolen it, and finds it tucked in the palm of her glove. When she arrives at her destination it is a regu'r exodus. The conductor and half the men in the car are loaded with her goods and chattels.

The only unconcerned person near her was a grim old bachelor reading an anti-Mormon article in his paper. He has a firmly rooted disgust to the disciples of Brigham, and thinks one wife one too many for him, as he glances at the exodus, and with a chuckle goes on pursuing his fugitive Mormons down the columns of the paper with greater zest and as rapidly as the U. S. Government officials pursued them on the plains of Utah.

Another inevitable passenger, a co-nuisance with the ticket woman is the man or woman who has a relation, the Hon. Somebody, or who is an intimate friend of Lady So-and-so.

Then we had the teller of stale jokes and the maker of execrable puns, the identical men for whom the chestnut boli was invented.

Just before we arrived at our journey's end, a lovely little girl came into my seat, she told me that her mother had gone on a long journey and that she was going to her some day. And when I asked the sad-faced man who had charge of her if her mother was an invalid and had gone south for the winter; he handed me a paper folded at the obituary column, and with a finger on a notice that told of the journey of the poor little child's mother to that "country from whose bourne no traveller returns."

Only one more station.

Wraps and parcels are being collected, overcoats buttoned, and travelling caps exchanged for silk hats, half the passengers are on their feet as we steam slowly into the depot. Good-byes and welcomes are interrupted with. "Cab, lady?" "This way." "This way please." "Just here now." "Give me your checks." "I'll take this satchel" and grabs it accordingly. "You know me, I drove you before," (this is a first visit. And the lady traveller sees one cabby depart with checks, another with her satchel, still another with her shawl strap, and four or five advancing with threatening gestures as if bent on tearing her limb from limb.

And from this day forth this passenger is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of C. D. Warner's muzzled hackmen.

C. R. F.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

## A CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENTS.

To the Editor of the Critic.

DEAR SIR,—Admiring your paper for its honesty of purpose, and especially for the "good English" in which its ideas are clothed, allow me to say that I read with much concern, as a somewhat enthusiastic citizen of the Dominion, the depressing account given in your last issue by a young agriculturist from Nova Scotia, of his experience in the neighborhood of Long Lake, in the southern part of the N. W. Territories, somewhat to the west of Qu'Appelle Station. We have his evidence for three bad seasons in succession—the first two from unseasonable frosts, the last from drought. Enough, it would seem to crush, the efforts of any settler not possessed of capital to fall back upon.—Enough to deter settlers of limited means from attempting to establish themselves in the country. It is not denied that the soil is exceedingly fertile, nor that the grasses are abundant, nor that the climate is healthy, if one is protected properly from the rigor of the winter. And we have from other sources the news that great quantities of grain of first rate quality are coming forward this year from some part or other of the Territories. It is not very easy to reconcile such conflicting



evidence upon any other theory than that, as the extent of the new Territories is enormous, different regions composing them have greatly varying records to furnish of any particular season. It will be much the best that we should have the whole truth of a matter so virtually affecting the fortunes of our younger population. Let us know the best and worst of it all. The Manitoba Government issues very elaborate agricultural reports, better and more carefully compiled than any other Canadian Statistics I am acquainted with. THE CRITIC might be in possession of these from month to month during the season of issue. Then we could get a broader view of things through your able columns. Every new country has its special adaptations and its special dangers to be guarded against. It almost seems that the North-West should be a country of rather large farms, with good buildings, and well appointed in every way, being operated with sufficient capital in every case, and that each farm should comprise both stock-raising and arable departments. The Dabrymple Farm, of Dakota Territory, and the Bell Farm in ours, it strikes me, were not good models, because they systematically drove away their work-people to seek lumbering or other means of livelihood elsewhere for the winter. That system will never build up a country, or make Canadian citizens, and was only projected as a medium for large accommodations by men who would not need even the residents of the country. We need something a little more patriotic than that! But neither does it seem, at the first glance, very safe to send the small settler to encounter the risks of frosts and droughts, and prairie fires, or scarcity of timber for building, firing and fuel, and to tempt him to the encounter by the offer of free land. It is no kindness, ever, to keep men in the dark, nor is it the best way to build up a successful future for any country.

As to your young correspondent, whose letter should awaken our active sympathies, if needed in his case, I cannot help thinking that he would do best to get a pass on the Canadian Pacific for Vancouver, the embryo city and western terminus of the line. There must on enquiry be found, I should say, that there is a good deal of labor of various kinds required there in repairing the ravages of the recent fire, and in meeting the demands of its growing commerce with China and Japan, to say nothing of its future connections with Australia and the South Pacific. A liberal company will generally give a free pass to a man whose need is proved, and might have the employment to offer in addition. Your readers would be interested to know of the success of such an effort, for with all the platitudes of our able journals, the really practical issues affecting the daily lives and the future prospects of the moving multitudes of labor are the hardest things in the winter climate of the Territories.

I am, yours, etc.,

Quebec, P. Q.

CANADIAN.

#### THE MOHURRUM AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

I went yesterday to see one of the most ghastly ceremonies it has ever been my lot to witness. If any one had described it to me, I should have taken the liberty of doubting his word to a pretty considerable extent. I could not have believed that so barbarous a custom would have been tolerated in this nineteenth century of ours. What I saw was the Persian festival, which is held once a year, in two or three places in the world, to celebrate the anniversary of the murder of Hassan and Hussein, the sons of Ali. My friend and I, with two *humuls* in attendance, went over about half-past six in the evening to a square in Stamboul, and arrived just in time for the commencement of the orgies. They began with a procession of children, dressed in black gowns, singing hymns in praise of Hassan and Hussein to the sound of weird music. The square was guarded all round by Turkish soldiers, who kept a clear space in the centre; the crowd stood behind, and the windows of the square were filled with spectators. The place was all draped in black, thousands of lanterns were hung about, and burning braziers were stationed at intervals of a few yards. In about ten minutes after our arrival a fearful din of tom-toms arose, and a number of men entered the square, those in the foremost ranks carrying braziers, while those in the centre supported a large canopy, formed of Persian flags and ensigns. Two white horses were next led in. These carried howdahs with a child tied on each, to represent the two brothers. Then came other horses, decked out with embroidery stained with blood, and dead bodies lying across their backs. A procession of priests and people then entered, chanting songs of mourning, and these were followed by men with their bodies bare to their waists, beating themselves with great chains, which they swung over their heads, first on their backs and then on their chests, all sobbing and singing the while, the clang of the chains as they all swung together against the flesh being something horrible to hear. Then came the awful part of the whole thing, which made one shudder, and turns my blood cold as I write it. About a hundred men entered the square with their heads shaved, and dressed entirely in white, these formed a huge circle arm in arm, all with their faces to the centre of the ring, those on one side shouting "Hassan," those on the other "Hussein." They gradually worked themselves up into a screaming frenzy, and then, brandishing the huge sabres they carried, they commenced hacking at their bodies and heads till the blood poured down them, and pieces of flesh came off the poor wretches, who, as they became more excited, inflicted ghastly scalp wounds on each other. I never saw such an awful sight, and I never wish to again. They went twice around the square, shouting, screaming, and brandishing their sabres, after which such of them as were still able to walk retired from the scene, and the men with chains took their places, with their chests and backs black and bleeding. These marched twice round the square, followed by children singing and chanting. A few prayers were now offered up by the priests, more shouts of "Hassan" and "Hussein," and then there was a pause, and the people looked as if they were about to disperse. Sickened and horrified by the scene we had witnessed, my friend and I quitted our

window seat, and began a rapid walk to our hotel; but suddenly there were loud shouts from the people, and we saw the entire throng returning. We were the unwilling spectators of a renewal of this fearful carnage, which was only terminated by the death of many of the actors in it, while those who yet lived sank exhausted to the ground, their features in many instances undistinguishable, their white dresses soaked with blood, and yet even in their dying agonies sustained by a mysterious fanaticism which teaches them that through these self-inflicted tortures they go straight into heaven. This account may seem to you exaggerated, but I can assure you it is impossible to convey to you in writing the ghastly realities of the scene I have just described.—*Globe*.

