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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.

What is our Knightly Minister of Militia doing towards the end of having such an amount of proper equipments at every divisional head quarters that at least two battalions should be enabled to take the field serviceably equipped at three days notice?

Says the *Canadian Trade Review*. "The Canadian Pacific road is preparing, it is asserted, to build wharves and elevators at Portland Me., in anticipation of making that city its Atlantic seaboard port." If this be true, is it not because no strong and united effort is ever made on behalf of Halifax that she is always passed by?

The movement of the Mormons towards Mexico is assuming large proportions. They have bought from private persons large tracts of good agricultural lands in the valley of Casas Grande River, and are negotiating for more. Several flourishing villages exist in the neighborhood already, the principal one being called Porfirio Diaz.

At a meeting of the City Council last Friday Alderman Mosher gave notice of a resolution that the Recorder prepare a bill for submission to the legislature enacting that the government of the city be placed in the hands of a Mayor and six commissioners, one for each ward. This movement is in the direction indicated in THE CRITIC some weeks ago, and we consider it would be a great improvement, and might put an end to the unseemly squabbles that discredit the present confused and unnecessary representation.

Politics in France are evidently approaching a crisis. The action of the Cabinet indicates the imperfection of the constitution, and it seems likely that Boulanger's plan to propose no plan of revision, but convoke the electors to return a special Congress to deal with the whole situation, will find favor, especially among the peasantry, who will kick at the disguised income tax foreshadowed by M. Floquet. Meantime French finances are in a discouraging state, and the Navy has been by no means kept up to the increase accomplished by the British and Italian admiralties. A political crisis is quite on the cards, and it seems altogether probable that General Boulanger will come to the front as the most prominent figure whenever it comes to a head.

The *Dominion Illustrated* gave us last week a charming portrait of Lady Stanley. We hope this new departure will be followed up with a long series of likenesses of ladies prominent in the various centres of society in the Dominion. We have had an extensive assortment of masculine portraits. Let us have some ladies to brighten the series. We are glad to notice an increased clearness of engraving in some of the landscapes, which for a time were a little blurred. But the *Dominion Illustrated* is a most valuable effort of journalism.

The educated Hindoo of Bengal is suffering to an extent which excites alarm from diabetes. Climate, food, and his daily avocations are against him. The present generation is altogether too sedentary. Their forefathers were much given to horse exercise, walking and wrestling, and an authentic story is told of a young man who purchased a fine horse which threw him several times. His septuagenarian father said "That lad must be very lax not to be able to keep his seat on a horse; I will try him." The old gentleman rode the horse for a week and then returned it to his son, saying "it was but a little neighing—a pleasant hack to ride, as tame as a lamb." There is in fact nothing like esquetrian exercise for keeping the liver in order.

When the Persian Satrap Mardonius, about 480 B. C., formed a plan for detaching Athens from the interests of the other Great States, the Athenians returned to his emissary the manly answer that, "so long as the sun held in its course, Athens would never become the ally of Persia." Athens was but a small republic, a city more noted for culture than for population, with a territory no larger than a good-sized Canadian County. Yet Athens kept at bay, and routed in two great battles, one by land and one by sea, the mighty power of "the great king," besides dominating all Greece for nearly 100 years. In her greatest contests Athens, despite her generally glorious patriotism, was continually baffled by self-seeking traitors among her own sons, and received the blow at Syracuse, which crippled her supremacy, through the machinations of Alcibiades. Is there any resemblance between Athens and Canada?

Mr. Sumichrast's letter in the *Chronicle* of Monday is unusually interesting (which is saying a good deal) from its comprehensive grasp of the moralities (or want of moralities) of the Great Election. It is pleasant to find it stated that "the one voice raised in the press in strong and earnest condemnation of the rascality of the republican plotters in the Sackville episode, was that of an Irishman" who, though opposed to the British administration, was too honorable to condone the disreputable electing dodge. But, says Mr. S., "the standard of American morality is singularly low. The successful rascal is looked up to, is honored, is applauded. An American resident in Halifax told me he admired a successful thief on a large scale, for a man must be smart to steal a lot of money." Of course thousands of honorable Americans are as disgusted as ourselves. Nevertheless Canadians had better stick to Canada.

There is a good deal more patriotism manifested by Canadians living in the United States, and by the Press which worthily represents them, than by a section of the Canadian Press proper (or improper.) This is what that excellent paper the *Chicago Canadian American* has to say about the proposition to give up our birthright without even the consideration of a mess of pottage.—"The proposition of the western journals (in which the *St. John Globe* joins with its usual alacrity to recommend any new surrender to the Republic) is that the United States shall keep the price we paid them while we retain them what they sold out to us. The advocates of the surrender argue charmingly in behalf of this course. 'There were no railways on the continent in 1818,' says the *Hamilton Times*, and because there are railways now they should be free. But, as we have shown, the railways are free to American citizens and their fish on payment of the usual tolls. What the *Times* fails to remember is that there were fishing vessels, and the treaty prescribes the conditions under which, and for what purposes, American fishing vessels shall enter such harbors."

