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

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The British Navy has been strengthened during the past year by the launch of three ironclads of the first class, the *Trafalgar*, 11,940 tons; the *Victoria*, 10,470, and the *Sans Pareil*, 10,470; of four "belted cruisers" of 5,000 tons each, and six smaller vessels. The speed of the two larger classes is, respectively, 16 and 18 knots, and their armaments are very heavy. Efficiency has also been increased by the introduction of the new Armstrong .36 pr. "quick-firing" gun.

It has been recently stated that a curious feature of death by blizzard is the fact that not unfrequently the victim becomes insane before dying. It is said to be affirmed by persons of extensive N. W. experience, that instances are numerous of people being found with evidence of having lost their reason before dying. They seem, it is said, to have been seized with an irresistible desire to strip themselves and wander off naked. In one case a person was discovered, entirely naked, half a mile from the last article of clothing he had tossed aside. Considering the numbing, paralyzing, and exhaustive effect of the intense cold which invariably accompanies these storms, this statement seems to us to wear a somewhat apocryphal aspect.

Ultra-science, or "finicking" pseudo science, whichever you like to call it, has been for some years propounding from time to time a great deal of hypochondriac stuff about the effect of one edible or potable, or another, to which a healthy organization does not stop to give a thought. Even the cup, which notably "cheers but not inebriates," does not escape. A modicum of sense appears in a recent article in the *Lancet* on this subject in the following sentence:—"Whilst there is no evidence to show that tea causes organic changes in the nervous tissues, yet if such exist, tea may readily aggravate some of the symptoms." "Tea," it is added, "may act as a factor in causing neuralgia, hysteria, and allied affections. When taken constantly, in large doses, dyspepsia usually intervenes before irreparable harm is done to the nervous system." Just so. People can be immoderate with tea as well as with anything else, and sedentary people should not drink too much of it. But in the bush, or on the prairie, people laugh at these fastidious fads and fussy anxieties.

We are glad to see that the communication of A. H. on leprosy in THE CRITIC of 20th ult., has attracted the attention of several of our contemporaries. Our contributor speaks from his own observation, and, although he in no way exaggerates the possible danger, but states that the disease has, so far as he knows, not spread to any great extent, yet its existence at all, and any increase, however small, seem to call for legislative measures.

A veritable case of broken-heart presented itself a short time since at a work house in Liverpool, G. B. At the post-mortem examination of a woman aged 60, the heart was found to be the seat of a veritable rupture, extending from the apex upwards. It was entirely due to natural causes of disease, unconnected with any violence, and of course equally unconnected with the old sentimental idea formerly attached to the term "broken hearted."

An English exchange says:—General Tchen ki-Tong, military attaché to the Chinese Embassy in Paris, has written to M. Franck, Professor of the Academy of Sciences, to thank him for making him a member of the French Anti-Atheist League. He takes advantage of the occasion to enlighten Europeans on an interesting point of Chinese theology. The General says it is not true, as the materialists declare, that the Chinese are atheists. On the contrary, they recognize and proclaim the existence of God. He protests against the attempt made to prove that Confucius was a materialist. He says that God and Heaven are synonymous terms among the Celestials. Moreover, as further proof of their belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, he informs us that the word atheist does not exist in the Chinese language, and that the Emperor of China is regarded by his subjects as the representative of the Divinity.

Adams, the real discoverer of the planet Neptune, has calculated that the friction of the tides actually slows the revolution of the earth to the extent of about an hour in 16,000 years. It is therefore coming to rest, though, it must be admitted, after a leisurely fashion. A conclusion arrived at by Prof. Adams can hardly be called a theory, but, call it what we will, it is a confirmation of the marvellous prescience of Newton, who maintained that the motions of all bodies in space suffer retardation, and will ultimately cease. Nevertheless, though, as we said, the process is leisurely, it is not, when we come to think of it, by any means inappreciable on the great scale of astronomical periods. An hour in 16,000 years means $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes in 2,000 years. It would therefore seem that the length of the day may, if the calculation be correct, and if no counteracting conditions exist of which we are ignorant, be longer by $7\frac{1}{2}$ minutes than it was 112 years before the Christian era, i. e., about the time when Marius was charged with the conduct of the Jugurthine war.

The sidewalks of our goodly city are a source of annoyance and of danger, both to residents and to visitors at all periods of the year. In the summer they are uneven, because they are unscientifically laid. In the winter they are either covered with snow to a depth of several inches, interspersed with ridges running laterally and inclining on either hand, or else they are a glare of ice, on which it is impossible to walk, except with the greatest caution, and then at the probable risk of broken limbs, or of danger to adjoining property in the shape of glazed windows. We submit that this state of things is not creditable to the civic authorities. The ridges to which allusion has above been made, are caused in the first place by people walking during a snowstorm in the footsteps of their predecessors, generally along the middle of the sidewalk, and thus beating down a path under their tracks. When the owners of properties endeavor to comply with the law, which requires them to clear the sidewalks in front of their premises, they generally clear a portion of the loose snow, but do not remove the ridges. When a heavy rain falls on snow covered or frozen streets, ice rapidly forms, and at night the danger is greatly augmented by the uncertain and flickering illumination supplied by the electric light system. Existing civic laws, we believe, seek to compel the clearance of snow from the front of their houses by the occupants, and forbid the sprinkling of ashes. If this be correct, both regulations are conspicuous failures. Householders and shopkeepers disobey both with absolute impunity. But there is this difference in the rationale of the disobedience. Disregard of the former provision creates a danger; disregard of the latter may save many a broken limb. It is quite a moot point whether it would not be far more expedient that the Corporation should charge itself with clearing the pavements, than that a futile law should remain on the civic statute book, while, so long as nobody clears them, the householder who sprinkles ashes deserves very differently of his fellow citizens than to be set down, even in theory, as a breaker, (or at least disregarder,) of an existing law. It is really high time that the City Council took this matter into their serious consideration.

EDUCATIONAL EXACTION.

A young lady, the first "girl-graduate" of Columbia College, died recently at the early age of 24. We do not learn the cause of her death, but she is said to have mastered Latin, Greek, French, German and Spanish, besides *belles-lettres*, mathematics, and other college requirements. This splendid list of accomplishments, if not much exaggerated, suggests a painful doubt as to how much the acquirements may have had to do with the premature overthrow of so much promise.

There is something very sad in the thought of the many possibilities of early wreck—and of course chiefly of the most promising—rendered more than likely by some of the demands of our modern ideas of education, in which too many subjects are attempted, and too few mastered with any degree of thoroughness. There would, we think, be wisdom in the bestowal of much greater care in the selection of main points, and in a careful consideration of their suitability to the capacities, tastes, temperaments, and probable future life of pupils, than now prevail. Besides too large and discursive a field, the school systems are also chargeable with the encouragement of manuals of a pedantic prolixity which not only display want of breadth in their compilers, and in the educational authorities who sanction them, but constitute a tax on the young brain as wearisome and pernicious as it is entirely superfluous. The most striking instance which occurs to us is in English grammar, the school handbooks of which, with their involved and complicated mazes of pedantic terms, move the absolute contempt of men whose grammatical ideas and practice were derived from the quaint and simple rules of the old Eton Latin Grammar, which, we may remark, we think to have been spoiled by priggish modernizing, and which hundreds of eminent men of letters whose style is only rarely equalled, found sufficient for the production of English as faultless as English ever can be.

But the death of this young lady correlates with another thought which has impressed itself upon us from observation to which we have been led.

We fear that overstrain and exhaustion of the immature system may arise not alone from the *cacoethes* of cramming in school, but from an undue tax on the physical powers in going to and from school, and this is likely to tell more on the future constitution of girls than on that of boys.

Every day may be seen coming down to Halifax by the morning train a bevy of young ladies—some five or six—none of whom, we believe, come from a nearer point than Elmsdale, some from farther. We have seen some of them, when the street cars were full or not on hand, walking down from North Street, and sometimes walking up again in the face of a sharp wind for the 5 o'clock train. Taking into consideration the early hour at which these young ladies must rise to catch the train in the morning, the late hour at which they must reach their homes, and the preparation of school-work, they must, perforce, do at home over night, and we cannot resist the strong impression that the whole combined arrangement must be a strain on the young constitution which, we should much fear, will be found to bear its fruit in the future, in the shape of weakness more or less prolonged.

Education is the most valuable of privileges, and many, if not most, parents naturally make great sacrifices to ensure it to their children. Our only fear is, that it may not always be a benefit unalloyed by serious drawbacks.

PERPETUAL MOTION.

Among the many attempts to solve the problem of perpetual motion which once occupied the minds of scientific men, we remember to have heard of one which was said to have been for years open to the inspection of visitors to the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, and which, it was claimed, would continue to work as long at least as the springs of the machine would last. The device was simple enough. It consisted of a narrow steel tray, perfectly balanced on a central pivot, under each end was a strong spring, a metal ball was placed on the tray, and set in motion; the springs were so adjusted that when the weight of the ball brought one end of the tray down, the spring repulsed it and sent the ball to the other. The mechanism, though simple, was said to be perfect in adjustment, and the material the best procurable. And so the ball was set rolling, and, for aught we know, the tray may be oscillating to this day, and "continue the motion" till the springs weaken.

There is no harm in this ball, but there is another ball which has been set going apparently with the like perpetuity of motion, but altogether lacking in the innocent curiosity which prompted the initial motion of the artillery scientific plaything. Our ball indeed is fraught with sinister consequences to us all. We refer to the perpetual demands made upon both the Dominion and Local Governments for subsidies to aid in constructing railways. In referring to the subject we do not lay ourselves open to the charge of partizanship, as both the great political parties of the Dominion are using railway subsidies in the most open manner as a bid for political support. The Dominion Government, having the most money at its command, has the greater advantage, but the Local Governments, in their more restricted fields, are profuse in promises, many of which we shrewdly suspect they hope never to be called upon to perform. A few of these railway schemes will prove of great value to the country, and it is wise to aid them with government guarantees or cash subsidies. But the ball, having been set in the motion by the large outlay on the Canada Pacific, (a work of national importance, but directly beneficial to the central and western sections of the Dominion,) a great cry has gone up from the east, that their wants must now be attended to, and additional millions expended in providing new lines of railway. Promoters are busily employed in mapping out new routes. They care not whether the roads are necessary or will pay, so long as they can secure the Local and Dominion subsidies,

and float the stocks and bonds to their great pecuniary profit. In this Province there are two important roads that should be completed; but political manipulators, in their efforts to make capital for their respective parties out of the Dominion and Local subsidies, have so far prevented the accomplishment of most necessary works. We refer to the missing link between the Windsor and Annapolis and Western Counties railway, and to the Nova Scotia Central road. The Western Counties, in fact the whole province, would benefit through the completion of these roads, and yet political jealousy stands in the way. The syndicate formed in the time of the Thompson-Holmes Government to consolidate and complete the railroads of the province was certainly a good move, but unfortunately, if the scheme had been allowed to go through, it would have proved beneficial, politically to the Conservative party, and financially to several prominent members of that party. When the Pipes (Liberal Government) secured the control, enough flaws were found in the scheme to warrant its downfall on political grounds. The Fielding Government has since had overtures from another syndicate, and a new act of consolidation, similar in many respects to the former, has been passed. The province having turned over the Eastern Extension to the Dominion, and surrendered their rights to the Pictou Branch, the scheme is not financially as sound as the first, and capitalists have apparently given it the cold shoulder. As its success would tend to strengthen the Liberal party, the "powers that be" at Ottawa will hardly co-operate, and so the responsibility is shifted from the Dominion to the Local Government, and *vice versa*, and nothing is accomplished. We believe that the Province is really too poor to undertake the subsidizing of railways, and that it should proclaim this fact, and thus throw the entire responsibility for the completion of these needed works on the Dominion Government. This is the true course to follow, but as it would tend to strengthen the Conservative party, it is hardly likely to be adopted. The ball of political strength gained by the granting of railway subsidies, is kept perpetually on the move, and both parties in their struggles to apply it to their own uses squander millions on useless roads, while necessary works, which neither can control to their sole advantage, are passed over. If this kind of perpetual motion is kept up, only one result is certain, and that is that the Dominion of Canada is bound financially to come to grief.

THE STEAMER QUESTION.

We last week noted how much the magnificent steamers sailing between England and Australia contribute to the progress made by that colony.

The London *Weekly Bulletin*, in mentioning the fact that 1888 is Australia's centenary, gives some remarkable figures which can scarcely fail to be of interest to Canadians, in view of the fast coming close connection which will ere long no doubt be established between the two countries. The progress made by the great continent of Australia in the century which has elapsed since the British flag was planted on the shores of Sydney Harbor has no parallel in the history of the world, if we except the United States.

Between 1851 and the end of 1886, the total yield of gold produced in Australia had reached the enormous amount of eighty-one million ounces, equal in value to over £317,000,000 stg., to say nothing of other minerals, including the great copper mines of South Australia, and the imperfectly known resources of West Australia. The coal-fields of the colony embrace an area of 25,000 square miles, more than six times the extent of those of Great Britain, whose annual output exceeds 150,000,000 tons.

After the lapse of a century, the population of Australia has grown from 1030 to 2,700,000; or, including Tasmania and New Zealand, to fully 3,500,000. This is a marvellous increase when we remember that Canada, which is only slightly larger than Australia, has been settled more than a century longer, and is so much more accessible for European settlement, only contains about a million and a half more inhabitants.

As an illustration of the immense growth of Australia, we may adduce the following figures:—On May 1, 1788, its live stock mustered 1 stallion, 3 mares, 3 colts, 2 bulls, 5 cows, 29 sheep, 13 goats, 74 pigs, 5 rabbits, 18 turkeys, 29 geese, 38 ducks, and 142 fowls. On May 1, 1886, the live stock in Australia consisted of 1,372,756 horses, 8,264,778 head of cattle, 86,352,020 sheep, and 1,143,966 pigs. The increase of rabbits is a sore subject, and, unfortunately, quite beyond the reach of statistics. The production of wool in 1886 amounted in value to £16,218,846; and, as regards trade, the imports had reached £60,000,000, and the exports £50,000,000. The annual revenue is not less than £25,000,000, which is about one-fourth that of the Mother Country, whilst the population is only about one-tenth. The assets of the Australian banks amount to £140,000,000, and the Government savings-banks hold deposits to the amount of £12,000,000.

We have before alluded to the peculiarly favorable circumstances of the great Island Continent, which, combined with the wonderful increase of her population and resources, destine her in the next century to become one of the great powers of the world. Entirely free from the international complications which distract our own otherwise happy land, the maintenance of her loyalty to, and affection for, the old country, has been not only easy to her, but congenial, as is evident from the practical proofs she has given of her attachment. These circumstances have enabled her at the same time both to profit by the Imperial connection, and to contribute to its efficiency by the establishment of armaments of her own, naval and military, on a scale of practical value; and, in fine, she has now attained that stage of growth and existent prosperity, when all future progress has become both easy and secure. It might well be wished that the future of Canada was as clear.

It seems, however, tolerably clear that, though doubtless in less degree than Australia, Canada could not but derive some access of strength from the establishment of a line of steamers up to the standard of the day.

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

We were playing at see-saw—
 'Twas thirteen years ago—
 Sweet little Patience Preston,
 With her brow as white as snow,
 With her eyes of sunny blue,
 And her curls of golden shine;
 I thought her the dearest little girl,
 And vowed she would be mine.