#### COMMERCIAL.

The condition of trade remains about the same as reported last week. It has been of a reasonably quiet character, and not subjected to any important changes or fluctuations. There is a good sorting-up demand in most lines of merchandise. Numerous orders for small parcels come in, but the demand appears to be confined to the requirements of consumption. The weather continues to somewhat restrict trade, and will probably do so for the greater part of the passing month. Prices rule very firm, and the feeling is hopeful.

Holiday goods are beginning to be shown in profusion by retailers, and shop windows look very gay.

In most lines dealers are too busy in taking stock and preparing their annual balances, to push sales with the energy that they do in other portions of the year. This gives the market a quiet look. The general situation has, on the whole, continued to manifest healthy symptoms. The results of the year have been of a satisfactory character, and a confident feeling regarding the future prevails.

A fall of some three or four inches of snow that occurred on last Sunday night temporarily stopped the running of the City horse-cars, and the street railway company promptly substituted busses mounted on runners for them on Monday morning. But they cleared the track, and the cars resumed their runs on Tuesday. In explanation, it is stated that the company is having one or more snow-ploughs, of a new and improved pattern, built for it in the States, by means of which it is expected that the track will be kept open all the winter. It was not thought that much, if any, snow would fall here before about Christmas, and, therefore, the work of constructing the ploughs has not been pushed with the energy that the company has shown in other directions. The ploughs are promised soon to arrive, and thereafter it is hoped that no further suspension of the running of the cars will occur.

The present mail arrangements are very unsatisfactory. The mails from the United States and the Upper Provinces are not ready for delivery before about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, while the outgoing mails close at 1.25 p.m. This does not give merchants time to reply to business letters by return mail, as is often required where important transactions are pending—and we presume that every operation is important to those engaged in it. As both the railway and the post office are run by the government—i.e., the people—for the benefit of the public, it certainly looks as if the convenience and interest of the public should be more closely consulted than they appear to be. Again, the weekly mail steamers that ply between this port and Europe during the winter, under a subsidy from the Dominion Government, leave Halifax at noon on Saturdays—their mail bags closing an hour earlier—while the letters by the incoming steamers do not reach the hands of their addressees till the following Monday or Tuesday. The mail by the alternative route, *via* New York, leaves the post office here at 6.45 a.m. on Mondays only, though mail steamers leave New York for Europe daily. This is "close connection" with a vengeance. What we plead for is but common-sense and justice to our commercial interests. It is only surprising that the business public has so long submitted patiently to the slipshod and careless way in which postal matters have hitherto been carried on under each succeeding administration of both parties in Canada. The prompt and faithful transmission and distribution of the mails are to the business and social community as important functions of executive administration as the proper carrying out of the duties and responsibilities of any other department. A radical reform in postal arrangements is much needed.

**DRY GOODS.**—Prices remain firm for all sorts of textile goods. It is reported that a movement is on foot among woolen manufacturers to follow the example of their cotton brethren, and form a combination for their mutual benefit. The occasion is opportune, owing to the large shortage of production of the raw material this year. A late issue of the *Irish Textile Journal*, of Belfast, says:—"The improvement in the general tone of the market, \* \* \* has been sustained, and greater confidence is shown in the future of trade—buyers operating with more freedom. At the same time, whilst demand is better all round, there is still very great difficulty in getting enhanced prices for either yarns or cloth, but the outlook is hopeful, and production is more evenly balanced by consumption." These remarks truly express the condition of the dry goods trade in Canada.

**IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.**—There has been no change in the hardware market, but a fair volume of business has been transacted for the season. Trade has not been active, but there is no complaint of its general character. Values have ruled steady, and no variation has occurred worthy of note. Cable advices indicate that copper is lower and weak.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—Wheat has been somewhat stronger, both in English and American markets, and a marked advance has been attained, but we see no reason to believe in its permanence. It looks like a speculative movement, which is bolstered up by rumors of impending war in Europe, which are dished up weekly for the delectation of the American public, but which may

be fitly compared to the "baseless fabric of a dream." A project is reported to be on foot among western (U. S.) mill owners to pool their interests, with the intention of putting all the mills under one management. The estimated capital of the United Western Milling Company is estimated at about ten millions of dollars. It is extremely doubtful whether the "deal" will be effected. Meanwhile, flour is quiet and will find hard work to climb up to higher prices. Oats are in large receipt, and prices rule rather low, as they will continue to do till the Island communication is severed by the increasing cold of winter.

**PROVISIONS.**—Quietude has characterized the market during the past week. Dressed pork is coming forward in seasonable quantities, though farmers are holding back, because killers' prices are not up to what they were wont to obtain during the past three years at this season. It takes a good while for some people to balance the law of supply and demand. Those who hang back among suppliers are very apt to find themselves on the wrong side of the scales.

**CHEESE.** English dealers appear to be waking up to the fact that the British supply is far below the average, and that America cannot largely assist her in furnishing this article in sufficient quantities to meet the demand. The consequence is a continued stiffening of prices on both sides of the "big water," and an advance of figures all along the line. Those who can afford to hold for two or three months longer will probably learn that "cheese is cheese."

**BUTTER.**—The market has been quiet, owing to firmness of holders, who think that butter should sympathize with cheese. Their hopes may be realized next year, when the market is overstocked with cheese, as it is now with butter; till then, they will do well not to hold such a perishable article too long. Owing to the slack supply of and good demand for cheese, many English farmers announce their intention to discontinue making butter, and of turning their milk in future wholly into cheese. If they carry out this intention, it will make an excellent opening for Canadian butter, if our farmers will improve it, and take care to have their butter clean and sweet.

**GAME.**—Partridges and rabbits are in over-supply, and prices for them are very low.

**SUGARS AND MOLASSES.**—The market has remained dull, though nominally unchanged for refined sugars. For raws there is little demand, the refiners being fully supplied, and several cargoes, as noted in our last report, wait for bidders. Nothing is doing in molasses.

**TEA AND COFFEE.**—Tea is firm, and a good amount of business has transpired. The enquiry here has not been large, but steady, being evidently governed by consumptive demands. Coffee continues to "boom," confirming the fact that this year's supply will be smaller than the average. Local figures have not changed as yet, as dealers have ample supplies on hand for present needs, but they must advance before long.

**LIVE STOCK.**—The quantity coming forward, though not over great, is most excellent in quality. Some shipments abroad, both to the United States and to England, have been made; and those who have ventured in this line this season report having done as well as they expected.

**REAL ESTATE.**—Some few auction sales have been made during the past week, but they have been of properties under mortgage that had been foreclosed, and were in every case bought in by the mortgagees or their representatives. No private sales are reported. The ideas of buyers and sellers diverge so much that they do not come together on any satisfactory plane.