CANADIAN OR AMERICAN?

It is to be presumed that the *St. John Globe* does not find the open advocacy of Annexation so popular as it would desire; at least that is the conclusion pointed to by the specious tone of its leading article of the 3rd. inst., an article marked by a plainly veiled desire to present British and Canadian ideas in an unfavorable light. In pursuance of this predilection several points are exhibited under a false aspect. We are by no means so sure, for instance, that "almost the whole tribe of American protectionists ardently desired the success of Mr. Blaine," but that is a point of little consequence. The "deep

feeling of hostility to England" entertained by a portion of the Irish population of the United States cannot, unfortunately, be gainsaid, but if some feeling antagonistic to the North was manifested in Canada during the civil war it was not productive of any offensive act, while many Canadians served in the Union armies, and Canada was, a year or two after its cessation, harried by hostile bands which the United States government disturbed itself but little to keep in check, except in the honorable instance of Col. Wheaton of the U. S. 20th Regiment, who in 1871, took upon himself to oust the Fenian invaders of Manitoba from the Hudon's Bay Fort, just within our border, near Pembina. These things are however past and gone. England having been in the wrong in the Alabama case, submitted to arbitration, and cheerfully paid an amount which, it is notorious, was in excess of actual damages. If Americans choose to remember with bitterness the irritations of that period it cannot be helped: magnanimity in regard to occurrences not a quarter of a century old can indeed scarcely be expected from a nation which still delights to dwell on the provocations of the revolutionary war of more than a hundred years ago. But when the *Globe* assumes that "in the minds of too many Englishmen and their Canadian descendants, there still lingers a remnant of the feeling of the pre-revolutionary days, that the United States can be bullied into doing what these Englishmen desire," and that "they have overlooked the lessons of the revolutionary war," it speaks not according to facts but as it is prompted by its proclivities, and stands plainly revealed as the enemy not only of British connection but of Canadian nationality. As a matter of fact there is not, we believe, a cultivated Briton all over the world who does not deplore the obstinacy of old George the Third, and who is not sincerely convinced of the justice of the cause in which the United Colonies took up arms. That England had not a single general of capacity to place in the field was perhaps a Nemesis. The one man of more commanding ability (Sir Guy Carleton) whose superiority might possibly have made a difference, was appointed too late, and it is perhaps better that it was so, as the struggle would most likely have been prolonged and further embittered had any great success attended the British arms. The uncultivated Briton, if he ever thinks of the subject at all, is probably of the same opinion. But in neither case would the Englishman of to-day regard the great Republic with any feelings but cordiality and respect, were it not for the frequent outbursts of popular American antipathy and aggressiveness which he simply cannot reciprocate. When the *Globe* descants on "the Canadian attitude over the fishery question, the fierce and vicious attacks upon the President and Government of the United States * * * while the whole treatment of American Fishermen has been calculated only to excite hostility," it is easily discernible that what the *Globe* would consider becoming to Canada would be the eager surrender of every Canadian right, at the slightest intimation from America that our doing so would be agreeable to her. Whether a man may reconcile it to his honor or principles to take the oath required by a legislative assembly, to maintain the existing institutions of his country, and at the same time advocate its delivery over to a foreign power, is, under the peculiar circumstances of Canada, a matter for his own conscience, but it does seem to us that a newspaper which pursues a course dictated by these tendencies, is not a Canadian but an American sheet, and would find its more fitting habitat across the border line.

NAVIES AND NAVIES.