But we were only five years old—
 Love was the prize we sought—
 That I was rich and she was poor
 We never gave a thought.
 But we were only five years old,
 And we are eighteen now,
 And she is rich and I am poor,
 And when we meet—we bow.

There is one crop that never fails. It belongs to the chicken.

"Waiter, can you bring me a nice young chicken smothered in onions?"
 "No, sah; we doesn't kill 'om dat way, sah. We cuts off d'er heads."

The young king of Spain is 17 months old, and has a salary of \$1,000,000 a year. He seems to be doing very well indeed for a young man.

Stable-keeper: "By the way, shall I put in an extra buffalo?" English dude—"Couldn't you let me 'ave an 'orse, you know? Er—er—rather not drive a buffalo, first time you know."

Some one has invented a new style of boy's trousers, which is highly recommended. They have a copper seat and sheet iron knees, are riveted down in the seams, and have water-proof pockets to hold broken eggs.

Tramp—"Did you make this bread yourself, madam?"
 Woman—"Yes, an' if I do say it myself, you've eat wuss bread than that."

Tramp—"I know I have; but not much worse."

A farmer, bringing his son as a pupil was asked by the schoolmaster what he intended to make of the lad.

"Well, if he gets grace, we'll make him a minister."

"Ah!" returned the schoolmaster, "if he gets no grace, what then?"

"Then," said the father, "he maun just become a schulomaister like yerself."

SIMPLY A MATTER OF HABIT.—How does it feel to have a mustache on your lip, Henry? she asked, when she perceived that her lover was cultivating that masculine adornment.

I can't say, he answered; how does it feel to have one on yours?

Well, she answered; as she struggled from his embrace and drew her breath, I think it is something to which one could in time become reconciled.

"Well, does your husband still drink?"

"Yes, mother, and it is worrying the life out of me."

"Did you try the plan of breaking him of the habit that I suggested to you?"

"Yes."

"Did you put whiskey in his coffee?"

"Yes."

"What did he say?"

"He said I was the only woman he had seen since his mother died who knew how to make coffee as it should be made."

The Scotch borderers, like the Highlanders, whose manners are not dissimilar, are much attached to surnames, and the inhabitants of the whole villages consist of perhaps only a few names. The Johnstones, Jardines, Maxwells, Scotts, &c., are very popular names in the south country. One day in the winter a traveller lost his way, and coming into the village of Lockerbie at night, which was excessively stormy, and almost frozen to death, he kept knocking at every door, which were all shut, and exclaiming, "Is there nae a Christian i' the town?" A woman looking out of one of the houses he was rapping at, replied, "Na na we are Johnstones an' Jardines."

Many years ago Jenny Lind visited America and was staying in Boston where a celebrated sailor preacher, known to the "tars" of every part throughout the world as "Father Taylor," ministered to the spiritual needs of sailors in a chapel known as the "Sailors' Bethel." Charles Dickens and many other English celebrities made a point, when visiting the United States, of going to hear "Father Taylor" preach, and Jenny Lind was one of the number. The chapel, as was usual, was crowded in every part, Jenny Lind being seated (all unknown to the celebrated preacher) in the body of the building, and the pulpit stairs wholly occupied by a number of individuals who failed to find accommodation elsewhere. While "Father Taylor" was preaching he paid a glowing tribute to the power of song, and made special reference to Jenny Lind, whom he described as "that sweetest of singers who had but recently lighted on our shores;" and no sooner had he done so than a man of his audience, who was seated at the top of the pulpit stairs, interrupted him by asking, "Would a Christian go to heaven if he died at one of Jenny Lind's concerts?" The witty and eccentric old preacher turned round, and, fixing on his interrogator a look of sarcastic pity, replied, "A Christian will go to heaven when he dies wherever he may be, and a fool will be a fool wherever he is, even though he be on the top of the pulpit stairs."

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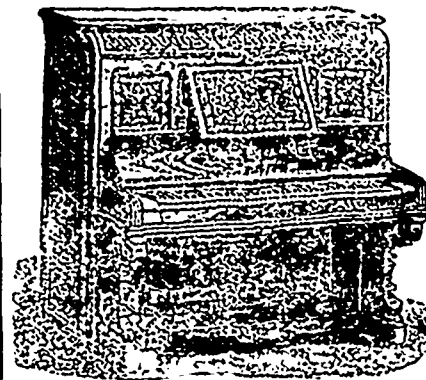
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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

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

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

Allen, cashier of the Toronto Central Bank, got away with \$50,000.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has decided to open an agency at Montreal. T. V. McDonald will be the manager.

A large shipment of carriages has been made from Ontario for the Australian Centennial International Exhibition.

A letter has been received from Mr. Mercier, Premier of Quebec, from Rome, stating that his health has improved.

The annual meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association of Nova Scotia began yesterday, at Wolfville, and continues to day.

Dr. Room (Conservative) M.P. for West Middlesex, has been unseated for corrupt practices. Judge Falconbridge's decision carried costs.

The Fire Insurance Companies doing business in Montreal have lost so heavily the past year that it has been found necessary to increase the rates.

There appears to be good reason to question the wisdom of the Dominion enactment for the protection of the lobster fisheries, in limiting the time to the 1st July.

The grain-blockade on the C. P. R. is becoming of serious import to the Manitobans, who are said to be quite despondent at the heavy loss which will inevitably result.

Manhood suffrage is to be brought before the Ontario Legislature. Its advantages are perhaps problematical, but it is bound to come, and no doubt other Provinces will follow suit.

General Middleton, in his annual report, will recommend a longer period in camp for the militia, and a slight increase in the permanent force. He urges the need of paying greater attention to rifle shooting by all corps.

A movement is on foot amongst the public school trustees of Toronto to secure for women the right to principalships of large city schools, when they are qualified for and entitled to such positions in the way of promotion.

The address in answer to the Queen's speech was seconded by Col. Duncan (D.C.L. of King's College, Windsor), who married a daughter of the late Rev. Wm Cogswell, who was himself a distinguished graduate of Kings.

Much attention has lately been given to the deplorable state of the houses of the poor in Halifax, and a large subscription was taken up at a meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, under the presidency of His Grace the Archbishop.

The powerful and affecting terms of the sentence pronounced by Chief Justice Palmer, on the dastardly murderer of Mary Tuplin, leave nothing to be desired, and assure us that whatever depth of idiocy may be attained by juries, the Bench is sound.

On Saturday night last the rain descended in earnest, making, for a time, many valuable mill sites at the corners of our principal streets. Those citizens who were spending the evening away from home, heartily wished themselves at their "ain firesides," as they bade their friends good night, and plunged into the seething waste of water.

A dishonest trick on the part of some subordinate official of the I. C. R. is reported in the *St. John Globe*. Three Pullman car passengers, with tickets for St. John, were compelled to leave at Moncton, under the false statement that a wheel was broken, the car being wanted to go back to Montreal. It is probable the higher authorities of the road are unaware of this sort of trickery.

It is understood that the recent delays on the W. & A. R. might have been easily obviated by the employment of a sufficient number of men to clear the track, which would not have been so much obstructed, had a snow-plough even been run over it. The blame for this piece of false economy is probably to be shouldered by the I. C. R. as well as the W. & A. R. Certainly, the latter is chargeable with a full proportion of it. Such a disregard of the public is most censurable.

We have at the time of our going to press but an imperfect account of the Treaty concluded by the Fisheries Commission. It is stated to deal only with the Atlantic Fisheries, to the exclusion of every other subject. The London *Standard* thinks it worth congratulating the Commissioners upon, but its merits or demerits cannot be pronounced upon till more detailed information is before us. Any treaty is of course subject to the action of a hostile Senate, and will displease politicians of the candid type of General Wilson. It will be something, however, if a step proves to have been made even in the direction of settling the Atlantic Fisheries question. Admiral Heltage may probably be trusted to look after Canadian honor and interests in the Alaskan waters.

The third theatrical performance in aid of the School of Art and Design, took place at the Academy of Music on Monday evening last, and was attended by a large, brilliant, and fashionable audience. The play, "A Husband to Order," in which eight characters were represented, was presented in a most attractive manner, each performer winning well earned laurels for the way in which their respective parts were taken. Mrs.

Morrow, who took the part of Josephine, the Baron's niece, displayed histrionic talents of exceptional merit, her identification with Josephine being thoroughly realistic. Mrs. Rose as Elise, was charming, vivacious, and altogether pleasing, while Miss Grant, as Madame Phillipeau, made a typical French dame of advanced years. Major Bagot made a decided hit in his representation of the character of Pierre Marceau, and Capt. Blackburn added not a little to his well established repute by his impersonation of the Baron de Beaupre. Mr. Hill was, as usual, the personification of humor, and as Phillipeau, the wealthy farmer, proved himself to be a broad-minded republican, a close observer of human nature, and a kind but firm husband. Mr. L. J. Fuller, as Anatole Latour, displayed powers, which, if more generally cultivated, would place him at once at the head of amateur actors in Halifax, possessed as he is of a fine voice and kindly manner, he is at once *en rapport* with his audience, and no matter what character he may be representing, he never fails to please his listeners. It would be unfair to Mr. Maul to omit mentioning his name, for, in very truth, his obsequious bow would be worth many a shilling to Johnnie Atkins, while his aeraphic smile, if it could be made a transferrable commodity, would be willingly paid for in gold by the patrons of the photographer's saloon. Instead of the customary farce, which usually follows the performance of a melodramatic play, the audience were given as a substitute the pretty operetta, "The Rose of Auvergne." We have no desire to criticise too harshly this exhibition of the musical talent of Halifax, but we have to offer our commiseration to Capt. Rawson, conductor, who, like the Israelites of old, was forced to make bricks without straw. In the choruses the time was good, and the attempts at shading quite passable; but the voices, oh, where were they? Echo answers, where? The facts appear to be: that the ladies and gentlemen who formed this chorus of twenty peasants were selected, not on account of their musical abilities, but according to their standing as patricians in the community. They had a plebian part to perform, which could have been well done by a score of plebians, but society demanded that the selection of voices should be made within a certain circle, and this exclusiveness made the failure of the operetta a foregone conclusion. Of those taking the leading parts, Professor Currie is the only one who deserves honorable mention. The part of Fleurette should have been taken by a young lady, with a fresh, true voice, and Alphonse by a shoemaker whose vocal powers entitled him to be ranked above the dull level of mediocrity. For the sake of the Art School, and for those who have untiringly worked for the success of these entertainments, we are delighted to think that the results have been so satisfactory, but for the sake of art, musical, histrionic, and otherwise, let not the promoters of these entertainments imagine that the social cloak will hide the weak points of a performance, but on the other hand, let them strive to give us only that which is worth seeing or listening to from an artistic standpoint.

The third concert of the Orpheus Club, on Tuesday evening last, drew out, as usual, a very large number of music loving Halifaxians, and these were more than repaid for their pilgrimage through the sloppy streets on a damp, disagreeable evening. The Club, with the Ladies' Auxiliary, sang three numbers of the programme in excellent style, the closing number, Vogel's Arion waltz, being rendered in a highly creditable manner, the accentuation being almost perfect. The Ladies' Auxiliary sang Brahms' Barcarole in a most telling style, the voices blending in the sweet harmony in almost faultless tune, winning for the number a rapturous encore, to which the ladies responded with "A Kiss"—(the balance of the words have escaped our memory). Miss O'Dell sang "Ernani Involuntari" in quite an artistic manner, the song bringing out to excellent advantage her powers of execution, but while we greatly admired the ease and grace with which the lady performed some of the difficult running passages, we experienced a certain degree of disappointment whenever a trilling passage had to be encountered, Miss O'Dell in this respect not having attained perfection. Mrs. Campbell knows well how to tickle the ears of an audience, and a Scotch song, sung as she sang "Bonnie Prince Charlie" on Tuesday evening, would have won a rapturous encore from any intelligent audience. Of the three gentlemen who took solos in the concert, we think Mr. E. I. MacDonald the most pleasing singer, although Mr. Foster, in his billowy line, always scores a success, and is well worth listening to. Mr. Phillips has yet to win a place among our leading soloists, and as we have no wish to discourage one who aspires to success, we pass over his song in silence, simply recommending him to practice diligently before he again essays to entertain a Halifax audience. Turning to the instrumental part of the performance, which we are delighted to note is becoming a strong feature in the Orpheus Club concerts, we have to express our regret that a change in the programme necessitated the omission of two of the movements of Mr. Porter's Sonata, for the violin and piano. Suffice it to say that Herr Klengenfeld and Mr. Porter did justice to the two movements that were played, bringing out the melodious theme in the first movement in a manner that must have charmed every one present. But if the audience had to regret the omission of the two movements before mentioned, they had reason to feel pleased with Mr. Porter's unselfishness in substituting for these two movements, Mendelssohn's glorious trio for the piano, violin, and cello, performed by Messrs Porter, Klengenfeld, and Mahr, the last-named gentleman, who has but recently arrived from Berlin, being a decided acquisition to Halifax musical society. The trio, rendered as it was by three artistes, was a treat that we in Halifax seldom have the pleasure of enjoying, and it is gratifying to be assured that this is but one of many concerted pieces that we will have the chance of listening to in future concerts. Mr Porter has our hearty congratulations for the successful manner in which he has conducted the Orpheus Club concerts, and the Club has our best wishes for its continued improvement musically, and its healthy condition financially.

Mr. Blaine has declined nomination for the Presidency. The move is very likely only a feint.

The Fisheries Commission was to adjourn finally yesterday or to-day, and Sir Chas. Tupper returns to Ottawa to-morrow.

Owing to the frequency of train robberies the U. S postal authorities have decided to arm their employees with the most approved weapons. No doubt the railway companies will follow suit.

The stolen bonds have been returned to the Saco Bank in a registered package, (as stated by the Bank authorities,) posted in Liverpool. The bonds represent the sum of \$265,000, and were recovered by Harry McNeally. It seems to have been a very neatly put up job between these two honest and enterprising gentlemen. If the Irish row could be settled, we might hope for an extradition treaty.

"Modern Houses at Low Cost" ("the Cooperative Building Plan Association," 63 Broadway, New York,) is a book of designs for houses, illustrated with sixty examples, to which ground and floor plans and descriptions are appended, with the maximum and minimum estimated cost. The illustrations are very good, and we should think the book might be of great service to persons contemplating building. The Association furnishes working plans, detail drawings, specifications, blank contracts, &c., at specified prices, for any of the designs.

Mrs. Mary Hewitt, the poetess and novelist, is dead.

Lord Brassey is preparing the last journals of Lady Brassey for publication.

Kossuth, who is now living in the strictest seclusion at Turin, is in excellent health, despite his 86 years.

English tobacco growing is slowly but steadily increasing in importance, and demands the attention of Parliament.

Two new departments are in contemplation in England, Agriculture and Commerce, to be presided over by Cabinet Ministers.

The Queen will give a state banquet in St. George's Hall, Windsor Castle, to celebrate the silver wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

A M. Foureau, of Algeria, has reclaimed by means of Artesian wells a barren tract on the edge of the Sahara, where 90,000 palm trees are now growing.

Italy, it seems, has suffered from intense cold. Even sunny Naples has experienced hard frost for weeks, and Vesuvius has been covered with snow many feet thick.

The Baltic Canal to the North Sea is to be begun this spring. The works will be 31½ miles long, and 4,000 workmen are to be housed in cantonments along the line.