**FISH.**—This has been a "waiting" market since our last report. Receipts have been small, but it is believed that respectable quantities of salt and pickled fish are held back along both the eastern and western shores that will be offered before long. Local men are freely shipping fresh herring and codfish in ice to Montreal and various points in the United States by rail. They find markets there that repay their enterprise and labor. The current catch, however, is so small as to be but little better than nominal. This is owing to rough weather, which deters fishermen from putting out, though both cod and herring are plentiful. As to salt and pickled fish there is a disposition on the part of merchants to send them to West India markets—especially to Jamaica and Cuba—as rapidly as possible. Several large cargoes have cleared hence for those ports in the last fortnight. Perhaps facts, concealed from the public but known to shippers, may justify this activity at the present juncture, but we were struck by the remark of a "skipper," whose vessel cleared hence a few days since, "that he had known vessels to earn more by lying at the wharf than by taking cargoes to the West Indies."

The Boston *Journal* remarks that the salt fish trade is dull, but the local demand is larger than usual for the last month of the year. There are no large stocks of fish in dealers' hands, and the general feeling is that prices are now at their lowest point. All kinds of barrelled fish are remarkably scarce, and if the demand comes up to anything near its usual proportions dealers will be cleaned out in a very short time. The mackerel situation is attracting particular attention. The stock in Gloucester is estimated at not over 6,000 bbls., and in Portland at 1,000 bbls. Boston and other places are supposed to have about 5,000 bbls. more, so that the whole supply in sight cannot possibly exceed 15,000 bbls. This Province and Prince Edward Island can perhaps add hardly more than 1,000 bbls. This is a far smaller supply than has been known for many years at this date. The stock of herring is judged by persons qualified to know to be smaller than for the past twenty-five years.

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. We intend devoting special attention to our Commercial and Financial Articles, and to our Market Quotations, and to this end have secured the co-operation of several persons thoroughly conversant with questions of finance and commerce.

GROCERIES.

SUGAR.	
Cut Leaf.....	4 to 8 1/2
Granulated.....	6 to 6 1/2
Circle A.....	5 1/2 to 5 3/4
Extra C.....	5 1/2 to 5 3/4
Yellow C.....	4 1/2 to 5
TEA.	
Congou, Common.....	17 to 19
Fair.....	20 to 23
Good.....	25 to 29
Choice.....	31 to 37
Extra Choice.....	35 to 39
Oolong—Choice.....	37 to 39
MOLASSES.	
Barbadoes.....	30 to 32
Demerara.....	30 to 35
Diamond N.....	40
Porto Rico.....	31
Tobacco—Black.....	37 to 40
Bright.....	42 to 55
BISCUITS.	
Pilot Bread.....	2.00 to 2.00
Boston and Thin Family.....	5 1/2 to 6
Soda.....	5 1/2 to 5 3/4
do. in lb. boxes, 50 to case.....	7 1/2
Fancy.....	8 to 15

BREADSTUFFS.

Our quotations below are our today's wholesale selling prices for car lots not cash. Jobbers' and Retailers' prices about 5 to 10 per cent advance on carload lots.

FLOUR.	
Graham.....	4.40 to 4.50
Patent high grades.....	4.40 to 4.60
"    mediums.....	4.20 to 4.30
"    Lower grades.....	3.85 to 3.90
Superior Extra.....	3.10 to 3.40
Oatmeal, Standard.....	4.10 to 4.15
"    Granulated.....	4.30 to 4.40
Corn Meal—Halifax ground.....	2.75 to 2.80
—Imported.....	2.75 to 2.85
"    Wheat.....	15.50 to 16.50
"    "    Corn.....	14.50 to 15.00
Shorts.....	17.50 to 18.50
Midlings.....	19.00 to 21.00
Cracked Corn.....	24.00 to 25.00
"    Oats.....	25.00 to 30.00
"    "    Barley.....	nominal
Feed Flour.....	3.10 to 3.50
Oats per bushel of 34 lbs.....	34 to 36
Barley " of 48 ".....	nominal
Peas " of 60 ".....	1.40 to 1.10
White Beans, per bushel.....	1.40 to 1.50
Pot Barley, per barrel.....	4.85 to 4.90
Corn " of 56 lbs.....	75 to 80
Hay per ton.....	13.00 to 14.00
Straw.....	10.00 to 12.00

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

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

NOVA SCOTIA CHOICE FRESH PRINTS.....		20 to 25
"    in Small Tubs.....	20 to 24	
"    Good, in large tubs.....	19 to 20	
"    Store Packed & over salted.....	10 to 12	
CANADIAN CREAMERY.....		24
Township, Fancy.....	22 to 23	
"    Finest.....	20 to 22	
"    "    fine.....	18 to 20	
"    Morrisburg and Brockville.....	17 to 19	
"    Western.....	18 to 16	
CHEESE, N. S.....		12
"    Canada.....	13	

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

FISH FROM VESSELS.

MACKEREL.....		16 to 20
Extra.....	as to quality	
No. 1.....	"	14.00
"    "    "    "    "    "		3.50
"    2 large.....	"	7.50 to 8.00
"    "    "    "    "    "		5.75
"    3 large.....	"	5.50 to 5.75
HERRING.....		5.00
No. 1 Shore, July.....	"	4.00 to 4.25
No. 1, August.....	"	4.00 to 4.25
"    September.....	"	3.75
Round Shore.....	"	4.50
Labrador, in cargo lots, per bl.....	"	4.50
ALEWIGHS, per bbl.....		none
COUPHIS.....		2.65 to 2.80
Hard Shore.....	"	1.95 to 2.10
Blank.....	"	none
Bay.....	"	18.00
SALMON, No. 1.....	"	2.00 to 2.25
Haddock, per qt.....	"	2.10
HARK.....	"	none
Cod.....	"	none
POLLOCK.....	"	45 to 50c per lb.
"    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "		25 to 30

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

LOBSTERS.

NOVA SCOTIA (Atlas Ice Coast Packing).	
Tall Cans.....	4.60 to 5.00
Flat ".....	6.00 to 6.50
Per case 4 doz. 1lb cans,	

The above quotations are corrected by a reliable dealer.

LUMBER.

PINE, clear, No. 1, per m.....		25.00 to 28.00
"    Merchantable, do do.....	14.00 to 17.00	
"    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "	10.00 to 12.00	
"    Small, per m.....	8.00 to 14.00	
Spruce, dimension good, per m.....	9.50 to 10.00	
"    Merchantable, do do.....	8.00 to 9.00	
"    Small, do do.....	6.50 to 7.05	
Hemlock, merchantable.....	7.00	
Shingles, No. 1, sawed pine.....	3.00 to 3.50	
"    No. 2, do do.....	1.00 to 1.25	
"    spruce, No. 1.....	1.10 to 1.30	
Laths, per m.....	2.00	
Hard wood, per cord.....	4.00 to 4.25	
Soft wood.....	2.25 to 2.50	

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

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

PROVISIONS.

Beef, Am. Ex. Mess, duty paid.....		11.00 to 11.50
"    Am. Plate.....	"	11.50 to 12.00
"    "    Ex. Plate.....	"	12.50 to 13.00
Pork, Mess, American.....		new 13.00 to 13.50
"    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "	old	12.00 to 12.50
"    American, clear.....		15.00 to 15.50
"    P. E. I. Mess.....		new 13.00 to 13.50
"    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "    "	old	12.50 to 12.75
"    P. E. I. Thin Mess.....		10.50 to 11.00
"    "    Prime Mess.....		9.50 to 10.00
Lard, Tubs and Pails.....		18 to 11
Cases.....		12 to 12 1/2
Hams, P. E. I.....		none
Duty on Am. Pork and Beef \$2.25 per bbl.		

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

WOOL, WOOL SKINS & HIDES.