The recent exposition of the New York *Herald* of the ridiculous facility with which Halifax and Bermuda could be wrested from the grasp of England and Canada by the irresistible Navy of the United States, would be one of unusual depth and lucidity were it not for the omission of an important prelude to the operations, viz., the administration of a strong narcotic to the British Government, Horse Guards, and Admiralty, and the Canadian Departments at Ottawa. As it would be desirable that all these authorities should be fast asleep when the gallant American expedition sets about its preparations, this omission cannot but be regarded as a serious defect in the scheme. Bermuda is so vulnerable and accessible, and at so vast a distance from England (they usually go by the Cape of Good Hope and on round Cape Horn to get at it) that the sedative might not *prima facie* appear to the sanguine American to be a necessity. Nevertheless, we counsel him to include it in his programme. But it is sorry work to joke while the whole man, inner or outer, is quaking and trembling with fear. We recently gave a very authentic account of the American Navy of 17 or 18 new ships, of which only two or three are as yet at sea. But it is of no consequence that the British North American and West India Squadron, on its present peace footing is, numerically and in weight of metal, almost equal to the whole United States Navy afloat. We have read, marked, learned and inwardly digested the tale of the "General Armstrong." It has made us very sick and tremulous, and we are wholesomely impressed with the capability of one American schooner to defeat a British seventy-four, a frigate, and a sloop, or their equivalents of to-day. No doubt two or three schooners would do it all. Yet it may not be entirely beyond the bounds of possibility that a force might exist which would be sufficiently preponderating to overmatch even American heroism. A week or two ago, we received the October Navy List, and (although nothing can quite still our perturbation) we could almost be persuaded to take some courage from it. It happened that we had not analyzed a Navy List for 18 months. These have been months of extraordinary activity in the British Naval and Private Yards. Not only have an unusual number of ships of remarkably new and powerful types been launched and completed, but all the later vessels exhibit a notable fresh departure in the relation of horse-power to tonnage. Two years ago the figures representing horse-power and tonnage bore something like an average proportion to each other of about three-fourths or possibly four-fifths of the former to one of the latter. In the newer ships of all classes

the horse-power is largely in excess, the figures given in the list indicating alterations in the engines of older vessels, as well as an immense preponderance in those lately laid down. The result of analysis is as follows. There is a new classification First, "Armored Battle Ships," in three classes. Of these there are 48 sea-going vessels. 26 of the first-class, 15 of the second, and 7 of the third, and it is notable that four of the largest old iron-clads averaging over 10,000 tons each, are relegated to the third class, while five more, of similar dates, are withdrawn from the seagoing list altogether. Of brand-new ships of the first class, nine—the *Rodney*, *Anson*, *Benbow*, *Howe*, *Nile*, *Trafalgar*, *Victoria*, *Sans Pareil*, and *Warspite*—the average of tonnage is 10,557, of horse-power 11,555. One only of them is as small as 8,500 tons, and she is, more correctly speaking, a first-class cruiser. More minute detail would show extraordinary size and power in particular ships, but we have not space for it. This fleet of sea-going iron-clads is altogether independent of about a dozen which have been placed in the "Coast Defence" list.

There are 10 Cruisers of the First Class, all new, two of which, the *Blake* and the *Blenheim*, are of 9,000 tons, with the enormous motive power of 20,000 horses each. The Second Class contains 24 ships, 17 of which are new within the last two years, and the remaining seven are very powerful vessels. Every one of them has horse-power largely in excess of tonnage, five of them in the proportion of 9,000 to 2,900.

The Third Class of Cruisers comprises 42 ships, of which the *Canada*, *Comus*, *Emerald* and *Tourmaline* are specimens, except as to motive power, which, though in excess of their tonnage, is not so in so marked a degree as in the numerous newer vessels of the class. Some new ones, like the *Serpent*, show a proportion of 1,770 tons to 4,500 horse power. Total Cruisers—76.

There are 27 vessels rated as Sloops (Commanders' Commands) These range from 950 to 1,170 tons, with horse-power mostly a little superior to tonnage, though some of them will no doubt be shortly laid aside. Five of them, however, are new, with a tonnage of 1,150, and 2,000 horse-power, and three others are of 950 tons and an average of 1,260 horse-power. Of the larger class, the *Buzzard* is a fair specimen.

Two "Gun Vessels," of 950 tons and 1,500 horse-power, might be added to the Sloops, being also Commanders' Commands. These are indicative of a new class.

There is a crowd of Gun-Boats of three different classes. The Third Class, of 1 gun, with a fair horse-power, is exclusively for coast defence. The Second Class is of the *Mallard*, *Wrangler*, and *Forward* type, about 450 tons, and the same horse power. There is a considerable number of these, but they are obsolete, and their replacement is in progress by a new First Class, 26 of which are building or recently built. Some of them have already been at sea. Seven of these are of 735 tons, with 4,500 horse-power; two of 525 tons and 3,000 horse-power, fourteen of about 800 tons and 1,200 horse-power, and two of 715 tons and 1,000 horse power. This is a great improvement in the Gun Boat line.

As there are a good force of troop ships, and a lot of swift vessels ready to be chartered, it may, perhaps, be safely assumed that the narcotic would not be a superfluous item in the *Herald's* light-hearted programme.

REGULARS AND MILITIA.