An Austrian passenger train has been so completely enveloped by an avalanche, that two thousand men had been, as reported, unable to reach the passengers for "some days."

It is stated that Lord Dufferin resigned his Viceroyalty of India, because he could not approve of the Government's course in Ireland. He is likely to be heard from soon on the subject.

The American Consul at Prague has written a letter of protest to the London Times against the Volapuk fad, which, there is no doubt, is an arbitrary invention, and will never prevail.

There is great excitement in military circles in London by the arrest of Major Templar, of Chatham, under an order from the inspector general of fortifications, upon a charge of divulging official secrets.

A race on the Thames, for the Championship of England, a challenge cup, and £400, between Wallace Ross, of New Brunswick; and Bubeat, the English champion, was won with ease by the former.

The Temps says there will be no security in Europe until it is known whether Austria would regard Russian intervention in Bulgaria as a *casus belli*, and whether Germany would permit Austria to settle such a quarrel single handed.

The operation of *tracheotomy* (opening the wind-pipe) was performed on the Crown Prince last week under the influence of an anæsthetic. The operation was successful, and the Prince is, at the latest date, reported as going on very favorably.

The English Government has refused to contribute £5,000 to the Australian Antarctic Exploring Expedition. An unwise piece of parsimony, considering how cheerfully and readily Australia identifies herself with the interests of the mother country.

Arrests of Nationalists continue. Mr. Pyne, M. P., has been sentenced to three months imprisonment, without hard labor. Father Stephens, of Falcarragh, Co. Donegal, to the same, and fourteen other persons to terms of a month and under. Mr. Pyne and Father Stephens appeal, and are released on bail.

In the course of a speech at the Brandenburg dinner, Prince William of Prussia, heir presumptive to the Crown, said: "I know that a section of the public, especially a section abroad, imputes to me a careless and thoughtless longing for war for the sake of glory. God preserve me from such criminal giddiness. I repudiate all such accusations with horror."

There are indications of a slackening of the coercion policy of the English Government. There is a cessation of the prosecution of news papers for publishing reports of meetings of suppressed branches of the League, and the further prosecution of Mr. Wm. O'Brien has been abandoned. It is further stated that the Pope, while counselling moderation on the part of the Nationalists, hopes to obtain concession from the British Government.

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- 481 Goodwin, Dr., residence, 81 Hollis St.
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SUCCESS IN LIFE.

FROM D. H. NUIR, ESQ.

The aim of every intelligent man entering on his life's work is success, and in estimating this, I take it, a mistake is very frequently made. The result obtained is largely attributed to outside influences, though the real element of that success is in truth due to the man's moral and intellectual character. Money made, and money left behind, is spoken of as proof that its owner's life has been a crowned one, the side issues, whereby it was a miserable failure, are forgotten or unknown. But in business, as in the other relations of life, success is an almost certain prize to the man who rules himself by true fixed principles of right; his own, not other people's, ideas of right and honesty; who realizes that work is work, not play, in this age of close competition; who can deny himself, but cannot contract a debt he is unable to meet, whose "No!" rings clear and decisive, when a denial is needed, whose hand and brain are ready and willing to do the work that comes to him, even if not exactly the work that pleases him best.

Undoubtedly a strong element of success is the careful choosing of your life's work. One man clearly has the capacity for business, another's logical conclusions and ready command of language point to the law as the profession likely to ensure a successful career. Reverse their choice, you mar each life to a great extent. If possible, let a man take the work best suited to him, but at any rate, let him start with a fixed determination to make the most of the brains God has given him, to have no fear of hard work, willing to wait patiently that work's result. Add to this temperance and honesty, and I show you the man who is bound to be a success in life. Ruskin tells us, "Mighty of heart, mighty of mind, magnanimous, to be this is indeed to be great in life, to become this increasingly, is indeed to advance in life, he only is advancing in life whose heart is getting softer, whose brain quicker, whose spirit is entering into living peace."

FROM JUDGE TOWNSEND.

To my mind, one of the most telling factors of success in life is in the having ever in view a fixed, well-defined object, to the attainment of which all efforts should be steadily directed. The keynote of future action is this purpose. It must be pursued with determination and assiduity. All else must be made subsidiary to the main design. To win success in any sphere calls for a life of industry, of patient application, systematic business habits, promptness in meeting engagements of all kinds, and confidence in one's ability to succeed. Such qualifications beget confidence of others in ourselves. Once have the confidence of one's fellowmen, and half the battle is won. A man must have confidence in himself before he can gain that of others, and the cultivation of a spirit of self-reliance is most needful. "A rolling stone gathers no moss." A man to succeed should keep to the main purpose of his life, and should of all things avoid having too many irons in the fire. Very few men are gifted with a genius to succeed in many things. Let a man have sound and accurate knowledge, and especially of that which pertains to his own business. Finally, let him have settled convictions of his own, adopted after mature consideration and work, and live up to them.

EXTRACT FROM MR. GLADSTONE'S ADDRESS,

on his installation as Rector of the University of Edinburgh. Forwarded by G. Herbert Lee, Esq., B.C.L., St. John, N. B. :—
"Let me recall to you how another Lord Rector of Glasgow, whose name is cherished in every cottage of his country, and whose strong sagacity, vast range of experience, and energy of will, were no one whit more eminent than the tenderness of his conscience, and his ever wakeful and wearing sense of public duty—let me recall to you how Sir Robert Peel, choosing from his quiver with a congenial forethought that shaft which was most likely to strike home, averred before the same academic audience what may as safely be declared to you, that 'there is a presumption amounting almost to a certainty, that if any one of you will determine to be eminent, in whatever profession you may choose, and will act with unwearying steadiness in pursuance of that determination, you will, if health and strength be given you, infallibly succeed.' The mountain tops of Scotland behold on every side of them the witness, and many a one of what were once her morasses and her moorlands, now blossoming as the rose, carries on its face the proof, that it is in man and not in his circumstances that the secret of his destiny resides."

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

OUR AMERICAN COUSINS.

Florence Marryat, in an interview with one of the representatives of an English publication called the *New Age*, criticises American women somewhat severely. Diamonds and false teeth is what she sums up against them. As for the American men she says, that they all wear stays, but that they are smarter than Englishmen in making love—an assertion which would make one suppose, although she is married, and somewhat more, that she was still not altogether averse to a mild flirtation with them. The Rev Dr Talmage's sermons are masterpieces of oratory, combined with originality. A stranger considers himself fortunate of a Sunday if he can secure a seat, so large is the Dr.'s congregation. Little Joseph Hoffman, the musical prodigy, has fallen a victim to public philanthropy. Mayor Hewitt and Ellridge T. Gerry, of the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children, had him examined by four doctors to see if it was injurious to his health performing at so many concerts. The little fellow stood the test well. He was in a sound condition, bodily and mentally. The doctors, though, gave orders to his manager not to allow him more than

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four performances a week. Should they have forbidden him to play, a private gentleman, who is supposed to be Cornelius Vanderbilt, offered 50,000 dollars to the little boy's father for his musical education. So wonderful is his playing, that he is called by the musical critics Mozart the second.

The late Mrs. Astor having bequeathed all of her valuable lace to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, that splendid storehouse will be for the ladies the most interesting place in America.

Sir Charles and Lady Tupper occupied a box in the theatre the other night at Washington, and witnessed Mrs. Brown Potter's impersonation of "Juliet."

Mrs. Potter's talents, however, are only suitable for light society plays. As a social success, Mrs. Potter has the advantage of Mrs. Langtry, who seems to be tabooed by New York society. But this does not prevent her from giving large dinner parties, perfect in every detail, to men of the clubs, somewhat similar to those given by the English aristocracy. Some day she will batter down the wall of prejudice, and enter the portals of society, triumphant with money, the golden key which wins success in the end.

OLIVIA EVANS.

MUSICAL ECHOES.

In the course of his annual address to the students of the Royal Academy of Music, the late Sir George A. Macfarren observed that it was of the utmost importance to all who worked in music to keep constantly exercising their faculties. Those who composed must make mental exercises by the construction of musical phrases, of planning musical arrangements, of exercising the faculty of invention and the faculty of design. It was of infinite importance to singers always to practice those technical exercises which gave volubility to the voice and extended its compass; and to instrumentalists such technical exercises were in every way indispensable in order to give to the fingers the ability to move rapidly on the instrument which they played. It was not ever in the career of the artist that one could say, "I have finished." The learned professor particularly urged that in order to master their art fully, and to do justice to the productions of the present times, they must have a knowledge of the works of preceding periods. Genius could only demand recognition when it had created the taste by which it was to be appreciated. Let them work at the productions of musicians of former times, and let them hear with interest the productions of their own times; but let them be content in their own compositions to emulate the past, and let them have the conviction that originality would only find its proper expression when they had commanded, by constant exercise, such power over their faculties as would enable them to give utterance to that which was individual in themselves. It was remarkable in the history of our best musicians that their youngest productions were expressed in the idioms of their own times, and it was not till their later works that those distinctive qualities appeared which separated Beethoven from Mozart, and Mozart from Handel.

VALUE OF C SHARP.—A new tenor singer has appeared at Berlin in Bellini's "Norma." His nom de theater is "Riccardo." He is in reality a Hungarian, by the name of Palik, and is the fortunate possessor of C sharp Masini, who has it, receives \$3,000 a night in Buenos Ayres. Tamagno finds it to bring him \$1,000 in Europe, and Marconi gets by it \$600 a night; hence it must be the bank-note of tenors.—*American Musician.*

LIZT.—The *Allgemeine Musikzeitung* brings the news of the finding at Weimar of a posthumous piano concerto in E minor, by Lizt. The accompaniment is for string orchestra only, and the form resembles that of the A major concertos. It is entitled "Malediction," and seems to have been written during Lizt's sojourn at Switzerland. It is said to be beautiful and poetic, but that it needs re-writing and scoring for grand orchestra. Bern. Stavenhagen is studying the new work, which possibly is the same that Joseffy wrote about two years ago.—*Musical Courier.*

The Carl Rosa Company has performed Massé's "Galatea" with the greatest success at Bristol, in England. Here is an example for our attempts at English operas. The libretto has been admirably adapted by Mr. W. Grist and Mr. Frank Wyatt.—*American Musician.*

ANOTHER PATTI.—Another Patti—as this is at least the hundredth she may be a good one—has dawned upon the operatic world. Miss Melva, otherwise Mrs. Armstrong, the young and pretty wife of an Australian and the pupil of Marchesi, who, with her husband, was present at the performance, made her debut on Thursday night of last week in Brussels at the Theatre de la Monnaie in the role of Gilda in "Rigoletto." Her voice is reported to have more volume than had Patti's at the same age, with all that charm of tone and crystalline purity of sound of the great diva. She is to appear in "Lakmé" and in "Faust," and this her first debut on any stage was an unqualified success, and Brussels is considered by the profession to be the most critical of all continental cities.—*Musical Courier.*

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

HOW THE CHINESE DRILL WELLS.—The French Abbé Huc, lately returned from China, thus describes the system of deep-earth boring practiced in the district in which he has for some time resided. A wooden tube, 6 feet in length, is first driven down through the surface soil. This tube is held at the surface of the ground by a large flag stone, having a hole in the center to allow the tube to pass through and to project a little above it. A cylindrical mass of iron, weighing about 400 pounds, hollow and pointed at

its lower end, and having lateral notches or apertures, is jerked up and down in this tube at the end of a lever, from which it is suspended by a rope. This kind of "monkey" disintegrates the rock, the debris of which, converted into sludge by water poured in, finds its way through the lateral apertures into the interior of the cylinder. By raising the latter at intervals, this sludge is removed from the borehole. The rate of boring in rock of ordinary hardness is one foot in 12 hours. Only one man is employed at one time to work the lever. By this means wells of 1800 feet deep are sunk in about two years by the labor of three men relieving one another every six hours.

JAPANESE INDUSTRIES AND THEIR DEVELOPMENT.—During the past few years Japanese manufacturing industries have made very considerable progress, and full advantage has been taken of the limited liability principle. Foreign residents in Japan looked upon the movement with some amount of suspicion, thinking it might be wanting in stability. Recent returns, however, have shown that substantial profits have been earned. In a miscellaneous list of thirty-four companies the dividends vary from 4 to 26 per cent. for the half year. The Osaka Spinning Company, with a capital of 600,000 yen, distributes 26 per cent. to its shareholders; the Tokio Tram Car Company, 21 per cent.; and the Osaka Sulphuric Acid Company, 18 per cent. One hundred and sixty-one banks are quoted as paying dividends for the first half of last year varying from 3.2 to 23 per cent., only one bank not paying a dividend at all. Eighty-two paid over 10 per cent.; fifteen of these paid 15 per cent and over, and a large number 10 per cent. Of fifteen exchanges quoted, the rates for the half year varied from 3 to 90 per cent., the higher rate being that of the Tokio Stock Exchange. Presuming these dividends to be fairly earned, the returns must be very gratifying to the Japanese, while at the same time they convey a very serious warning to the foreign importer.

METHOD PROPOSED FOR DESTROYING THE PHYLLOXERA.—Dr. Cloum has patented the following process in most civilized countries: He incorporates with the soil sulphides and carbonates which easily undergo decomposition, preferably those of potassium. Peat, which has been made to absorb sulphuric, nitric or phosphoric acid, is then also introduced. The acid gradually acts upon the sulphide and the carbonate, liberating sulphureted hydrogen and carbonic acid in the soil. These two gases, according to the experiments of Dr. Eyrich, of Mannheim, are rapidly and uniformly distributed, and prove fatal to the phylloxera in its underground state, as well as to Colorado beetles, field mice, moles, etc. The potash remains in the soil as a sulphate, nitrate or phosphate. Commenting upon this method, the *Chemical News* asks whether in addition to the phylloxera, useful animals, such as earth-worms, bumble bees, carnivorous ground beetles, etc., will not be destroyed also?

LIGHTNING CONDUCTORS.—In a lengthy letter upon this subject to the *London Times*, Professor Tyndall says: "The convenience of a chain as a prolongation of the conductor is very obvious, but I am obliged to veto its adoption because the contact of link with link is never perfect, and because I have known instances in which the electricity in passing from link to link encountered sufficient resistance to partially fuse the metal. The abolition of resistance is absolutely necessary in connecting a lightning conductor with the earth, and this is done by closely embedding in the earth a plate of good conducting material and of large area. The largeness of area makes atonement for the imperfect conductivity of earth. The plate, in fact, constitutes a wide door through which the electricity passes freely into the earth, its disruptive and damaging effects being thereby avoided. These truths are elementary, but they are often neglected."

A NEW DEPARTURE IN BLEACHING PROCESSES.—If barium peroxide be suspended in water it will be found to undergo a gradual process of decomposition, in the course of which a considerable amount of oxygen is evolved. When such salts as alkaline silicates or borates are added to the water, the action is rendered more rapid and complete. A manufacturing firm in Berlin, Messrs. Jacobson Brothers, has taken advantage of the fact and applied it to the bleaching of animal and vegetable fabrics, using a mixture of 1 part barium peroxide and 1 part sodium silicate to 100 parts of water.