Wool—clean washed, per pound.....		15 to 20
"    unwashed.....	"	12 to 15
Salted Hides, No. 1.....		7 1/2
Ox Hides, over 60 lbs., No. 1.....		7 1/2
"    under 60 lbs., No. 1.....		6 1/2
"    over 60 lbs., No. 2.....		5 1/2
"    under 60 lbs., No. 2.....		6
Cow Hides, No. 1.....		6 1/2
No. 3 Hides.....		4
Calf Skins.....		8 to 10
Deacons, each.....		25 to 35
Lambskins.....		25 to 65

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

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

APPLES, (No. 1 Gravensteins) per bbl.....		2.50 to 2.75
"    Other No. 1 Varieties.....		1.75 to 2.25
Oranges, per bbl, Jamaica (new).....		3.75 to 6.25
Lemons, per box.....		3.50 to 3.75
Coconuts, per 100.....		5.00 to 5.50
Onions American, per lb.....		2 1/2 to 2 3/4
Foxberries, per bbl, new.....		3.50 to 4.00
Grapes, Almeria, keg.....		4.50 to 5.00
Raisins, New Val.....		6 to 7
Figs, Elemo, small boxes.....		12 to 15
Prunes, Stewing, per lb.....		6 1/2
Dates, boxes, new.....		7 1/2

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

POULTRY.

Turkeys, per pound.....	none
Geese, each.....	none
Ducks, per pair.....	60 to 90
Chickens.....	40 to 50

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK—at Richmond Depot.

Steers, best quality, per 100lbs. alive.....	4.00
Oxen.....	3.50
Fat Steers, Heifers light weights.....	3 1/2
Wethers, best quality, per 100lbs.....	2.75 to 3.25
Lambs.....	2.25 to 3.00

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer.

## A BARREN TITLE.

(Concluded.)

Of course, his marriage would now have to be delayed a little while. Cecilia had gained her point in this matter, but after a fashion she had never dreamed of. In those hours of trouble the white wings of her love seemed to fold Clement more closely round than they had ever done before.

Mr Slingsby Boscombe took an early opportunity of putting a number of questions to Mr. Flicker respecting the earl and his son. Of the latter individual the lawyer knew absolutely nothing. He had been as much astounded to hear of the existence of such a person as the countess had been, and he blamed himself severely for having allowed himself to be so thoroughly duped by the earl's plausible off-handed assumption that he had never been anything but a bachelor. With regard to the earl he told Slingsby pretty nearly all that he knew.

One morning, about three weeks after the funeral, Clement was surprised at his studio by a visit from Mr. Boscombe. The latter, acting on the information given him by Flicker, had gone in the first instance to the Brown Bear, and had there ascertained Mr. Fildew's late address. From Hayfield Street he had been directed to Clement's lodgings, and from there to the studio.

"I was awfully sorry not to have met you at Brimley, but the dowager carried me off by main force," said Slingsby, after shaking hands heartily with Clem and condoling with him on his loss. "I hope you won't for one moment think that I bear you the slightest ill-will on account of losing the title. I assure you that I care nothing for it. I take no interest in politics. I am not cut out for shining in society. All I ask for is a little den in the country, with a big garden, a horse or two, plenty of fishing, and a few friends whose tastes are something like my own."

"I wish with all my heart that the title were yours," said Clem. "It is a useless acquisition, as far as I am concerned."

"But you are not going to let it remain in abeyance, I hope?"

"I certainly am. What has a poor painter to do with titles? My only ambition is to be known by my works."

Then, little by little, and with considerable hesitation and stammering, the real object of Slingsby's visit was made apparent. He wanted Clement to share with him the income which, as soon as he should be twenty-five years old, would begin to accrue to him from the Loughton property, in accordance with the will of the last earl but one. "Such a will ought never to have been made," said Slingsby, "unless it had first been ascertained beyond doubt that there was no direct heir in existence. So, with your permission, we will divide the money between us, and even then I shall have more than I shall know what to do with."

Clement, of course, would agree to no such proposition. The world should know him only as Clement Fildew, a painter of pictures for his daily bread. Slingsby was evidently much disappointed. Finding all his arguments of no avail, he rose to go; but, before leaving, he took a glance around the room at the various canvases, finished and unfinished, some of them Clem's and some Tony Macer's, that were either stretched on the easels or hanging on the walls. Over the fire-place hung a little sketch in crayons of two female heads. "I ought to know those faces," said Slingsby, as soon as his eyes lighted on the sketch. "One of them is the likeness of my cousin Cecilia, and the other that of her friend, Miss Browne."

"Yes. I had the honor of painting Miss Collumpton's portrait—and also that of Miss Browne."

The tell-tale color rushed to Clement's face as he finished speaking. Slingsby, slow of apprehension in some things, did not fail to notice this.

"Here's a romance!" he muttered to himself. "I verily believe our friend the earl has fallen in love with the stately Mora. Just the kind of girl to take a painter's eye."

"If it would not be looked upon as an intrusion," said Slingsby, as he stood for a moment with Clement's hand in his, "I should like to bring a couple of friends of mine to-morrow morning to see one or two of the things you have here."

"I shall be very pleased to see both you and your friends," said Clement, heartily.

A little before noon next day Slingsby, Cecilia, and Mora alighted at the door of Clement's studio. Slingsby had got the girls to promise overnight that they would go with him next morning to see some pictures, painted by a friend of his, which he was very anxious they should not miss. Absorbed in conversation, neither Cecilia nor Mora noticed in which direction they were being driven, and it was not till the brougham drew up that they discovered where they were. They interchanged looks of consternation which were not lost on Slingsby.

"This is Mr. Fildew's studio," said Cecilia. "We have been here before."

"I am quite aware of that," answered Slingsby. "But since you were here last Mr. Fildew has painted a really remarkable picture, which I am very anxious that you should see."

After this there was nothing for it but to make their way to the studio, and leave the result to the chapter of accidents.

As they entered the room Clement put down his brush and palette and came forward to greet them. But, before any one else had time to say a word, Slingsby burst in. "Permit me to have the honor of introducing you to the Earl of Loughton," he said. "Your lordship has met these ladies before. My cousin, Miss Collumpton; Miss Browne."

"The Earl of Loughton?" exclaimed both ladies, in a breath.

"Miss Collumpton! Miss Browne!" gasped Clement, as he gripped

Slingsby by the arm. "You are mistaken. This is Miss Collumpton, and this"—taking Cecilia by the hand—"is Miss Browne, whom, now that you have told her something which I did not intend her to know for a long time to come, I beg to introduce to you as my promised wife."

In speechless bewilderment Slingsby stared from one to the other. Twice he strove to speak, but words failed him. Cecilia and Mora, too, were like people lost in a maze, while on Clement's face there was a look of fatuity, such as no one had ever seen there before.

And so the curtain falls, and our little tragi-comedy comes to an end.

Clement and Cecilia were married the following spring, when the woodland ways were all aglow with bursting buds and delicate blooms. After the wedding they set out for Italy, which Clement had long been desirous of visiting for artistic purposes. His brush and palette are still as dear to him as ever they were, and Cecilia does not wish it otherwise. He still paints under his old name of Clement Fildew, and in the Republic of Art he is known by no other.

The Dowager Countess of Loughton shut her doors inexorably against the new earl and his wife. She vowed that she would never see Cecilia again, and she kept her word. She died in the winter following her niece's marriage, and bequeathed all she was possessed of to Mr. Boscombe. She died in ignorance of Slingsby's marriage, otherwise she would probably have altered her will at the last moment.

Slingsby lives the life of a quiet country gentleman, and in it he finds his happiness. He is lord-lieutenant of his county, but beyond that he has no ambition, political or otherwise. He has a large family and a large estate. He is a pattern husband, an excellent father, and the best angler within twenty miles of his house. He has also some capital shooting, which his friends do not fail to appreciate.

Miss Browne succeeded in the ambition of her life: slow, steady patience such as hers generally does succeed in the long run. A rich iron-master saw her, approved of her, proposed, and was accepted. Mora lives at a splendid place in Wales, and is happy in her cold, stately, unsympathetic way. It is to be hoped that her husband, who is said by some people to have married her for love, is equally satisfied.

Tony Macer now writes A.R.A. after his name, and the dignity will lose nothing at his hands. He is still a bachelor, and likely to remain one. His house in St. John's Wood is presided over by a young sister, and has a crowd of poor relations perpetually hovering round it, but Tony is never so happy as when doing a kindness to some one. He and "Clement Fildew" are as great chums as ever they were, and smoke many a "short gun" together over their talk of days gone by, and the pictures they hope to paint in days to come. Mr. Macer's portrait of Lady Loughton in last year's Academy was one of the hits of the season.

THE END.

Written for the Critic.

## "YSONDE."

TOLD BY AN OLD WOMAN.

Truly, "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamed of in our philosophy." I am an old woman now, and can look calmly and unemotionally back over the pages that have been written and laid away for many years. There is an incident as I recall it that now causes me to ponder over some of the things that are veiled from us, yet of which a glimpse is occasionally revealed. It is of a strange event in Clement's life that I am about to tell you. Our home was in an ordinary enough English village, where no one would suppose anything outside of the ordinary events of every day life would be likely to happen. Clement was my son, the only child it had pleased Providence to bestow upon me; and we were always very great friends, though I was twenty-five years his senior.

I had always preserved an influence over him, even when he was at college, and at the age when boys object to be tied to their mother's apron strings. And after that, when he had gone out into the world, and mingled with the great surging, hurrying mass of humanity, bent upon gain or pleasure, he always told me his best friend was a woman who lived in a quiet little town not quite a hundred miles from London, the sable of whose hair was already turning to silver, though not much more than fifty years had passed over her head.

People called Clement reckless and wild, even dissipated, but I never harangued him upon living a life such as would accord with my own ideas of exemplary youth. I thought so many mothers lost their influence by that perpetual hectoring over every escapade that might not be strictly consistent in the daily walk of an archbishop.

The man who at twenty five or six has sown his wild oats and is done with them, is, to my mind, much more a man than one who has reached that age and never had any wild oats to sow.

I should have felt timid some years ago about expressing this opinion before the good matrons and dowagers who honor me with a place among them, but with years we gain courage, and if my ideas appear too liberal for a sober English matron of sixty, I can only say that my object some years ago was accomplished by not holding too rigid ideas upon the subject. The perfect confidence between Clement and me, which must have been forfeited if I had taken the stand of mentor and inquisitor, always remained unbroken.

But you will accuse me of becoming prosy if I do not proceed with the story.

First I will tell you of Clement. He was about twenty-five when this event happened which changed the current of his life. He was very hand-

some. It is not because I was his mother and perhaps considered my own goose a swan, that I say this. Anyone who knew him will tell you so. He was tall and his face had the same rich mellow tints and deep, lustrous, burning dark eyes that had distinguished his father. "L'enfant de l'amour toujours ressemble le père," the French say. In the summer Clement always came down to Donnithorne for a week or two. He had to live in London, because, though our pedigree was a tolerably long one, our purse did not exactly correspond with it in that respect. To be sure there was the solid old stone house that had been lived in by generations of Wvills, nestled among the tall trees and few acres—*very few acres*—of park, and there was my own little income beside my marriage portion, which sufficed to keep the wolf from the door. But it never would have suited Clement to poke about in idleness in a little country village all his life, so he had chambers at the Middle Temple and was, they told me, a rapidly rising barrister.

If the sunlight through the trees in summer was less bright, or the moaning of the wind in the autumn more dreary after he left, it is not to be wondered at. He came down as often as possible and always for two or three weeks in the summer.

When the year 1875 was six months old he came down as usual, just the time of year when all the country had put on a smile of welcome, and the long green lanes were sweet with the scent of sweet briar and violets, mingled with whiffs of fragrance from the heaps of newly mown hay in the meadows beyond.

How well I remember the first afternoon he came, we went for an arm in arm stroll through the old park. We usually choose the time shortly before dinner, when the sun was just disappearing and the air was golden with his parting beams and all around us

"The look of old warm woods that lie  
Low in the lap of evening bright,  
And bathed in vast tranquillity."

After he had told me all of his London life that he thought would interest me, I related as much of our small doings as I thought would be safe without boring him. I had made a new friend and was anxious to tell him about her. Perhaps it was a little odd for an elderly woman always to have her greatest friends among those so much younger than herself. Though I admire the riper intelligence of the older people, and have a proper respect, I hope, for heads grown bare or silver with years, still youth has an irresistible attraction for me.

This friend of mine was not much more than twenty. She had been staying for the last month with the Kedstons. Sir George was the county magnate, rather a stern, unapproachable old man. He had two sons; the elder, George, would probably reign in his stead some day; the younger, Hugh, was studying for the ministry. He intended the next summer to devote his stalwart form and scholarly intellect to the cure of souls in his father's parish of Donnithorne. When I had finished telling him of the Kedston's visitor, the sun had gone down, and the dew was falling, so we went into the house to our little tete-a-tete dinner.

We went the next day to Ellersley, Sir George Kedston's place, for afternoon tea. I know men in their souls despite those feminine maniahs, but Clement came with me, and George Kedston was there, and Ysonde, that was the Christian, or as they used to call her, her then name, of the young woman. I had been telling Clement of her the day before. She was engaged to be married to Hugh Kedston when another season had rolled around. He was not present to day. His brother George appeared to be doing the honors in his absence, and was leaning over the back of Ysonde's chair and rather monopolizing her. I noticed that before we left Clement was conversing with her. He had got Lady Kedston to present him, and in some way or other had routed George. Clement had a way of getting his little every-day tableaux arranged to his satisfaction. Well, the weeks of his visit went by and for the first time in my life I was beginning to wish he would go.

We old people see a good deal more than we get credit for, and I could see that his dark eyes burned brighter when Ysonde was near, and I saw that though she came to see me as usual, she was not quite so frank as when I first knew her. There was a tinge of reserve that I had not observed before.

There was a vein of rare humor in Ysonde's composition, which is a gift we seldom see in a girl. It is a quality that usually comes with riper years, when we have discovered the folly of taking all the small happenings in this little world, or, I should say, in our little corner of the world, "au grand sérieux." She had a way of perceiving always the humorous side of things without being at all silly.

As the time went on I could no longer shut my eyes to the fact that Clement was falling in love with her.

He had survived several seasons in London without becoming a victim. He never was much of what we call a society man. I mean that he avoided balls and dances and all such means of torture, as he called them, where people flocked for amusement. Of course he met a good many people in different ways in the city. Though he did refuse all invitations to balls and things of that kind, he went to a reception occasionally. But he had arrived at his twenty-fifth year without a serious "affaire du coeur."

When his heart was really touched I knew it would be for always. That if he ever did fall in love it would be with his whole heart.

Notwithstanding modern unbelief, I am still old-fashioned enough to believe that love still exists occasionally between a man and a woman, so strong and true, that it can survive even through the difficult, arduous, sorrowful life we lead. Of course there is a great deal of sentimental rubbish called love that is not such at all, and no wonder that many ridicule the existence of it after having a caricature of it paraded before their eyes.

(To be Concluded.)

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## MINING.