FORTY THOUSAND LINES TO THE INCH.—Dr. H. A. Rowland, of the John Hopkins University has a new engine for ruling his plates for spectrum analysis or decomposition of light. This engine was made entirely at the university under his personal supervision, and is the result of the most careful, painstaking effort. The most important part of it—the screw and its attachments for regulating the width of the lines—was carefully ground under water kept at a constant temperature, so as to avoid all error arising from expansion and contraction, and is guarded against so small an error as one-hundred-thousandth of an inch. The engine is run by water power, and is inclosed in a glass case, and kept in a double-walled brick chamber in the basement, so as to provide as equable temperature as possible. So delicate is the machinery that while it is running the case is kept closed, as the heat from a person's body would affect it. The old machine hardly ruled more than 10,000 lines to the inch, while the new one has ruled as high as 40,000, and can be regulated to rule almost an infinite number, but the metal usually crumbles, and the lines run into each other above 20,000 to the inch. The plates are highly polished, and are made of what is known as speculum metal, though glass is sometimes used for experimental purposes. The prepared plate is placed on the machine, and the screw regulated to the required distance, and when the machine starts it moves the plate the distance, say one twenty thousandth of an inch, and a small diamond point runs across and draws the line while the plate is stationary. It is a matter

of infinite care, and several days are necessary for ruling a plate three or four inches in diameter. The diamond point can be so arranged as to vary every fiftieth or one hundredth line while at the end of the engine is a small counting machine for recording the number of lines drawn. In an adjoining room is a very costly instrument for measuring the width of the lines, and so marvelously accurate is it that an error of one-hundred thousandth part of an inch, or even less can be detected. The rulings of this machine are the finest in the world, and have been sent to different parts of the scholarly portion of it, one of the largest and best plates being presented to Professor Helmholtz, the world-famous physicist of Berlin. If a perfect machine means one that perfectly does the work it was designed for, this is probably the most perfect one in the world.

COMMERCIAL.

On the whole trade has been quiet, but the volume of business has been as large as could reasonably be expected under the circumstances. The want of rolling stock to meet the demands of traffic and of snow-ploughs to keep the tracks clear, has been very severely felt. The winter, so far, has been very fluctuating, and has fully tested the capacity of our railways. It has found them unable to meet the emergency, and the public has become quite accustomed to learn that trains are far behind schedule time. This state of things is especially to be deplored just now that several lines of European steamers that have heretofore made Portland their terminus declare their intention of seeking Halifax. It is evident that if we cannot guarantee a reasonably rapid transit of goods to and from steamers we cannot hold the business that is offered. Boston, New York, or even Philadelphia, will certainly take this trade if we allow them to do so. The Intercolonial, being a people's railway, should be run for the benefit of the public and not to "make money." Under the caption "Our Winter Port," the *Montreal Trade Bulletin* says:—"Either the people of Halifax or the Intercolonial Railway, or both, have again got our winter port into ill-repute with receivers of goods in this city and west of us, and unless Halifax can insure better provision for the prompt discharge of vessels and rapid transit by rail, some other winter port of entry will have to be arranged for. A large, important trade in sugar has been built up by Montreal merchants between Brazil and Halifax, but unless better facilities be provided at the latter place this trade will be seriously curtailed. Owing to the great delay experienced by our merchants in receiving their goods after they are discharged at Halifax, they are considering whether it would not be better to lay in large supplies of China and Manilla sugar, to arrive in Montreal in the fall, and store it here ready for winter use, rather than risk the terrible delays which occur by bringing Brazilian produce via Halifax. Although only about half the sugar has been received at the above-named port this season, as compared with last season's imports, yet we hear the same complaints of goods being piled away in stacks and sugar put in store by tons owing to lack of cars to take the freight to its destination. It is to be feared that the great fault lies with the Intercolonial Railway, as its cars are actually unloading through freight into Grand Trunk cars at Chaudiere Junction, to the great detriment of the goods, which, instead of being trans-shipped, should be taken through to destination. Something must be done in the way of affording better facilities for the handling and forwarding of goods if Halifax is to be our winter port."

An Ottawa despatch says:—"It is reported, that in view of the increasing attempts to defraud the customs, the Dominion Government intends to publish a black list of over one hundred American exporters who have been detected in supplying false invoices to their Canadian customers, for customs purposes. The list contains names of some of the largest exporting houses in New York, Boston and Chicago, and other United States cities, which, when published, will create some excitement in business circles on the other side of the line." This "report" strikes us as absurd upon its face. The Government has its own appraisers to whom all invoices that are at all doubtful are referred, and it would be decidedly *infra dig* for it to thus openly acknowledge that such sworn appraisers wilfully, or through ignorance, refused or neglected to do their duty. No one doubts that considerable evasions of duty take place which in the aggregate amount to quite a sum, but the separate items are too small to warrant the action reported to be contemplated by the Government. Besides this, it is impossible to imagine what good can be attained by such a course. Foreigners have a right to furnish their customers with any kind of invoices that such customers request, if by so doing they further their trade, and the Government of no country has even the remotest right to enquire into the actions of the citizen of another within their own country.

February obligations have been fairly well met throughout the Dominion, but much anxiety is felt as to March and April, especially in the West. Forced sales and "cut" prices are bearing their usual fruit, and it seems that the opening spring may cause a large derangement of trade in Toronto, Montreal, and sections dependent upon them.

A western paper joins our demand for a pure and reliable currency, which we have frequently urged. It uses the following language:—"It is difficult to conceive how the Government can allow the approaching session of Parliament to pass without dealing with the question of banking reform, and the necessity of thoroughly revising the present Banking Act, more especially as general confidence has been greatly shaken by the revolutions of the misecally management of banks in Canada during the past twelve months, and the immense losses that have been sustained by shareholders, depositors and billholders. Bank statements rendered to the Government have in three different instances been proved to be false vouchers of the condition of the banks, thereby demonstrating conclusively that no depen-

dence can be placed upon those statements furnished the Government once a month, as they are not worth the paper they are written on. It is no wonder, then, that the public have lost all confidence in our present banking system, and call for prompt remedial measures at the hands of the Government. The evidence which has already been brought out in the Central Bank examination before the courts reads more like a romance of roguery than the conduct of a bank's affairs in a civilized and enlightened country during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Almost the entire capital of the bank has been advanced to three or four parties, from whom there is little chance of getting it back. Even the cashier was allowed to overdraw his account to the extent of \$10,000, besides making his check for \$9,000 count for cash for over a year. The losses to the shareholders and depositors will undoubtedly be heavy, and billholders are feeling uneasy. Something will have to be done speedily, in order to place our banking law upon a safer basis, or else general credit will be shaken to its very foundation."

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—E. S. Hubley, grocer, Halifax, assigned to Wm. Davies; Robt. Dickson, genl. store, Antigonish, succeeded by Wilkie & Cunningham; R. A. McDonald, genl. store, Westville, selling off; Lyman Cann, groc. and shipping, Yarmouth, succeeded by H. Winslow Cann; Nova Scotia Printing Co., Halifax, dissolved, Geo. J. Kline retires.

DRY GOODS.—The spring trade has shown as good a volume as was hoped, and orders are coming in fairly well. Still, merchants in this line are inclined to be cautious, and a strong conservative feeling is manifested. A firm tone prevails in cotton goods, and some parties predict higher figures than now hold. Some samples of fall woollens are shown, and prices are a shade lower than those asked a year ago. A few orders are reported to have been placed, but as the raw material continues to bear a firm aspect, manufacturers are not at all desirous of forcing sales.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—In this line nothing of importance has transpired. This is the dull season, and little actual business can be expected. We learn of a few enquiries for spring delivery, but no transactions have been accomplished. In Glasgow warrants have declined and stand at 39s. 8d. The unprecedentedly high figure of £170 per ton has been reached by ingot tin in London, but latest cables quote £1 lower. Copper has continued to rule firm, Chili bars being quoted by cable from London at £75 10s.

BREADSTUFFS.—The local flour market has been quiet and without change worthy of mention. A fair amount of business has been done during the week, and some holders are reported as willing to shade prices on job lots. Beerbohm's cable advices are:—"Cargoes off coast, wheat slow and corn quiet. On passage and for prompt shipment, wheat and corn inactive. French country markets strong. Wheat and flour in Paris steady. Liverpool spot wheat and corn rather worse." The feeling in the Chicago market has been stronger and there has been an increased activity in wheat, which was 75½c. March, 81c. May, and 81½c. June. Corn was also stronger and trading more brisk. Prices quoted were 46½c. March, 51½c. May and June. Oats advanced 1½c. to 3c. and stood at 27c. for March, 31½c. May and 31½c. June.

PROVISIONS.—Locally the enquiry has been rather better than for several weeks, being doubtless stimulated by the comparatively cold weather which has prevailed during the week. The feeling in lard has been stronger and prices have a somewhat upward tendency. The Liverpool provision market has been steady, except as to lard, which has weakened. Quotations are:—Pork, 67s. 6d.; bacon, 36s. 9d. to 41s. 6d.; lard, 39s. 9d.; tallow, 27s. 3d. A stronger feeling has obtained in the Chicago provision markets. Pork advanced there 12½c. and quotations are \$14 37½ for May delivery. Lard has been firm, figures being quoted at \$7.70 March, \$7.85 May, \$7.90 June.

BUTTER.—The local butter market has been without change. Finest to good grades meet an active demand, but lower class goods go begging. The *New York Commercial Bulletin* says:—"The supply of Western butter continues liberal, stocks accumulating under a very slow demand and the feeling weak and unsettled. Fancy Elgin and Pennsylvania are plenty and with holders offering liberal inducements to try and prevent stock piling up on their hands, the feeling is quite weak, and 32c. an extreme price for either on the open market, though special marks of perfect Elgin occasionally work out to a regular trade a fraction higher. Western, other than Elgin, is quite plenty, but very little really desirable. Strictly fine is so rarely possible above 30c. that we hesitate to quote higher. Grades a trifle below fancy are held at 26c. to 28c., but the bulk of the available supply still shows serious wintry defects and freely urged for sale at 17c. to 20c. up to 25c., but without cleaning up. Summer and fall made creamery quiet and unchanged. State dairy is ruling quiet, but fine and fancy grades in moderate supply and held quite firmly. Under grades offering perhaps a little more froily. Imitation creamery, Western dairy and factory all ruling slow and though here about the same, the tone inclines to be easy."

CHEESE.—The market continues quiet. There is no present indication that prices will advance, but a feeling seems to prevail among holders that the English market will ere long call for all the surplus stocks that are held on this side of the water.

APPLES.—The local market has been without change. It is believed that larger quantities of fruit are held in reserve by farmers than was thought. A late report from Liverpool says:—"Although prices are fairly good for this season of the year, rates continue to show a downward tendency, and we have to report a decline of quite one shilling all round upon last week. This, we take it, is caused more by the general poor quality of the fruit, than by any slackening off of the demand, which continues very good. New York has sent forward some very good Baldwins, which made 16s. 6d. to 18s. New England varieties continue to land spotted and waxy, and prices are lower. We made ex "Iowa" for Baldwins, 15s. to 15s. 8d.;

Greenings, 10s. to 12s.; Rox Russots, 11s. 9d. to 14s. 9d.; while for Maine, we made for Baldwins 14s. 9d. to 15s. 6d.; Guldou Russots, 14s. 6d. to 18s. 3d.; Rox Russots, 15s. 3d. to 15s. 9d.; N. Spies, 16s. 6d. to 18s. 9d.; Ben Davis, 18s. to 18s. 3d. The few Canadians here were very choice, and made extreme prices as quoted. They all came via Boston, and the few via Halifax appeared to be Nova Scotian fruit, although packed in large new Canadian barrels, and made long prices, 19s. to 20s. 6d. We quote:—Canadian—Greenings, 15s. 6d. to 16s.; Baldwins, 17s. 22s. 6d.; Kings, 19s. to 22s. 6d.; Ben Davis, 15s. 6d. to 24s.; Canada Reds, 24s. 6d. to 25s.; Phoenix, 19s. to 24s. 6d.; Spies, 17s. 9d. to 23s.; Golden Russots, 31s."

DRIED FRUIT.—The markets in this line have been very slow—in fact nothing is doing. Valencia raisins have somewhat eased off, though quotations remain nominally unchanged. Currants are quiet, there being little enquiry for them, and dates are said to have materially weakened.

TEA AND COFFEE.—The country demand for tea has already reached fair proportions, and holders carry stock with confidence. There has been a good enquiry for low grades of Japan. Coffee has been strong, and prices are firm. A fair amount of business has been done.

SUGAR AND MOLASSES.—Foreign sugar advices indicating a weaker feeling and receding prices, values here sympathise, and both granulated and yellows can be bought for less than they could have been a short time since. The demand for molasses has been slow, but as we are now in the Lenten season, it is expected that enquiry will improve. Prices are steady.

FISH OILS.—A Montreal exchange reports:—"The only change we hear of during the week is in cod oil, which has advanced 1c. to 2c. per gallon, several lots of Gaspo having been sold at 32½c., and we quote 32½c. to 31c. and Newfoundland 34c. to 35c. Halifax is also firmer at 31c. A considerable portion of the supply recently held at Halifax has been shipped to New York. Cod liver oil is steady at 70c. for now, and at 55c. to 60c. for old."

FISH.—The local market remains quiet, though there has been a better enquiry for fat mackerel. The ice and snow partial blockade on the railways has, naturally, had the effect of delaying the forwarding of fresh fish to the Upper Provinces' markets, and to that extent hampers the course of trade in that line here. Shipments to Havana and Jamaica having been very heavy of late, those markets have experienced a slight decline. This has caused a cessation of forwarding hence for the present. As stocks held everywhere are extraordinarily light holders are very firm, and are willing to wait for the recovery that they think inevitable. Our outside advices are as follows:—Montreal, February 14th.—"The market continues steady, green cod being quoted at \$4.50 to 4.75 in bbls. for No. 1, and \$5.00 to \$5.25 for No. 1 large. Large draft is firm at still higher figures. Salmon at \$11.50 to 12.50 for B. C. and N. S. in bbls. at \$15 to 15.50 for No. 1, and \$14 for No. 2. Red Sea trout, \$10 to 11 per bbl. Fresh haddock, 3c. to 4c., and cod 3½c. to 3c. per lb. Fresh B. C. salmon, 14c. per lb. Fresh herring, \$1.10 to 1.25 per 100, and tommy cods, \$1.75 per bbl." Another Montreal report of the same date says:—"The fish market has been active, there being a good demand, and a brisk business has been done. We hear of some good-sized lots changing hands. The principal feature of the market is a further advance in green cod of 25c. to 50c. per 100 lbs. There has been a good enquiry, and sales have been freely made at \$5 for No. 1, \$5.50 for No. 1 large, and \$6 to 6.50 for No. 1 large draft. There has been more enquiry for Labrador herring, and holders are now pretty well cleaned out, sales of fair-sized lots being made at \$4.25 to 4.50. Haddock have ruled weaker, owing to the larger offerings, and prices are lower at 3½c. to 4c. The supply of cod is lighter, and prices are steady at 3½c. to 4c."