**ANALYTICAL DEPARTMENT.**—To meet a long felt want THE CRITIC has made arrangements with a competent Analyst who will determine the quality of all specimens sent to be tested. The fee charged will be from two to eight dollars, according to the difficulty and expense incurred by the analyst in making the analysis. The strictest secrecy will be observed, and the result of the analysis will only be known to the operator and the sender of the sample. Send samples by parcel-post or otherwise, with a fee of two dollars to "Analyst," care A. M. Fraser, Business Manager of THE CRITIC. Should a larger fee be required, the sender will be notified.

**A GOLDEN RULE FOR THE MINE INVESTOR.**—While successful gold mining or successful mining of any description yields a larger return on the outlay than any other business, it should be remembered that the risks of mining are very great. To the large capitalist who can afford delay and loss, it offers an inviting field of speculation, but the man of small means and no experience, should be very wary in putting money into mines.

A greatly beloved merchant of this city, well known as the soul of honor and integrity, who died some years ago, promulgated what should be the golden rule to all would-be-speculators in mines. We have it on the best authority that before embarking in any speculation, he used to put the money required aside and say, "I can afford to lose this." If the speculation was successful, well and good, if not, the loss did not interfere with his legitimate business. We would like to stamp this rule on the minds of all our readers. The practical miner who puts his skill and labor into the business, if unsuccessful in one instance, can still with unimpaired capital, turn his energies in new directions. But the professional man, merchant or mechanic of small means, who depletes his capital to embark in mining, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, is bound to come to grief. One great mistake made by our most honest miners is in greatly underestimating the cost of opening up a mine and placing it on a paying basis. The "wish is father to the thought," and in the enthusiasm engendered by a rich find, they become convinced that only a few thousand dollars are needed to win a fortune. Full of honest enthusiasm they prevail on friends to back them up with funds, in many cases guaranteeing a certain fortune. The hope of sudden wealth induces many, who cannot afford a loss, to embark their all in the enterprise, and when results are not realized and they are called on for more funds, nothing but ruin stares them in the face. It is no alleviation to their troubles to know that the mine is doubtless worth millions. That the unfortunate caving in of a shaft, or a temporary loss of the lead, or an unexpected flooding of the mine, necessitating expensive pumping machinery, has caused all their plans to miscarry, is no answer to the creditor who demands his due. They are suddenly called on to "pay up or shut up," their interest in that mine is seized on and sold for a mere nothing, and they are cast penniless on a heartless world.

A mining excitement that draws into the vortex of speculation business men who need every cent of their money to conduct their affairs, is to be deplored, and is the main reason why mining to many really shrewd business men is synonymous with ruin. A fair analysis would prove that the individual and not the mine is to blame, but in these cases a fair analysis is out of the question. If investors in mines could only follow the golden rule laid down and not invest more than they could afford to lose, much misery would be avoided, and mining would rapidly come into favor. It should always be remembered, no matter how fine the prospects, that it takes a large amount of money to make a successful mine. That it is the falsest kind of economy to place mining operations in the charge of cheap men. Really able mining engineers command large salaries, but they save them ten times over in the skill and economy with which they conduct mining operations. No one can see a foot underground and the best indications may prove fallacious, but where the works are in charge of competent men, the risks are reduced to the minimum. While we would advise small capitalists to avoid mining, we would urge the large capitalists in our midst to investigate the great mineral resources of our Province, with the view of aiding in their development. No part of the world offers a better field for wise and prudent investments, and when our monied men discover this fact, a bonanza king will soon be forthcoming.

**GOLD RIVER.**—Mr. G. J. Heisler has been pushing operations on his property and has proved the existence of four fine leads. The largest is 15 feet thick and yields an average of 5oz. to the ton. Mr. Heisler is about leaving the city to superintend the sinking of a main shaft on the 15 ft. lead, and is making arrangements to erect a 20 stamp mill. He has just purchased the freehold of the property, some 140 acres, on which his claims are located from the Heatherington estate. The late Mr. Heatherington must have been a mining engineer of the highest qualifications and of great practical experience, as properties in several different districts that were originally owned by him, are now turning out to be the best in the Province. His memory should be revered by every miner in the country, and his labors in promoting legitimate mining should warrant the local government in erecting a suitable monument to commemorate his many virtues.

The Gold River district will soon be making large returns to the Mines Office, as the new 25 stamp mill on the Nelson, McGuire property, is almost ready to start up. The main lead on this property is 15 ft. thick, and a large quantity of good pay ore is now ready for the crusher.

**HOW THEY MISSED A FORTUNE.**—Fifteen years ago C. J. Brand, the well-known jeweler of this city, assisted his father-in-law, Mr. Thoss, now deceased, to open up a quartz mine in Calaveras County. The vein was a strong one, remarkably well defined and on the surface was rich, yielding as high as \$210 per ton. They erected a mill and expended considerable

money in fitting up a plant for permanent working. After sinking down to a considerable depth and taking out a number of thousand of dollars the ledge began to change from heavily sulphureted ore to white barren quartz. The ledge pitched to the east, and, according to the mining rule, the pay chute should have pitched to the north. Supposing that they had gone through the south corner of the chute, instead of drifting north they sank a shaft further up the hill, northward. Here they found no ore, and, after spending considerable money, they started another shaft still farther north, and with the same result as before. Finally, after prospecting for nearly two years, they were obliged to abandon their enterprise. Mr. Thoss had expended over \$35,000, and Mr. Brand had spent all the money he had, and, besides, had worked like a slave for two years. They became involved in debt. Mr. Thoss' property was sold at Sheriff's sale and the family was broken up, so far as their financial affairs were concerned.

For twelve years the mine lay unclaimed, and was considered worthless. Two or three years ago parties who probably had not learned its history relocated it and commenced the work of development. They started a tunnel farther down the hill, on the south, and after running a distance of 300 feet, cut the ledge. It has developed into one of the best pieces of mining property in the county. The vein is about three feet thick, and the ore shipped from it has been selling in San Francisco for \$80 per ton. Joseph Olive of this city has just returned from the mine, where he has been employed putting up reduction works, and he says that it promises to be a bonanza. But the thing that interests Mr. Brand most is that the point at which the bonanza was rediscovered is just eight feet south of where he put in his last blast, and at a greater depth. Had he run eight feet further he would have come into the pay ore and would have learned that the pay chute, instead of following the rule and pitching to the left, forms an exception to the rule and pitches to the right, forms an exception to the rule and pitches to the right. It is vexatious and mortifying to think that but eight feet of tunnel lay between financial ruin and independent riches; and a fortune was lost through too close adherence to mining rules. Gold is where you find it.—*Nevada, Cal. Tri-Weekly Herald.*

**BROOKFIELD MINE.**—The best proof of the value of this mine lies in the fact that Capt. Brown has lately paid a visit to the city and brought with him a substantial gold brick.

**LAKE CATCHA DISTRICT.**—Mr. Henry Archibald has secured a bond of the Cogswell areas (west block), and has succeeded in finding the long looked for big lead that it was known must be somewhere on the property. He struck it under the roadway and found that it was over three feet thick, and gold bearing. He and his partner, Mr. Fraser, are old hands, and if they once get the scent of a lead are bound to trace it up.

**MALAGA LAKE.**—Prospecting has been pushed on the McGuire, Nelson & Smith areas, and a belt of thirteen leads, all rich in gold, has been developed. The leads are in slate formation, well drained, and are from six to eighteen inches thick. Some of them will average 4 oz. to the ton. A 30 stamp mill will be put up at once. A new and valuable discovery has been made to the Eastward, on property belonging to the same parties.