Gloucester, Mass., February 14th.—"The fish market is showing some improvement, and the outlook is a favorable one. The commercial travelers are sending home good orders, and shipments are fair for the season. The improved West India trade provides an outlet for Nova Scotia fish, and less are coming to this market. The outports report light stocks. At Provincetown the stock of salt codfish of all kinds has been reduced to about 12,000 qtls., against 25,000 at this time last year. The frozen herring receipts, which have been retarded by bad weather, are now fast coming forward, considerable of the supply going to New York. The herring run unusually large, and are of good quality and well frozen. There are two Nova Scotia vessels now at New York with frozen herring fares, and Provincetown has one vessel in the business. Prices here have fallen to \$1 per hundred. George's codfish sell from the vessel at \$3.12½ per cwt. Mackerel in light stock. We quote blotters at \$25, 1's at \$18.50, 2's at \$15.50, and 3's at \$13.25 to \$13.50. Bull's Eyes \$15; Nova Scotia 2's \$14.50; 1's \$15.50 to \$16; extras \$17 to \$18. Prime George's codfish are selling at \$5 per qtl. for large and \$3.75 for small; Trawl Bank \$4 for large and \$3.62½ for small; Hand line Western Bank \$4.75 and 3.75; Shores, \$4.50; Large Dry Bank, \$4.75, medium \$3.75. Large Nova Scotia pickled-cured \$5. Large fresh codfish sold at Boston to day at 4 cts. per lb.; haddock 4c. and 1½c.; halibut 22c. Cusk \$3.25; pollock \$2.25, slack-salted do. \$3; haddock \$3, and hake \$2.25. Sales of fresh cod have been made at \$4.25, and fresh haddock at \$2.25. Boneless and prepared fish 3½c. to 5c. per lb. for hake, haddock and cusk, and 5c. to 6½c. for codfish, as to style and quality. Smoked halibut 6c. to 9c. per lb.; smoked salmon 15c. per lb.; haddock 6c. per lb. Medium herring 17c. per box; hucks 13c.; lengthwise 16c.; No. 1's 12c. Bloaters 75c.; Smoked mackerel 1c. per lb. Canned do, fresh, \$1.50 per doz.; canned trout, \$1.50; fresh halibut, \$1.25; salmon, \$1.75; lobsters, \$1.75; clams, \$1.75. Labrador herring \$5 to \$5.25 per bbl.; medium split \$4.50; Newfoundland do, \$5; Nova Scotia do, \$5 to \$6; Eastport \$3.50; pickled codfish \$5; haddock \$4; halibut heads \$3.25; tongues \$6; sounds \$12; tongues and sounds \$8.50; slowives \$3.25; trout \$14.50; California salmon \$14.50; Halifax do. \$19; Newfoundland do. \$18. Clambait \$7 to \$7.50; slowives \$7. Fresh halibut have been in improved supply and good demand."

MARKET QUOTATIONS.

WHOLESALE RATES.

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

GROCERIES.

SUGAR.	
Cut Leaf	8½ to 8¾
Granulated	7½ to 8
Circle A	7½
White Extra C	6½
Extra Yellow C	6½
Yellow C	6½
TEA.	
Common	17 to 19
Fair	20 to 23
Good	25 to 29
Choice	31 to 33
Extra Choice	35 to 38
Oolong—Choice	37 to 39
MOLASSES.	
Barbadoes	33 to 34
Demerara	34 to 35
Diamond N.	34
Porto Rico	33 to 34
Cicufuegos	none
Trinidad	21
Antigua	31
Tobacco—Black	38 to 44
Bright	42 to 58
Biscuits.	
Pilot Bread	2.60 to 2.90
Boston and Thin Family	5½ to 6
Soda	5½ to 5¾
do. in lb. boxes, 60 to case	7½
Fancy	8 to 15

BREADSTUFFS.

PROVISIONS AND PRODUCE.

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

FLOUR.		
Graham	1.60 to 5.00	
Patent high grades	6.00 to 6.10	
" mediums	4.50 to 4.60	
Superior Extra	4.30 to 4.25	
Lower grades	3.75 to 3.85	
Oatmeal Standard	5.75	
" Granulated	6.00	
Corn Meal—Halifax ground	3.25	
" —Imported	3.35	
Bran per ton—Wheat	24.00	
" —Corn	21.00	
Shorts	21.00 to 25.00	
Middlings	26.00 to 29.00	
Cracked Corn		
" Oats, per ton	28.00 to 30.00	
" Barley	nominal	
Feed Flour	3.25 to 3.70	
Oats per bushel of 34 lbs., retail	15 to 55	
Barley	of 48 " nominal	60
Peas	of 60 " 1.00 to 1.10	
White Bear	per bushel 2.30	
Pot Barley, per barrel	4.90 to 5.00	
Corn	of 56 lbs. 13.00 to 14.00	
Hay per ton	13.00 to 14.00	
Straw	8.00 to 12.00	

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

PROVISIONS.

Beef, Am. Ex Mess, duty paid	10.20 to 11.00
" Am. Plate	11.50 to 12.00
" Ex Plate	12.50 to 13.00
Pork, Mess, American	17.50 to 18.00
" American, clear	18.00 to 18.50
" P. E. I. Mess	17.00 to 17.50
" P. E. I. Thin Mess	15.00 to 15.50
" Prime Mess	13.00 to 14.00
Lard, Tubs and Pails	11 to 12
" Cases	12.50 to 13.00
Hams, P. E. I., green	8 to 8½
Duty on Am. Pork and Beef \$2.20 per bbl.	

Prices are for wholesale lots only, and are liable to change daily. These quotations are prepared by a reliable wholesale house.

FISH FROM VESSELS.

MACKEREL—	
Extra	11.50
No. 1	11.50
" 2 large	12.50
" 2	12.00
" 3 large	9.50
" 3	9.00
HERRING.	
No. 1 Shore, July	4.25 to 4.50
No. 1, August	3.25 to 3.50
" September	3.25 to 3.50
Round Shore	3.50
Labrador, in cargo lots, per bbl	3.75 to 4.00
Bay of Islands, from store	3.50
ALWIVES, per bbl.	4.75 to 5.00
CODFISH.	
Hard Shore	1.00 to 4.15
New Bank	4.00
Bay	1.00
SALMON, No. 1	14.00
HADDOCK, per qtl	2.50
HAKE	1.75
CUSK	1.75
POLLOCK	1.75
HAKE SOUNDS, per lb.	30 to 35c
COIL OIL A	22 to 25

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

LOBSTERS.

Nova Scotia (Atlantic Coast Packing)	4.70 to 5.25
Tall Cans	4.60 to 5.00
Flat	6.00 to 6.25
Newfoundland Flat Cans	6.25 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	4.00 to 17.00
" No 2 do	10.00 to 12.00
" Small, per m.	8.00 to 14.00
Spice, dimension good, per m.	8.50 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.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Nova Scotia Choice Fresh Prints	22 to 23
" in Small Tubs	22 to 24
" Good, in large tubs	20 to 22
" Store Packed & oversalted new	12 to 15
Canadian, Creamery, new	22 to 23
" Township	22 to 24
" Western	19 to 20
Cheese, Canadian	13

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

WOOL, WOOL SKINS & HIDES.

Wool—clean washed, per pound	15 to 20
" unwashed	12 to 15
Salted Hides, No 1	5
Ox Hides, over 60 lbs., No 1	7
" under 60 lbs., No 1	6
" over 60 lbs., No 2	6
" under 60 lbs., No 2	5
Cow Hides, No 1	6
No 3 Hides, each	4
Calf Skins	25
" Deacons, each	25
Lambskins	25 to 75

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

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

APPLES.	
No. 1 Varieties, new, per bbl.	1.00 to 1.25
Oranges, per bbl. Jamaica (new)	6.00
Lemons, per box	5.00
Cocoanuts, per 100	5.50
Onions American, per lb.	3½
Dates, boxes, new	5½ to 6
Raisins, Val.	6½ to 7½
Figs, Eleme, 5 lb boxes per lb.	13
" small boxes	11 to 14
Prunes, Stewing, boxes	7
Grapes, Almeria, kegs	4.50 to 5.50

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

POULTRY.

Turkeys, per pound	12 to 15
Geese, each	40 to 65
Ducks, per pair	60 to 75
Chickens	30 to 60

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK—at Richmond Depot.

Steers best quality, per 100 lbs. alive	4.25
Oxen	3.50
Fat Steers, Heifers light weights	2.50 to 3.00
Wethers, best quality, per 100 lbs.	4.00 to 4.50
Lambs	2.50 to 3.50

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer.

SADDLE AND SABRE.

(Continued.)

To begin with, she was suffering from a severe cold, and that, as a rule, may be pronounced quite sufficient grievance without going into any others that may possibly afflict us; moreover, she had been compelled, from some cause or other, to have the workmen into the house; and what Londoner, who has had experience of him, does not know what a terrible Old Man of the Sea is the British workman when he once gets within your gates?

"I hope," said Mrs. Connop, "it has never been your lot to know what having the work people in means. The British workman has been often abused, and deserves every bit of it. He breaks my rest with hideous regularity. He dawdles about all day; shows great capacity for beer; is profuse in assurances that he shall have finished the job by the end of the week. He looks at it, I suppose thinks over it, but he never works, and *he never goes.*"

"Ah! fortunately we have no experience of that sort of thing. We haven't a house of our own, but always rent one; and Dick would take very good care that there was no necessity for that during our tenancy, but I've always heard that the work-people are very trying. Do you expect Lettie to visit you this year? She was rather looking forward to it, I think, the last time I saw her."

"And I am always very glad to have her with me," rejoined Mrs. Connop, "but it's impossible while the house is in such a muddle as it is now. If I had had an idea what it was going to be I'd have slipped down to Brighton for a month and got out of the way of it all. But they assured me it would take less than a week, and I was foolish enough to believe them. However, they vow that it really is very nearly finished now, and, forsworn as they have often proved themselves, I try to believe them this time. I shall write for Lettie as soon as ever I am rid of them. How was she looking when you saw her last?"

"Oh! she was well enough when we left The Firs, but she finds North Leach rather dull now the hunting is over. She gets a glimpse of the world with you; and, as is only natural, she longs for the fun and gaiety of London in preference to the monotony of her life in the wolds; besides, she made rather a sensation last year—she had quite a train of admirers."

"Yes," rejoined Mrs. Connop, "she is pretty, and she was no doubt popular, and got on well at all the dances I took her to. But Mr. Slade was the only pronounced admirer that I saw. He, I think, was a good deal struck with her."

"Oh! she had others besides him, and more profitable ones to boot."

"I like Mr. Slade," replied Mrs. Connop sharply.

"I think most people do," said Kate; "he is very good-looking and a most agreeable cavalier. I was only speaking from a matrimonial point of view; but, from what I hear about him, Mr. Slade is in no position to take unto himself a wife at present."

"Lettie has plenty of time before her to think about that."

"No doubt," rejoined Mrs. Kynaston. "But it is a thing that naturally crosses a girl's mind as soon as she is introduced. Mr. Furzedon, I should say, was quite as much struck with Lettie as Mr. Slade, and only wanted a little encouragement to declare himself."

"I don't like him as well as the other," said Mrs. Connop sententiously.

"Perhaps not," replied Kate Kynaston; "but when it comes to an eligible *parti*, Mr. Furzedon is preferable. He is a man very well off, and perfectly independent."

"Ah, well! As I said before, Lettie has no cause to hurry herself as yet."

"No, indeed," rejoined Mrs. Kynaston, rising. "I am so very glad to have been fortunate enough to get in. I trust your cold will soon be better, and that you will bring Lettie round to see me before many days are over. Do come, if it is only to show that you are delivered from this incubus that besets you. Good-bye." And as Mrs. Kynaston descended to her carriage she murmured, "Yes, my dear friend, I want these workmen out of the house quite as much as you do."

Furzedon, after duly thinking over Mrs. Kynaston's advice, and what she had told him about Charlie's difficulties, had fully made up his mind as to the plan of his campaign. Nobody knew the story of Charlie's difficulties better than he did; but it was news to him that young Devereux contemplated a "plunge" on Belisarius—a means of extrication from his embarrassments. He resolved that he would boldly ask Lettie to marry him as soon as she appeared in London. He had a very tolerable share of self-esteem, but he hardly expected to be successful upon this occasion, if possible, he determined to avoid positive rejection, but to withdraw his pretensions discreetly as soon as he saw it imminent; then, only let Belisarius be beaten for the Derby, and he would make another attempt. Charlie would be then deeper in the mire than ever. And he might urge upon Miss Devereux that it lay with her to make it possible for him to pay his brother-in-law's debts.

Belisarius! He hadn't troubled his head much as yet to think about that colt's prospects for the Derby, but now it dawned upon him that, as far as he was concerned, the success of Belisarius would be inimical to his interests. He must make inquiries; the horse was not going very well in the market; he wondered whether there was anything wrong with him, he had had no hint of such a thing himself; perhaps Dick Kynaston might have heard something about it—he must ask him. Now it so happened that his visit to Mrs. Kynaston had been made the afternoon before Prance related to the Major what Mr. Black had told him; and when Prance espied Furzedon knocking at the Kynastons' door, that gentleman was calling

there expressly to learn what his Turf confederate thought of the favorite's chance at Epsom, and was speedily put in possession of the Major's newly-acquired information.

"Wants inquiring into a bit, you know; but that fellow Black has the eye of a gled for the market, and the nose of a bloodhound for a dead 'un. I should be very sorry to back a horse of which he held this opinion."

"Then," said Furzedon, "we had better lay against Belisarius this time, instead of backing him. It's safer, as a rule, and at his present price there is a good bit of money to be made. Moreover, if Black is right, he will go back in the betting before the race, and there will be no difficulty about covering our money; besides, it jumps with my own inclinations; not that I'm such a fool as ever to be swayed by them in matters of business, but it's pleasant when they happen to run hand in hand. I've private reasons of my own for hoping Belisarius will not win."

"Would it be indiscreet," rejoined Kynaston, "to ask those reasons?"

"Very, Major," said Furzedon, laughing; "let's say I don't know how to pronounce his confounded name, dislike his color, the cut of his tail—anything."

"That's settled then," rejoined Kynaston; "if my inquiries are satisfactory, we decide to 'pepper the favorite,' to what extent depends upon what I hear."

"All right," replied the other, as he took his leave. "There's no hurry, I think. I shall see you again in the course of a day or two."

Ralph Furzedon had not overlooked Prance in the street, although he had taken no notice of him; but he had not seen that he came out of the Kynastons' house, nor had he the slightest idea that the Major even knew of such a person's existence.

Suspicious by nature, had he known this he would have been at once on his guard. He was thoroughly aware of Prance's enmity, and knew that, though the man could do him no positive harm, yet he could tell stories concerning him which he, Furzedon, would just as soon were buried in oblivion. He regarded Prance as innocuous, simply because any disclosures he chose to make could only be made to that scum of the Turf with which he habitually consorted. He was utterly unaware that in his character as tout Sam Prance was acquainted with many men, like Kynaston, who held a fair *status* in society.

To say that Gilbert Slade had been astonished at the news young Devereux had brought back from London would feebly express his feelings. He was thunderstruck—he had never thought of that—he barely knew Furzedon, had seen very little of him, and felt very indisposed to see more. He knew that he was intimate with the Devereuxs, had been at Cambridge with Charlie, had stayed at North Leach, and all that, but he never pictured him as a possible pretender to Lettie's hand. It might be said that he never pictured himself in that capacity; he had admired Miss Devereux very much, he thought her a very nice girl, would be delighted to meet her again, and was quite in earnest in accepting old Tom Devereux's invitation to North Leach.

It had been no fault of his that visit had not been paid. His answer to Charlie, when the latter suggested it, had been perfectly straightforward; he did not think the Colonel was likely to look favorably upon an application for leave from the new recruit at present, unless he could advance some very serious cause for requiring it. He did not quite see his way into going to North Leach by himself, and so that visit had never been paid; but now that he heard Miss Devereux was engaged to be married to somebody else, he discovered that his feelings towards her were very much stronger than admiration.

It was true that he had never thought of marrying her, but then he had never thought of marrying anybody. Marriage was a thing that had taken no definite shape in his mind—a ceremony that he might or might not go through in years to come. Even if he had ever contemplated it, he knew it was a thing that would be warmly opposed by, at all events, one of his relations. It was only the other day that his uncle Bob, when joking him about Miss Devereux, had reminded him that he would give no consent to his marriage before he got his troop; and although he was within very measurable distance of that much-desired piece of promotion, still there was no immediate prospect of its taking place, and two or even three years might elapse before he saw himself in the *Gazette*. He couldn't understand it; well, he supposed money was everything nowadays, and yet he had thought Lettie not a girl of that sort either. He was not likely ever to be a man of more than moderate means himself; and though he would probably inherit his uncle Braddock's property eventually, yet, in the ordinary course of things, that was not likely to take place for many years. Well, if the thing was done, there was an end of it. Charlie was not likely to be misinformed on such a subject as this. However, they were both going to London at the end of the month to see Belisarius win; Miss Devereux would, no doubt, be in town about that time. He would see her then, and judge for himself; he would, at all events, discover whether it was true that she was engaged to Furzedon.

XXVI.

FURZEDON PROPOSES.

"No hap so hard but cometh to an end," as the old poet sings.

The workmen are out of the house at last, the long-looked-for invitation has been despatched, and Lettie Devereux responds to it—has made her curtesy in Onslow Gardens, little knowing how anxiously her appearance in town was looked forward to by well-nigh half-a-dozen people. Her arrival was speedily notified to Mrs. Kynaston, and through her, directly

indirectly, Furzedon, Charlie, Slade, &c., were quickly aware that Miss Devereux was once more residing under the shelter of her aunt's wing. Animated was the conversation between Mrs. Kynaston and Furzedon when, upon receipt of the news, the latter called in to see the lady who was kind enough to manage the tangled skein of his love-affair.

"And you think I'm right, Mrs. Kynaston?" said Furzedon, at the close of the conference of some half-hour's duration. "You would strike at once?"

"Decidedly," rejoined the lady. "Your plan of action is admirable. Come to the point without loss of time. Back out of it if you find it going against you; say you will not venture to press for an answer as yet—that when Miss Devereux knows you better she will be perhaps better able to recognize your devotion. Pshaw! Any man out of his teens knows the whole gamut usually run up and down on these occasions. And, remember, you must not be disheartened by one rebuff. Lettice is country-bred, and the provincial mind does not expand quite so early as that of a London young lady. Still, I think she is rapidly awakening, and already understands the insipidity of life at North Leach."

"Thanks, very much," rejoined Furzedon. "I shall do precisely what you recommend, and, acting further on what you tell me, return to the charge should Belisarius lose the Derby, pleading that the help Charlie could accept from a brother-in-law he would feel compelled to decline from a friend. Wish me good luck, Mrs. Kynaston, and I will bid you good-day."

"All success to you," replied the lady; "don't be too abrupt this time; and should it not be successful—ah, well! I shall see you before it is judicious to deliver the second assault. It may not be necessary, but, should it be so, I will advise you once more. May good fortune attend you!"

When a man's feelings are deeply interested, the asking a woman to marry him is doubtless, if not a *mauvais quart d'heure*, at least a very nervous one; but in Furzedon's case it was not so. He admired Lettice Devereux—he liked Lettice Devereux—and Mrs. Kynaston had persuaded him that she would make him a good wife. He had made up his mind to marry her, and was very resolute to attain his end, but, as for saying he was in love with her, that was quite another thing; he would feel no despair in case of rejection; he would still sap steadily forward to attain his object, as he would to attain any other object that he considered essential to his success in life; but let him once be convinced that this thing was beyond his reach, and he was not likely to either break his heart about it or to display any great animosity to those who should thwart his purpose. At the present moment he would have sacrificed ruthlessly any one who stood in his way, but, the game once given against him, he would trouble his head no further about his successful rival. A strong hater and vindictive man, when he took it into his head to feel aggrieved, but feeling no resentment towards those who got the best of him on any point, the thing once over.

Proposing with the expectation of being refused is, to borrow a phrase from the hunting-field, like "riding for a fall." It requires nerve, and is not exhilarating; but in both cases there must remain a feeling of much satisfaction when the thing is got safely done with. Furzedon by no means liked the business before him; but he had made up his mind to do this thing, and do it he would. And in this frame of mind he wended his way to Onslow Gardens as soon as he heard of Miss Devereux's arrival there. If he could make the opportunity, he would ask the question without further delay. The knotty question that puzzled him on his way there was, How he was to get Mrs. Connop out of the way? and that, at last, he was fain to confess was beyond him. He repented now that he had not besought his confidante's aid; Mrs. Kynaston, he felt sure, could have managed that matter for him had he but asked her. Now he could only trust to the chapter of accidents. When he arrived at Onslow Gardens he found both ladies in the drawing-room, and the thoroughly unembarrassed manner in which Lettice welcomed him would have convinced a far less shrewd man than Furzedon that, whatever her answer might be, her feelings would have very little to do with it. At all events, guided by Mrs. Kynaston's revelation and her own observation, Mrs. Connop came to the conclusion that Furzedon had no chance; "and," mused the old lady, "if he is fool enough to think so, the sooner that bit of nonsense is knocked out of his head the better." So, after a quarter-of-an-hour's desultory conversation, she rose, and, under some frivolous pretext about finishing a letter, left the room, and gave Ralph Furzedon the opportunity he desired.

He had one point in his favor, and that was, that he was oppressed by no nervousness. He had got his chance, and determined to come to the point as quickly as possible.

"I have been most anxious to see you, Miss Devereux," he commenced.

"Very good of you to say so," replied Lettice. "You can't have been more anxious to see me than I have been to see London."

"I have got something to ask of you—a great favor to beg of you."

"Stop, Mr. Furzedon," interrupted the girl. "Remember, it is unwise to ask favors unless you've good grounds for supposing they will be granted."

"I have very fair grounds for supposing that my request will be listened to, at all events. No man can lay claim to more. I am a great friend of your brother's, well known to all your people, well-to-do—I might go further, and say wealthy."

"It is quite unnecessary, Mr. Furzedon, to go through a catalogue of your social advantages," replied Lettice, with just a tinge of bitterness. She made no pretext of not understanding what her companion was driving at, but was a little nettled that he so persistently ignored the hint that she had given him. "To a friend of Charlie's," she continued, "I would grant any request that I had given him reasonable grounds for supposing I would say 'Yes' to."

(To be continued.)

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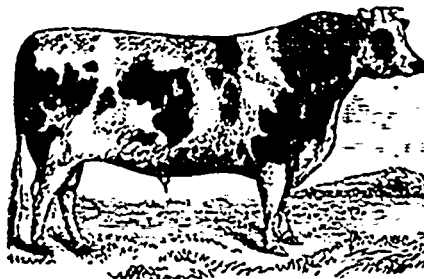
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Varnishes, Dry Colors, Gold Leaf, Whiting, Paris White, &c.

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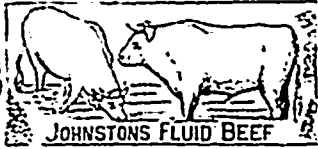
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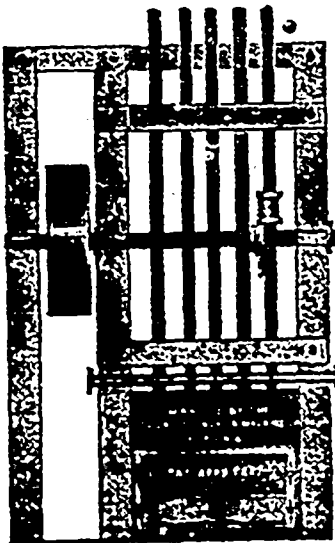
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MINING.

The gold-mining outlook is very bright, and we hear rumors of numerous probable sales. The Waverly district, thanks to the pluck and energy of Messrs. Guo and Wilson, has again come to the front. We understand that they have secured the McClure property, and have for some months been quietly at work developing with most gratifying results. We had the pleasure of examining some rich samples from the property which are on exhibition in the offices of the Acadia Powder Co., and found them equal to any that we have seen. An English mining engineer has been examining the property for a month or more, and returned home by the last steamer, so impressed with the value of the mine that a sale to a rich London syndicate is almost a certainty. With the old districts showing up so well, and the new districts in most instances producing largely, the coming season bids fair to prove the most productive year in the annals of gold-mining in this Province. If care is exercised in preventing the sales of worthless properties, and if ruinous prices are not asked in the first place, the improvement will be permanent, and the gold-mining industry will assume the importance that the great natural wealth in gold of the Province warrants. From the leading centres of capital we are constantly in the receipt of inquiries regarding certain gold-mines, and this proves the great interest that outsiders are beginning to take in the gold districts of Nova Scotia. All that is required to fairly "boom" our gold miners is honest fair dealing, and we think that the lessons taught by the disasters of the past have not been forgotten.

Moose River.—Mr. D. Touquoy is pushing his mining operations, and his new 15 stamp mill will soon be in running order. Mr. Bruce and Mr. McGregor have both been in town lately. The former is working the little North lead on tribute, and the latter is working some of the leads on the Montreal Company's property (of which he is the resident manager), on his own account.

THE RAWDON UNITED MINES.—Since the purchase of the two Rawdon mines by English capitalists, and the consolidation of the properties under the management of Capt. John Nicholls, M. E., the yield of gold has, in anything, increased, and the prospects are better than ever. The last month's returns were 307½ ounces from 717 tons of quartz crushed. If these properties prove successful, there is no doubt that London capital will be largely invested in our gold-fields during the present year. Captain Nicholls is a fortunate acquisition to the Province, as he undoubtedly has the ear of English capitalists, and properties endorsed by him are almost as good as sold.

The following are the official returns so far received at the mines office for the month of January, 1888:—

District.	Mill.	Tons Crushed.	Oz. Gold.
Lake Catechu.....	Oxford.....	97	18½
Mount Uniacke.....	Jno. Nicholls.....	70	14
East Rawdon.....	".....	115	20
".....	Rawdon United.....	602	217
Oldham.....	Oldham Gold Co.....	261½	25
Waverly.....	C. F. McClure.....	100	37
Moose River, Cariboo.....	Moose River G. M. Co.....	92½	48

We desired in this issue to lay before our readers the total yield of gold for the past year, but, although the returns are now all in, we shall be unable to publish them until they have been laid before Parliament. From a kindly given hint we are enabled to say that the returns will be about the same as in 1886, viz., 23,362½ oz.

We are indebted to Mr. J. E. Wilson for a copy of *The Australian Sketcher*, containing a description of the now famous Mount Morgan mine which is deservedly called the "Golden Mountain." The mine is distant 23 miles from Pockhampton, one of the oldest coast towns of the not very old colony of Queensland, and its present market value is between £6,000,000 and £7,000,000 stg. The Mount in part was originally included in a free selection of 640 acres, taken up 14 years ago by a grazier named Donald Gordon, who was unlucky both at sheep raising and mining. He had the Mount examined by an expert who pronounced it ironstone, then a worthless commodity. As he could not make grazing pay, and had been disappointed in his search for gold or copper, he left the locality. Some years afterwards the selection was purchased from him by the brothers Morgan. They associated several partners with themselves, and sold out parts of the interests for large sums. The co-partnership has since been changed into a company, with a nominal capital of one million sterling in £1 shares, which shares are now quoted at £6 and upwards on the Melbourne market. The mining property consists not only of the freehold bought from Gordon, but of a leasehold from the Crown, held under the mining regulations, a portion of such leasehold being at present the subject of litigation between the company and a party of jumpers, who, as usual, assert that the company failed to comply with the mining regulations when taking up the land outside their freehold. This claim is now before the Privy Council. Respecting the chief part of the mine there is no dispute, as the Crown grant has been issued for it. Mount Morgan is situated on the bank of the Deo River. Rising precipitously from the bed of the river it attains an altitude of some 500 feet, with a height above the sea of 1225 feet, and consists principally of ferruginous quartz, containing very finely disseminated gold intermingled, and often coated with oxide of iron. Mining operations are going on at two parts of the mine. The summit is an immense quartz

MINING.—Continued.

from which the stone is taken away bodily. At a lower level the mountain is entered by a tunnel, and the interior is being burrowed out. The batteries are on the hill side, and the stone is carried down by shoots and tramways. It is most difficult to convey even the faintest impression of what the mass of the hill resembles, it is so unlike all other geological formations. It is not a reef with defined walls, nor can any trace of distinct strata be seen. There are great masses of what looks like fused iron or slag from a furnace. One has to look closely to see the gold. It is not dashed over the face of the stone like splangles on the dress of a Columbine, but looking closely one sees minute specks powdered over the rock. Sometimes these gold specks cluster together and form tiny trees or fern like figures. Elsewhere they are sprinkled in patches as though injected into a system of infinitesimal pores. In other pieces one can only detect the gold by the aid of the magnifying glass. In others even that fails, but all alike are said to bear the precious metal. At this mine a face about 100 feet in width, and about 40 feet in height, has been opened out. In another part of the mine the gold is contained in a substance as light as pumice stone, and like fused quartz in appearance. The extreme fineness of the gold has rendered it necessary to employ a special process for collecting it from the stone after being crushed. It is called the Chlorination process, which is carried on in a form designed by Mr. Cosmo Newbery, of the Technological Museum, Melbourne, and Mr. Vautin (now in London), with mechanical appliances perfected by Mr. Wesley Hall, the manager of the mine.

The company are now paying dividends at the rate of £100,000 per annum, but when the works are in complete order, this amount will be vastly exceeded. It has been calculated that upwards of 1,700 tons (averaging 5 oz. to the ton) can be operated on per week.

Mr. Jack, the Government geologist, is of opinion that Mount Morgan consists of material deposited by a hot spring or geyser, but several theories are extant, and the problem of its origin is still undetermined.

CARLETON GOLD-DISTRICT.—*Editor Critic.*—Unavoidable circumstances have kept me from reporting the gold-mines in these localities as soon as I ought. Like all other districts we have our ups and downs. The Carleton mine has been lying idle all this winter, but will resume operations in early spring with renewed vigor. Work on the Turner Co's. mine is being pushed with all possible speed; tunnelling across the metals being the only work. Several very valuable belts has already been made to quit their hiding places; stand out for inspection, and hold themselves in readiness to yield up the yellow stuff when required. The manager is still pushing on for dear life to open up as many belts as possible before the warm season sets in; when the work of mining out the winter discoveries will be carried on on a large scale, so feeling quite confident of a brisk summer we have no reason as yet to cry:

LEHARDON.

An Order-in-Council has been passed on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, and under the provisions of the "Act respecting Public Lands," correcting the regulations of the 8th March, 1884, with respect to the disposal of mineral lands, other than coal lands, in Manitoba and the North West Territories, and of such mineral lands in British Columbia as are the property of the Government of Canada. Generally, it may be said that the few changes in the mining regulations have for their object the assimilating of the system of administering mining lands within the railway belt in British Columbia with the mining laws of that province, adhering, however, to the principle that the purchaser of mining lands shall acquire the right to such mines, minerals, and substances as may be found within the boundaries of his claim produced vertically, but not the right to follow the lead or vein of gold or silver bearing quartz, which originated in his own claim, outside of those vertical lines, as is the case under the ledge or California system, which prevails in the province.