**MILERSIC LAKE.**—The Duluth Gold Mining Company have put up another Wiswell mill, and are also erecting a 30 stamp crusher. They are getting out great quantities of low grade ore, which, we are informed, is improving in richness as depth is reached. Mr. Fink has returned from his trip to Duluth, and under his skilful guidance the mechanical department of the mine will be placed in a condition of great efficiency.

The official returns for last month have not come forward very briskly. We will publish the complete returns next week. Below will be found the returns, so far as received—

District.	Mill.	Tons.	Ozs.
Sherbrooke.....	Miner's.....	64	22½
".....	Goldenville.....	289	45½
".....	Crow's Nest... ..	37½	38
East Rawdon.....	McNaughton's... ..	404	195½
".....	Rawdon.....	250	180
Cariboo.....	Caffroy.....	21	5

**ANOTHER MINER'S ELECTRIC LAMP.**—Mr. Miles Settle, of the Madeley Coal and Iron Company and the Leycey Collieries, whose name is well known in connection with the water cartridge, has, *Industries* states, invented an electric safety lamp, of extreme simplicity in construction and of great efficiency in operation. Experiments are being made with it in the mines under Mr. Settle's management.

**CARBONATE OF MANGANESE IN NORTH WALES.**—Recently a large deposit of carbonate of manganese has been discovered near Harlech, in North Wales. This is the only known occurrence of this mineral in Great Britain. The owners of the Mastyn iron-works are the proprietors, and considerable quantities of the ore have been sent to Mastyn for the manufacture of spiegeleisen.

**A NEW ELECTRICAL EXPERIMENT.**—We learn from *l'Electricien* that M. H. Dunville pledges his scientific reputation to the accuracy of the following observation; If two glasses of water be placed, one upon the north pole of a powerful magnet, and the other upon the south pole, in four or five minutes the former acquires a slight alkaline reaction, while that on the south pole becomes slightly acid.

## THE MARITIME PATRON, AND ORGAN OF THE Maritime Provincial Grange—Patrons of Husbandry.

"In Essentials Unity - In Non-essentials Liberty - In All Things Charity."

[All communications intended for this column should be sent to the editor of the Maritime Patron, EDWIN S. CREED, M. D., Newport.]

The Dominion Grange held sessions at Toronto during the latter days of last month, commencing on the 27th. When full reports are received we will endeavor to give a synopsis of the proceedings.

The National Grange held its twentieth session in the City of Brotherly Love on the 11th ult. and subsequent days. A grand public reception was accorded the delegates in attendance, on which occasion every seat in the Music Fund Hall was filled, and many stood who could not find seats. Brother Leonard Rhone, Worthy Master of Pennsylvania State Grange, delivered the address of welcome, to which the Worthy Master of Alabama State Grange, Brother B. C. Harrison, responded. The singing of "America" by a choir of fifty voices and the large assembly must have been worth hearing. We would like to have been there. Governor Patterson welcomed the Grange on behalf of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and J. H. Brigham, Worthy Master of Ohio State Grange, responded. Mayor Smith being unavoidably absent, was represented by Capt. Leabourne, who bid the National Grange welcome to "the great old city whose people know no north, no south, no east, no west, but one il g, one country, and one God to worship." Governor Robie, of Maine, Editor A. K. McClure and Brother W. A. Armstrong, Master of New York State Grange and Editor of the Elmira "Husbandman," delivered appropriate and stirring addresses, and after some more music the exercises closed.

It is as it should be that a grand enthusiastic public reception, such as this that was accorded the National Grange by the representatives of a populous and wealthy State and metropolis, should be given to the representatives of a great Agricultural organization, the broad and noble objects of which are to "promote the welfare of the country and of mankind," by increasing the professional knowledge and skill, and the political and social status and influence, and elevating the characters of agriculturists.

Governor Pattison in his address, "told the assembled Patrons that the country was in their power, that they controlled the farms and the people, and that if anything goes wrong it was their fault and that America's future was in their hands," and Editor McClure told them that "it was their own fault they were not represented in the Legislatures, and that when the Granges helped themselves, the newspaper press of the country would help them."

We are pleased to know that these truths are being uttered by influential representative men; they should be reiterated, especially from every Grange platform, until farmers occupy the position to which they are entitled to, and honorably fill that position.

We are indebted to the American Grange Bulletin, of Cincinnati, for the information given above. The California Patron publishes the Annual Report of the Master of the National Grange, which occupies four closely printed columns, an entire page of that journal, and is, like its predecessors, an able, and in its political utterances, statesmanlike document. It should be studied by every Patron.

We shall endeavor to have it published for this purpose. Bro. Darden, Worthy Master of the National Grange, concisely but exhaustively reviews the mission of the Order in his jurisdiction during the twenty years of its existence, what it has accomplished, the work before it, and the condition of the Order in the United States.

What is claimed for the Order in the following language in this Report, we claim to be equally applicable, with necessary verbal alterations, to the Order in this Dominion.

"Notwithstanding its large membership—scattered over this broad land in nearly every county, parish, state and territory—it has never disturbed the peace of the country, or done anything hostile to the general welfare. Opposed to all class antagonisms, its tendency has ever been to development and improvement. It offers to the American farmer the only well grounded hope for protecting and advancing his interests."

The space at our disposal will not permit of further reference at present to this report or other proceedings of the National Grange.

The Report of the Master of the Dominion Grange, presented at the 12th annual session of that body, held on Saturday, 27th ult., is published in the Toronto "Mail." We are indebted to Bro. Geo. L. Sellers, one of the delegates from the Maritime Provincial Grange, for copies of this paper.

Worthy Master Wilkie in his report reviews the blessings and mercies enjoyed by Canadian farmers during the past year. He refers to the condition of the deserving poor which he contrasts with that of the comparatively comfortably provided for criminal class. A rather gloomy view is taken of the standing of a large proportion of the agricultural class, who are declared to be under bondage to mortgagees. Almost as gloomy a view is expressed of farming as a business, but hope is seen in organization and cooperation as a means of triumphing over rings, monopolies, trade and traffic combinations and exactions, and of obtaining for farmers a fair share of representative in legislative assemblies. Our worthy brother vigorously condemns party politics and raucor. "No party," he says, "is always right, and no party always wrong. \* \* \* The men who support one

party, are about as good and intelligent as those who support the other." And he exclaims, "If we could only cast aside this party nonsense and work together for our common good and the good of our country \* \* \* how much good we could accomplish." The Grange press of Canada and the United States is recommended to the generous support of Patrons. The important subjects of "forestry," "Fraternalization with other labor organizations," "The labor question," "The unsatisfactory condition of the Order in Ontario, and remedies for that condition," are briefly but ably treated, and the report closes with the hope that the Dominion Grange "may be able to devise and mature such measures as will establish strength and harmony in the Order throughout the Dominion."

The "American Grange Bulletin" says that "when cream stands for days, and at a pronounced acid condition, there is a change going on among the butter fats, influencing some and changing others, even developing glycerine, so that when the butter does come it refuses to gather, and the more it is churned the finer it becomes."

**FACTS ABOUT MILK.**—The time and manner of milking must affect the product. It is well known that the first drawn from the udder is not so rich as the last. This is probably because the thinner materials have the best chance to escape, leaving the larger globules to come last. Morning's milk is always better than that obtained in the evening. One milking each day gives richer milk than twice milking, but less in quantity. As milk is an animal secretion manufactured by the cow, it must be evident that whatever worries, frets or torments the cow, or renders her uneasy or uncomfortable, will certainly lessen the quantity and affect the composition of her milk.