CHILIAN GOLD PRODUCT—The *Chilian Times* reports that for the ten months ending October 31, 1887, the Qainaco field has yielded gold to the value of \$1,737,783.

It is a scientific fact that the alloying of gold with one 2,000th part of lead completely changes its character.

BORING A MILE FOR COAL.—The deepest bore-hole in the world is at Schlodenbach, near Kotschau station, on the railway between Corbetta and Leipzig, and has been undertaken by the Prussian Government in search for coal. The apparatus used is a diamond drill, down the hollow shaft of which water is forced, rising again to the surface outside the shaft of the drill, and inside the tube in which the drill works. By this method cores of about 50 feet in length have been obtained. The average length bored in 24 hours is from 20 to 33 feet, but under favorable circumstances as much as 186 feet has been bored in that time. Other deep holes are as follows: Dornitz, near Wettin, 3,287 feet; Probat Jesar, Mecklenburg, 3,357 feet; Sperenberg, near Zossen, 4,173 feet; Usoburg, near Strassfurt, 4,242 feet; Leith-Elmsborn Holstein, 4,390 feet; Schlodenbach, 4,515 feet.

The bore hole, which in January, 1885, had reached a depth of 4,600 feet, was commenced in June 1850, but left after a year's work, recommenced at the end of 1882, and is still progressing. The cost up to January, 1885, was about £5,000.—*Stationary Engineer.*

The Conductor mine at Gold Hill, N. M., is the largest ledge so far discovered in the camp. The ledge will average 30 feet, and is silver ore at mills \$20 a ton.

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has had over thirty years experience in and has made a special study of, all kinds of Furnace Work, so as to reduce to a minimum the expenditure of coal and time, and to make the process of "firing up" as expeditious as possible. Expert advice given, and all kinds of Jobbing promptly executed in a thorough, mechanical style at lowest possible rates.

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

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

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Reference—Commissioner of Mines for Nova Scotia
Address Letter or Telegram, BEDFORD STATION, HALIFAX CO., NOVA SCOTIA.

Western Counties Railway.

WINTER ARRANGEMENT

On and after MONDAY 28th Nov., 1887
Trains will run daily (Sunday excepted), as follows:—

LEAVE YARMOUTH, daily at 7.15 a.m. Arrive at Digby at 10.15 a.m.

LEAVE DIGBY, daily at 3.30 p.m. Arrive at Yarmouth 7.00 p.m.

Trains are run on Eastern Standard Time
Connections at Digby daily (with Steamer "Evangeline" to and from Annapolis,) Halifax, and Stations on the W. & A. Railway, with Steamer "Secret" to and from St. John every Monday Wednesday and Saturday
At Yarmouth, with Steamer "Dominion" for Boston every Saturday Evening, and from Boston every Thursday morning. With Stage daily (Sunday excepted), to and from Harrington, Shelburne and Liverpool.

Through tickets may be obtained at 126 Hollis Street, Halifax, and the principal Stations on the Windsor & Annapolis Railway.

J. BRIGNELL,

General Superintendent.

Yarmouth, N. S.

CARD.

In assuming the management of the General Victualling Business, conducted by the late firm of

FADER BROS.,

Nos. 6, 8 and 10 Bedford Row, the subscribers would respectfully solicit a continuance of the patronage so liberally bestowed on them, and can confidently assure their old customers and the general public, that it will be our earnest endeavor to keep up the reputation the late firm has always enjoyed, of having nothing but the very best stock possible to be obtained in the market.

The business will be conducted under the name, style and firm of J. A. LEAMAN & Co. All the old employees will be retained, and all contracts or arrangements made by customers with FADER BROS. will be carried out by us.

Hoping to be favoured with a continued share of your patronage, we remain,
Yours respectfully,

J. A. LEAMAN,
R. H. EDWARDS,
C. G. CREELMAN.

Business Announcement

MESSRS. JOSEPH FADER & CO. desire to announce to the public that they will conduct a General Victualling Establishment at 17 and 19 BEDFORD ROW. The old and well-known firm of Fader Bros. of which Mr. Joseph Fader was for many years a leading member, has sold out to a new company, leaving Mr. Joseph Fader the only representative of the name doing business in the city. A long experience in the victualling business justifies the belief that the firm at 17 and 19 Bedford Row will be found to be the headquarters for supply. It will be the aim of MESSRS. JOSEPH FADER & CO. to keep nothing or sell nothing that is not first class in every particular. Past experience puts the firm in the position of knowing just the exact spot of getting the very best goods in their line.

In connection with the meat supplies of the firm, they will conduct on an extensive Scale Sausage Making of all kinds, fresh and smoked Hams, Bacon and Bologna a specialty. Only skilled and reliable workmen will be employed, so that the public may be assured that the goods purchased from the firm of JOSEPH FADER & CO. will be clean and wholesome.

In connection with the operations of this extensive firm, they will keep on hand all descriptions of Canned Goods, purchased first hand from the manufacturers, and which will be supplied at the lowest living rates.

Vegetables of all descriptions always on hand. The best Cheese, the finest Butter, and the freshest Eggs that the market can furnish always on call.

Ships supplied at short notice with all kinds of Provisions.

Mr. Joseph Fader lives on the premises, and has telephone connection, so that he can always be found at any hour of the day or night.

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Mr. Harris is enabled to suit perfectly even most difficult cases, and his stock being made up on the best Scientific Principles, he can with confidence submit them to his patrons.
Office hours 9 a.m., to 5 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. till 10 p.m.

PROTECTION

We must have, because if not protected from the cold, chilly winds of January, the system is liable to a constitutional change, and the lungs become weakened and diseased, then wear a

"Pine Balsam" Protector,

Filled with Pine Balsam, of great benefit to any one with a lung trouble, by giving off its healing properties to the lungs, both by absorption and inhalation. These Protectors, along with Chamomile Jackets, Polar Jackets, Fader Down Jackets, and the French Panel Jacket. But why calculate further than to state that there is a full line of Protectors in stock at the LONDON DRUG STORE, 147 Hollis Street.

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Always open to Buy any quantity of Hides and Slaughter Sole Leather. Correspondence solicited.

HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC, being entirely devoted to the interests of the farmers of the Maritime Provinces, we cordially invite contributions or information on any and every branch of agricultural topics from practical farmers. If their wives and daughters would also make it a medium for the interchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them, much mutual benefit might be derived.

Continuation of extracts from the Pamphlet of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty:—

CALVES.—In the slaughtering of calves it is not a common practice with us, as it is with France and other countries, to render them insensible before bleeding, for fear that the brain may be made less inviting as an article of food by being torn and stained with blood. By using a broad mallet this may in a great measure be avoided, and even if these results do follow they do not in reality alter the quality of the brain for edible purposes. Objections to the humane destruction of an animal on such grounds are as unreasonable as those which are made to juicy and wholesome red veal by people who prefer that which has been rendered white, dry and unnutritious by repeated bleedings, which have reduced the calf, before death to a lingering condition of faintness and debility.

The calf should be first stunned by a blow upon the head by a broad mallet or hammer, aimed at a spot relatively the same as in the full-grown animal. This is to be followed by immediate bleeding, by severing the throat at a point corresponding to the upper portion of the windpipe, using a sharp knife and doing the work thoroughly and at once so as to open all the arteries and veins of the neck.

SHEEP AND LAMBS.—Sheep and lambs should be rendered insensible by blow upon the head, to be followed subsequently by severing the throat, as just advised in the cases of calves, or by plunging a sharp-pointed knife through the blood-vessels at either side of the neck between the bones and the wind-pipe.

The place to be selected for a blow is the centre of a line drawn across the head, about two inches above the eyes, the brain in the sheep occupying a situation posterior to what at first sight would appear to be the natural one.

Nothing is more dangerous than the practice of using the lamp-filler to hasten the kitchen fire. "One of these occasions furnished," as a writer in the *New England Farmer* observes. "not long since the heading to a fire record: 'Fools not all dead yet,' and in that case both the builder and the house were burned."

The same writer goes on to suggest a simple method of obviating this terrible risk. Keep a six quart tin pail, with a close-fitting cover, and pack your kindling sticks upright in it. Then pour on them half a pint of kerosene, which will be at once absorbed, and you will have sticks enough to kindle a dozen fires, at a cost of about a cent for oil. The most stupid ignorance will yield to this method, because it better and more easily does the work required.

G F—Butter should not be allowed to stand 24 hours between the two workings in cold weather. We have seen a case of the mischief sometimes caused by this practice. A sample of very nice-looking butter was, after churning and salting, set away for three days waiting for a new mould. It became very hard, and when brought into warmth to soften it, part of it was overheated. When worked the second time the deteriorated exposed surface, which had acquired an unpleasant smell and flavor, became mixed with the mass, which of course became deteriorated. An hour is long enough for the salt used to dissolve, and long enough to wait between the workings.

Simple mutton suet, heated to a liquid state, is an efficient ointment for chapped lips and hands. It is also excellent for cuts and bruises. For the lips and hands apply at night.

An exchange says:—Four small islands near Yarmouth, comprising 75 acres, have recently been purchased by a gentleman for the purpose of sheep raising. The owner will have the islands stocked with sheep, and go extensively into that branch of farming. Alexander Campbell, a practical Scotch sheep raiser, will take charge of the farm. It is strange that this branch of industry has not been extensively prosecuted in this Province. Where are there lands more admirably adapted for this business than are to be found in Cape Breton? Besides being so favorably located for shipment to the European markets.

The following paper on the "Treatment of Permanent Pasture," recently read before the Farmer's Institute of Albany, N. Y., seems so practical that we extract it from the *N. Y. Cultivator and Country Gentleman*:—

"Pasture is often benefited by a change in the kind of live stock kept on it, and it must be remembered that such is the beneficial effect on certain pastures in destroying weeds, in improving the texture of the soil and encouraging the growth of some of the permanent pasture grasses, that a certain number of sheep, perhaps not less than the number of the cattle, may be kept without diminishing the number of the cattle. Sheep will eat and destroy the white daisy and wild carrot. Confine them in early spring, as soon as vegetation starts, till July, in a daisy-infested pasture, and they will clean them out better, and vegetation will be encouraged.

The tread of the sheep has a marvellous influence on the physical condition of certain light lands, giving them much needed firmness. Horses may be profitably changed around with cattle, consuming much rank growth that is refused by neat stock. Young cattle may be advantageously pastured in

connection with dairy cows, which have a habit of spending their time about the entrance to the pasture. It is well to have trees in the more elevated parts, thus encouraging the animals to leave their droppings when they are most needed.

Bushes of all kinds must be eradicated. They not only occupy space, but by their shade and roots weaken vegetation.

There must be no weeds. Some kinds may be utilized and kept in check, or perhaps exterminated, merely by rotation in pasture with different animals.

The way in which pastures are fed, whether closely or otherwise, has much to do with their permanence in value. It is possible to feed a pasture so closely as to dwarf the grass roots and kill the large growing species. Too light stocking favors the growth of coarse and useless vegetation, choking out sweeter and richer grasses. Dairy cows, unless fed some grain, improve pastures more than young stock or fattening animals. The fields are apt to be too flush in June, and too bare in August. Rather than these extremes, feed some grain or sowed corn in the scant season, and do not allow pastures to run into seed in June.

For a real permanent pasture we must cherish and retain the very best grasses that are fitted to the soil, the climate and the treatment our pastures receive. Sometimes plowing and reseeding is the only resort. But consider other remedies first. Cut the bushes, trees, and destroy such weeds as can be banished without plowing. Drain and irrigate. Dress with bone or ashes, and do not expect very sudden improvement. If neglect has gone too far, and all the good grasses have disappeared, you must plow, and the effect of turning up the soil to the sun and frost is sometimes marvellous. Sprinkling the manure to act as a ferment, liberates the elements of growth, and a proper seed bed is furnished for the best grasses. The soil should be thoroughly tilled. A crop of buckwheat or sowed corn may be utilized in subduing a tough sward. Fertilizers should be applied. And then comes seeding. Do not try to get a grain crop in connection, but give the whole strength of the soil to the future pasture. The seeding should be principally of the grasses which make up our best native permanent bits of pasture. The seed should be rolled in with the lightest brush harrow. Moderate feeding may be allowed whenever there is sufficient growth. But beware of close grazing or treading, till the roots are established. If any large weeds appear, cut them down. Better pasturage should destroy ragweed, pigweed and other annual weeds, so that we may look a second season for a clean pasture that will endure, and grow better with age."

Considerable discussion as to the best means of destroying weeds followed. The penning of sheep and pigs on the infested tracts was highly recommended, and also, for certain obstinate kinds, the free use of salt—enough to make the ground white and destroy all vegetation of every name and nature. Prof. Lintner recommended trying gas lime, applied in the autumn, fresh from the works.

OUR COSY CORNER.

The great dressmaker Worth is said to refuse decidedly to fit a waist that has been reduced by corsets, and his patrons must allow nature and not the corset to adjust the size of their dress bodices. If he shall succeed in making his work a law in this respect, as it is in many other among the ultra-fashionable, he will have had a great mission in life. It is only from such a source that reform in dress can come. The whim or deliberate intent of a great fashion leader will do more than the combined power of argument towards the abolition of unhealthy dress or customs.

A physician writes in the *American Magazine* that it is a good plan to have a warm pair of slippers always close to the bed, that may be slipped on quickly before one's feet touch the floor; made loose enough to be kicked off when climbing into bed again. For one who is liable to be called up frequently, as in cases of illness, this slipper hint will prove valuable if followed. These crocheted slippers are very convenient for the use here mentioned.

The red bonnet is really a feature of the season, and it appears in many materials and various shapes. Cloth, velvet, felt and fancy fabrics are shown in the brightest of reds, and also in a deeper tone of cardinal. The first shade is what is known as "dress" wear, while the other is in taste for any day-time occasion. When made of cloth the bonnets are nearly always pinked and folded in handkerchief fashion. The edges are pinked in sharp points, and all over the surface of the squares are tiny holes, also made by the pinking machine. The brim of the bonnet is of cloth laid on very smoothly, and the square is drawn loosely over the crown, two corners being fastened down smoothly at the sides, while the other two stand up in front behind loops of black moire ribbon, and are stiffened with wire. The ties are of black moire ribbon. Such a bonnet may be worn with a black wool costume, or, indeed, with any costume in which red or black is at all prominent.

Saleratus is excellent for removing grease from woodwork which has not been painted. Spread thickly over the grease spots, moisten, and after it has remained a half-hour wash off with tepid soap suds.

A box holding a half-bushel or more of dry white sand will furnish almost endless amusement for the little ones during stormy or cold days. Give them a corner of the kitchen with plenty of spoons and pails.

For hoarseness, bake a lemon in the oven until it is soft all through, then cut a piece from one end, fill with sugar, and take the sweetened juice before going to bed.

A flannel bag, stuffed with hops and wrung from hot vinegar, laid on the ear is one of the quickest and surest cures for earache.

RELIGIOUS.

BAPTIST.

The number of communicants connected with the different branches of the Baptist Church of the United States, and including the colored Baptists, is reported to be 2,909,245.

Rev. J. E. Clough, D.D., has been laboring in the Ongole field in the Telugu Baptist Mission, for twenty-one years. In that time the number of Christians had risen from none to 25,545.