As to the chemistry of milk, pasturage and feeding in general must exert a great influence. The adaptation of food for cattle is comparatively a new subject for investigation. A few years ago we heard nothing of oil meal, cotton seed meal, the succulent roots and vegetables, and the exact adaptation of foods to the end in view. Now all this is changed.

Let no one doubt that the first fresh sweetness of summer pasturage yields a larger and better percentage than any other food. I still believe in the silo. I will say, with all candor, after having used ensilage for four years, that I believe in succulent green corn and that in the silo, and fail to find any evil effects therefrom. After the most critical examination, I believe that ensilage is a friend to the farmer. I believe it has not been proven to damage milk, butter or cheese. The most delicate tests that milk and butter have been subjected to have failed to discover the least injurious product where good ensilage was used.

It is true of ensilage, as of all kinds of food, if the material is poor the product of the cow will be defective. I am satisfied that the use of immature sowed corn is a drug to milk. It renders it indigestible. Many a child in autumn has paid the penalty for using such milk with his life. Why hurry in the use of fodder corn when a few weeks' more growth will triple its value?

All annual plants aim to prepare material for their seed. When corn is tasseled and the ears begin to grow, the corn stalk is full of that rich saccharine matter which presently will be deposited in the perfected ear. Four hundred loads of such corn, cut into half-inch pieces, were deposited last fall in the silos which I built. The time will come when there will be no more question as to the value of preserved green food for cattle than there now is to the utility of canned food for the use of man.

Perfection in dairying is in securing finished results, but will never be obtainable except at the price of utmost care all along the line of production. If there is one man, from the first to the last, lacking intelligence or conscience, we have to pay for it in the markets of the world.

Profit and progress must go hand in hand in this business of dairying. The farmer and farmer's wife who put their cattle in clean, warm, well ventilated stables, who handle the milk with clean hands and the best appreciation of its nice susceptibilities, who, in short, are unconsciously becoming refined and advancing in civilization at the same time that they are reaping the largest profits from their business. The farmer actually rises or falls in manhood in proportion as humane sentiments control him in the treatment of his cattle, or harsh or brutal conduct renders them uncomfortable and unproductive, and their milk feverish and unwholesome.—Prof. Edwards to the *New York Dairymen*.

**REST AND FEED FOR HENS**—A writer on poultry says that after a season of egg production through the summer, a hen is naturally exhausted and wants a rest. Good feeding at this time is more important than at any other, and there is little or no danger that it will cause the fowl to lay on fat. Even corn will not fatten a moulting hen. So soon as she begins to get new feathers, feed liberally with corn and wheat mixed, and egg production will speedily re-commence.

There are many things which the intelligent, up to the times, modern farmer ought of course to do, which it is best to do as a rule, but the doing of which under exceptional circumstances would result in loss. Farmers should get as much of the needed plowing as possible done in the fall. There is a tendency to plow land in the spring before it is really fit, before it will crumble as it turns over from the mould-board and dry shortly after exposure to the air. If plowed wet in the spring, unless it is a decidedly gravelly or sandy loam, land will bake and go into and remain in lumps, that the ordinary harrow can only roll over and knock about, and in which plant food is shut up. Land may, however, be plowed very wet in the fall and be all the better for it in the spring, after the disintegrating and mellow-

ing frosts of winter have acted upon it. But where land rich in soluble plant food is exposed to washing, as on a side hill, these valuable constituents are carried away by the spring rains. This is but one illustration of a principle which it might be well for our farmers to reflect upon and discuss in granges and clubs.

Plow deep is a good motto for the Patron or any farmer, but, is it always good farming to plow deep? Perhaps the manure or the richest layer of the soil may be turned down below the reach of the plants that should find these foods in it and that for a early start in the spring, and perhaps a few inches of cold soil will be turned up that contains no plant food in a soluble condition.

We merely suggest these as subjects for thought and discussion. The fact is that there are no cast-iron rules or maxims in farming, except those which inculcate industry, observation, the study of agricultural principles and thought.

**WINTER PLOWING.**—The "January thaw" does not make its appearance every year, yet there are few winters during which plowing cannot be done, for several days at least, along the fortieth parallel and south of it. The advantages of winter plowing are the gaining of time and the benefit to the ground. If only ten acres are plowed during the winter, there are just that many acres less in the spring, and the gain is considerable. Winter plowing is always beneficial to stiff, heavy soils. Frequently when light soils are plowed in the fall or winter, the ground is packed down by snow and rain until it is as solid in the spring as it was before it was plowed. But there is little danger of stiff soils being reduced to this condition. On the contrary, the disintegrating action of the frost and snow is needed to mellow down the ground. This greatly lessens the work of putting the ground in order in the spring, and really puts it in better mechanical condition than the harrow alone will, no matter how much used. Sod ground is benefited by winter plowing, for the sod will partially rot, and the frost will crumble the stiff turf. Rather light soils, if sodded, may well be plowed in the winter. This is a good season for plowing corn-stalk ground. If the fodder has been cut off, break off the stubs by hitching a horse to each end of a long pole and dragging it against the stubs of a frosty morning. If the stalks have not been cut off, pasture them well first and then break them down in the same way. If turned under during the winter, they will rot more rapidly, and by spring will be in such condition that the harrow will tear them to pieces. For winter plowing, a plow sharply convex is the best, as it will throw the furrows more on edge and break them up. This exposes more surface to the action of the frost, and it will mellow down the lumps till spring. Do not harrow the ground—reserve that till spring. *American Agriculturist for December.*

**EGGS BY WEIGHT.**—Isn't it strange that we buy and sell eggs by number instead of by weight? Number does not show their value; weight does. Some eggs weigh twice as much as others. What justice or business sagacity is there in paying the same price for one as for the other? Is not the farmer who sells a large egg for the same price that his neighbor sells a small one cheated? And is not the buyer of the small egg cheated? Just as well might butter be sold by rolls, the small roll bringing as much as the large one. We do not buy or sell butter by the number of rolls, or meat by the number of pieces, or cheese by number; nor should we sell eggs by number.

If eggs were bought and sold by weight, the value of certain breeds of fowls would be changed. Now the breed that furnishes the greatest number of eggs is the most profitable; then it would be the breed that furnished the greatest weight. Some breeds are remarkable for the smallness of their eggs; such breeds would suffer in popularity, while the fowls that lay large eggs would gain. This would work only justice, however, to the fowls, as it would to their owners and the consumers. Clearly eggs should be sold by weight. Then why does not every one insist upon it?—*American Agriculturist for December.*

**RELIEF FOR CHOKING COW.**—A choking cow can often be relieved by pouring cold water into her ears. Take cold water in a pitcher or teapot, turn the animal's head to one side and pour a good stream directly into the ear. This will cause the cow to jump and shake its head fiercely, and the jerking motion will often dislodge the obstruction. The idea is to make the animal make an effort to free itself. The general practice of pushing the obstruction down the throat or crushing it gives the animal no chance to help itself. A good syringe would be the best thing to force the water into the ear with, but few families have one ready for use, so the common teapot will answer. [Two ounces of glycerine give relief at once.—Ed.]

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On and after MONDAY NEXT, 22nd 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 Stellarton, New Glasgow and Pictou at 1.25 o'clock, p.m.

Second mail for Bedford, Shubenacadie and Truro at 4.20 o'clock, p.m.

The mail for the

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TENDERS will be invited in a few days for the construction of the Section of the Cape Breton Railway extending from the Grand Narrows to Sydney, a distance of about 45 miles. This preliminary notice is given in order that Contractors desiring to tender for the work may have an opportunity to examine the location before the winter sets in.

A. P. BRADLEY,  
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Dept. of Railways and Canals,  
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