The Year Book of the Free Baptists of the United States has just been published. From it we learn that there are 1,314 ministers and 169 licentiates in the denomination. The number of churches is reported at 1,531, and the membership 82,686. Twenty-four missionaries are at work in Orissa, India. The churches support two colleges and ten academies and female seminaries.

Rev. George C. Needham is now at work with the Memorial Baptist Church, Philadelphia, the Rev. Wayland Hoyt, D.D., pastor. Dr. Hoyt has received a call to St. Louis, at a salary of \$10,000, and his Philadelphia parish fear that he will accept.

METHODIST.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland and Senator McDonald, of Toronto, will represent the Methodist Church of Canada at the missionary conference to be held in London this summer.

According to statistics lately published, it appears that there are in the United States 4,265,855 church members connected with the different branches of Methodism. Of this number 1,012,729 are connected with the colored churches.

Rev. J. S. Coffin occupied the pulpit of Grafton Street Church on Sunday evening last, with much acceptance.

Rev. D. D. Moore has been holding evangelistic services at Amherst during the last three weeks. He intends to continue special work in the Province for some time.

Rev. Mr. Pickles, of Kaye Street Church, assisted at special services held in Liverpool last week.

Rev. R. Wilson, of St. John, the President of the New Brunswick Conference, has received the degree of Ph. D. from the Illinois Methodist University.

Rev. Mr. Strothard delivered a lecture on "Kingly Men," in the Y. M. C. A. Hall last Tuesday evening, before a good audience.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Congratulations continue to be showered upon the Diocese for the happy choice it has made of Rev. Dr. Courtney as Bishop. He will certainly receive a royal welcome. Although it is contrary to justice that capable men in the Province of Canada should be passed over, still there is great virtue in new blood.

The parishes will require immediate visitation, if the diocese is to recover itself quickly after a year's interval. Yet the Lambeth conference will probably take the New Bishop to England for three or four months, just when he is wanted here most. It may be that Nova Scotia would rather be represented there than not.

In the diocese of Chester, England, the sum of £90,000, or about \$450,000, was subscribed for church purposes during the past year. The population is about 644,000.

The Bristol Bp. Com. have received the generous offer of £10,000 towards the endowment of the new Bishopric. The diocese of Wakefield has subscribed over £80,000 to endow its see. Who shall say that the days of generous-giving have ceased? When will Nova Scotia wake up?

PRESBYTERIAN.

Rev. Mr. Fleck, of Montreal, has been offered the pastorate of Knox church, Winnipeg, at a salary of \$3,500.

Last Sunday the Rev. C. B. Pohlado preached his farewell sermon in St. Andrew's church, Winnipeg. He will immediately take charge of Calvary church, San Francisco. It is to be regretted that the Presbyterian church in Canada has lost such a distinguished minister.

Scotch church, Boston, composed almost entirely of Nova Scotians and Prince Edward Islanders, lately purchased a large church on Warrenton St. On the 5th instant it was dedicated, the services being conducted by the pastor, Rev. S. C. Gunn, and others.

The 26th instant is the day designated for recounting the past hundred years in Sabbath Schools. A special exercise for that day, historical, doctrinal, and practical, has been prepared.

Rev. A. Gaudier, of Toronto, has received a call to the pastorate from Knox church, St. Thomas, Ont., which has been vacant since the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Archibald, through ill-health. The many friends of the latter gentleman in this province will be pleased to learn that he is much improved in health.

The Scottish church, Melbourne, which was unsuccessful in a call to the Rev. Dr. Barclay, of Montreal, is about to have as pastor the Rev. A. Marshall, of Inveresh, Scotland.

A bust of the late Dr. Norman McLeod is being prepared, as a companion to that of the late Principal Tulloch, recently placed in Balmoral Castle.

Madison Avenue church, New York, is seeking to obtain the Rev. Dr. S. J. McPherson, of Chicago, as successor to the Rev. Dr. Charles S. Robinson.

REVISED LIST OF BOOKS FOR THE MILLION.

STANDARD AND POPULAR WORKS

ALMOST GIVEN AWAY!

Read the following list and send us the numbers of the books you desire:

1. The Widow Hedott Papers. This is the book over which your grandmothers laughed till they cried, and it is just as funny to-day as it ever was.
2. Winter Evening Recreations, a large collection of Acting Charades, Tableaux, Games, Puzzles etc., for social gatherings, private theatricals, and evenings at home.
3. Back to the Old Home. A Novel. By Mary Cecil Hay author of "Hidden Perils."
4. Dialogues Recitations and Readings, a large and choice collection for school exhibitions and public and private entertainments.
5. The Standard Letter Writer for Ladies and Gentlemen, a complete guide to correspondence.
6. The Frozen Deep. A thrilling Novel by Wilkie Collins, author of "The Woman in White."
7. Red Court Farm. An interesting Novel. By Mrs. Henry Wood, author of "East Lynne," etc.
8. The Lady of the Lake. By Sir Walter Scott.
9. In Cupid's Net. A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne."
10. Amos Barton. A Novel. By George Elliot, author of "Adam Bede," "The Mill on the Floss."
11. Lady Gwendoline's Dream. A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne."
12. The Mystery of the Holly Tree. A Novel. By the author of "Dora Thorne."
13. The Budget of Wit, Humor and Fun, a large collection of the funny stories, sketches, anecdotes, poems and jokes.
14. John Bowerbank's Wife. A Novel. By Miss Mulock, author of "John Halifax, Gentleman."
15. The Gray Woman. A Novel. By Mrs. Gaskell, author of "Mary Barton," etc.
16. Sixteen Complete Stories by Popular Authors, embracing love, humorous and detective stories, stories of society life, of adventure, of railway life, etc., all very interesting.
17. Jasper Dane's Secret. A Novel. By Miss M. E. Braddon, author of "Aurora Floyd," etc.
18. Fancy Work for Home Adornment, an entirely new work upon this subject, containing easy and practical instructions for fancy baskets, wall pockets, brackets, needle work embroidery, etc., etc., profusely and elegantly illustrated.
19. Grimm's Fairy Stories for the Young. The finest collection of fairy stories published.
20. Manual of Etiquette for Ladies and Gentlemen, a guide to politeness and good breeding, giving the rules of modern etiquette for all occasions.
21. Useful Knowledge for the Million, a handy book of useful information for all, upon many and various subjects.
22. The Home Cook Book and Family Physician, containing hundreds of excellent cooking recipes, hints to housekeepers, telling how to cure all common ailments by simple remedies.
23. Manners and Customs in Far Away Lands, a very interesting and instructive book of travels, describing the peculiar life, habits, manners and customs of people of foreign countries.
24. 81 Popular Ballads. Same size as sheet music. Words of all the old and new songs.
25. Called Back. A Novel. By Hugh Conway.
26. At the World's Mercy. A Novel. By Florence Warden.
27. Mildred Trevanion. A Novel. By "The Duchess," author of "Molly Bawn," etc.
28. Dark Days. A Novel. By the author of "Called Back."
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CHESS.

The proprietors of THE CRITIC offer two prizes—to consist of books on Chess—to those subscribers who shall send in the greatest number of correct solutions during the current year. No entrance fee required. All communications for this department should be addressed—**CHESS EDITOR, Windsor, N. S.**

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

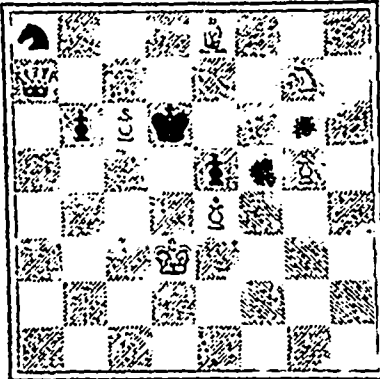
G. G. D., Jr.—No 1 is stopped by B playing Kt to QK13, and No. 2 by B to K3. Correct solutions appeared in issue of 27th ult. "D."—You will be quite eligible. Glad Montreal editor has convinced you. Ottawa Citizen received. Please note above address. Columbia Chess Chronicle received.

In reply to several requests, the editor will be pleased to receive the names of any ladies or gentlemen who may be desirous of playing games by correspondence.

Solution of Problem No. 5. B to K6, etc.

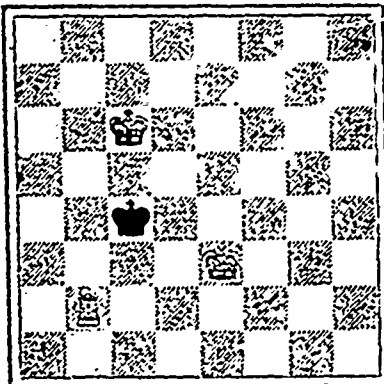
(Correct solutions received from Rev. C. E. Willots, "Edgie," V. O. Gray, L. M. Wilkins, L. Johnstone, W. Lawson, "D.," H. B. Stairs, C. Cutbill, Mrs. H. Moseley, and J. G. Harrington)

PROBLEM 8.
By Herr Heydt.
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in 2 moves.

PROBLEM 9.
(Selected especially for beginners.)
BLACK.



WHITE.
White to play and mate in 2 moves

Consultation game, played some years ago at the Cardiff Chess Club.

King's Gambit declined.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1 P to K4 | P to K4 |
| 2 P to KB4 | P to Q4 |
| 3 P takes QP | P to K5 |
| 4 B to QK15 (ch) | P to QB3 |
| 5 P takes P | P takes P |
| 6 B to QR4 | Q to Q5 |
| 7 P to QB3 | Q to Q3 |
| 8 Kt to K2 | B to KKt5 |
| 9 Castles | Q to Q6 |
| 10 R to K sq | B to QB4 (ch) |
| 11 K to Bsq (a) | |

and Black announced mate in 2 moves.

(a) K to Rsq would only prolong the game a few moves.

CANADIAN CHESS ASSOCIATION.

At an adjourned meeting of this Association, held on Tuesday, the 31st ultimo, Montreal was chosen as the next place of meeting, and the following officers elected for the ensuing year:

HONORARY PRESIDENT,—T. LeDroit, Esq., Quebec.

PRESIDENT,—H. A. Howe, L. I. D., Montreal.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,—Messrs. W. H. Hicks, Montreal; J. B. Halkett, Ottawa; C. P. Champion, Quebec.

SECRETARY-TREASURER,—Jno. Henderson, Montreal.

MANAGING COMMITTEE,—Messrs. J. W. Shaw, J. P. Cooke, Jno. Barry, and E. B. Greenshields, of Montreal; J. B. Hurlbert, L. I. D., and W. H. Morgan, of Ottawa; D. E. Grant and H. Iovers, of Quebec.

The committee of management ordered the ties between Messrs. J. E. Narraway, E. Pope, and N. McLeod, to be played on Wednesday, the 1st inst., and following days.

At the termination the score stood: Mr. N. McLeod, 1½ games won, 1st prize \$20, and final winner of the cup. Mr. E. Pope, 1 game, 2nd prize, \$15.

Mr J. E. Narraway, ½ game, 3rd prize, \$10.

The Trophy Cup was presented to the Association by T. LeDroit, Esq., Quebec, and the Montreal and Quebec Chess Clubs, each contributing one-third of its value.

AN ELECTRICAL CHESS RECORDER.

A very ingenious application of electricity in connection with chess has been invented by Dr. Wurstenberger, of Zurich. It consists of an apparatus for recording every move, similar to the ordinary tape instruments, and is placed in electrical connection with the chess board. Each of the pieces has a small peg at the bottom, which is inserted in a hole in the centre of each square of the board. The pegs of the black pieces are metallic, while those of the white pieces are of an insulating material, and this causes the printing on the tape to show whether the record relates to a white or a black piece. The recorder practically consists of a small motor driving a printing wheel. To the axle of the motor are attached small brushes acting on a commutator, to a section of which each square of the board is electrically connected. The printing arrangement, which is actuated by an electro-magnet, is brought into operation by the brush passing over the particular section of the commutator to which the squares upon which the piece is moved belong. The action of the black pieces is to first cause the separation of the two rows of type, after which the action is that already indicated. In playing the movement of the piece first causes the motor to rotate, and on the particular section of the commutator being brought into contact with the brush, when the proper letter is brought into position for printing, the current is completed, and an electro magnet presses the type against the type-wheel, and on its return moves the type forward. By this ingenious contrivance an absolute record of every move is preserved,

as was shown on a recent inspection of the apparatus at the offices of the Woodhouse & Rawson Company, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London.

DRAUGHTS CHECKERS

Mr. Charles F. Barker, of Boston, the Checker Champion of America, who recently defeated Mr. Martins, of Scotland, in a match of 50 games, was obliged to return home rather hurriedly by his business engagements. Before leaving Great Britain, he announced his intention of so arranging his business affairs as to enable him to return in April, and spend at least a year in the old country among its draughtsmen. While on the other side an effort was made to bring him and Mr. James Smith, of Spennymoor, Champion of England, together in a match with restricted openings. The Glasgow Herald has received a letter from Mr. Smith, of which an extract is as follows:—"I note in last week's Herald Mr. Barker's challenge to play me a restricted match, which I cheerfully accept. The restriction I propose is to play every possible first move with blacks, and with white to play every possible reply to 11-15. This will make a match of 32 games, and will be quite sufficient to test our respective merits." Mr. Barker has not been heard from since the receipt of the above, but no doubt is expressed that he will accept. It will be an interesting match.

Solution to Problem 4—Solved by Dugald Stewart, of Shelburne, and W. N. Reinhardt, LaHave.

The starting position was:—Black men on 1, 8, 23, K17; white men on 10, 15, 19 and 24. White to move and win.

15	11	1-5	14	10	9-14
8-15	18	14	9-13	6	9
24	20	17-13	7	2	white
15-24	10	7	(1) 5-9		
20	18	13-9	(a) 10	6	wins.

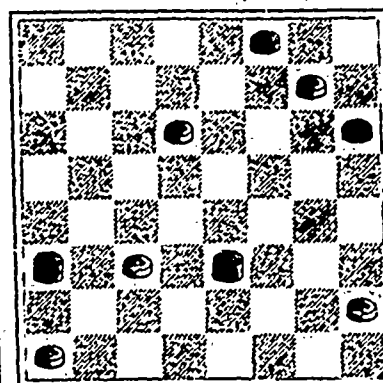
(The following variation will be interesting:—

13-9	13-17	21-25	and			
2	7	7	10	14	17	white
9-13	17-21	25-30	wins.			
10	6	10	14	17	22	

(a) In a solution sent to us by Mr. Reinhardt, we note that at this point he plays 10 15 instead of 10 6, followed by 9-14. Had he played 13-17 instead of 9-14, the following position would result, to which we desire to call attention:—Black man 9, K17; w. kings 2, 15. White to move. Can he win, and if so, how?

PROBLEM 6.

From the Glasgow Herald.
BLACK—Men 3, 12, K21, 23.



WHITE—Men 8, 10, 22, 23, 29.
Black to play and win.

Through a typographical error, our

last problem was numbered 4 instead of 5, as it should have been. Our readers will of course make the correction each for themselves.

The proprietors of THE CRITIC offer two prizes—to consist of books on Checkers—to those subscribers who shall send in the greatest number of correct solutions during the current year. No entrance fee required. All Checker communications should be addressed to W. Forsyth, 30 Grafton Street, Halifax.

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