Lt.-General Sir John Ross is, we take it, not younger by more than five or six years than the late Commander of the Imperial Forces in Canada, Lord Alexander Russell. Sir John, however, although like Lord Alexander, a Rifle-Brigade man, and so little distant from him in standing, is yet an officer of another, a newer, and as we think, a better school. It is somewhat of a characteristic of officers of Lord Alexander's type to entertain feelings of indifference to the Militia. Men of a newer school know that in times of emergency they must not only have Militia under their command, and that there are many circumstances in which the aid of that body either in England or the great Colonies, would be of vital importance, but they have also not failed to grasp the fact that a few weeks with the colors suffices to make them more than fairly good soldiers as to discipline and detail, and perhaps more than equal (at least in Canada) to regulars in certain resources which are the outcome of an intelligence fairly educated, and of the nature of the business, agricultural, mining, or maritime lives they lead.

Both officers and men of the Militia Brigade of Halifax may congratulate themselves on the friendly and appreciative feeling manifested by the present distinguished Commander of the Forces towards the body to which they belong. Of its genuineness and cordiality, we fancy those Commanders of Militia Battalions who enjoyed the General's hospitality after the recent manoeuvres, entertain no doubt. Nor is it confined to such occasions, nor even to the General alone. It is known that it was matter of considerable regret to Sir John that the accident from which he was suffering prevented his inspecting the Aldershot Camp in September for Sir Frederic Middleton, who was busy elsewhere; and it is especially satisfactory to learn that Major-General Goodenough, R.A., who was recently sent out on duties of inspection connected with fortifications and ordnance, has ordered (of course with the sanction of the Lt. General) every appliance of the ordnance corps to be utilized for the better opportunities of instruction of the H. B. G. A., and that officers of the Garrison will, during the winter, give weekly lectures, mainly intended for the benefit of our Volunteer Militia. Every assistance to the Force which may be asked by the Deputy Adjutant General of Militia is not only accorded with the utmost promptitude, and with hearty good-will, but has more than once been anticipated. This state of things is eminently creditable to the Imperial Military authorities, and very satisfactory to our deserving national Forces.

CHIT-CHAT AND CHUCKLES.

There is one man in Cornwall who thinks an animal may know too much. While he was admiring the beauty of his favorite cow, imagine his surprise to see her fasten her horns into the limbs of an apple tree, shake it, and then pick up the apples. These proceedings were continued until she had satisfied her appetite.

A beggar was pursuing his calling in the street. "Are you not ashamed," asked a passer-by, "to follow a trade like that when you are able to work?" "Sir," replied the barefooted one with Castilian pride, "it was money, not advice, that I asked you for!"

First sweet girl—"O, it was so romantic. I got beyond my depth at Long Branch, and he saved my life, and after that we became engaged. Isn't it lovely!"

Second sweet girl—"That's just your luck, dear. I worked out beyond my depth six times this season and was saved by six different young men, but every mother's son of them was married."

Many persons have been puzzled to know to whom Tennyson referred in the opening lines of "In Memoriam," which read—

"I hold it truth, with him who sings
To one clear harp in divers tone,
That men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves to higher things."

The allusion has lately been definitely settled by the Poet Laureate that it was Goethe to whom he referred.

M. Levasseur, a savant of the French Academy, says that in the reign of Charlemagne nine-tenths of France was under forest and swamp; not more than 9 persons to the square mile existed, and about 75 to the square mile of cultivated land. He has found out that then as with modern Gauls the average number of children was the "mystic two." M. Bloch, a well known statistician, asserts that in the course of 50 years, did foreigners continue to increase at the rate of three per cent., they would constitute one third of the population, and then France would cease to be a nation.

It was on an outward-bound ocean vessel. A goodly number of ministers of the Gospel were on board, and it was decided to hold an experience meeting in the saloon. An elderly minister presided, and he called upon a young preacher who had been one of the promoters of the meeting for his experience. The latter began: "Brethren, as I was lying in my berth last night, thinking of the great ocean on whose bosom we are floating, a beautiful thought came to me—" Then he stopped. His face began to assume a pallor often noticed on shipboard, and, placing his hand on his watch pocket, he left in great haste to commune with the bounding deep. "My friends," remarked the presiding minister, "I think we had better let our beautiful thoughts digest." Then the meeting adjourned.

I saw them walking, hand in hand.
Where slanting sunbeams flickered late:
Life was to them an unknown land,
With young love smiling at the gate.
Once more I saw them, as they went
With ling'ring footsteps down the shore,
The years allotted well nigh spent—
Life all behind them, heav'n before.
But as again they neared the gate
Of life's mysterious, narrow land,
I saw that Love did still await,
And beckon them with his white hand

JAMES BUCKHAM.

TEXAN AMENITIES.—Two Texans met each other on the opposite banks of a stream, and exchanging greetings, many friendly questions were put and answered. The men were evidently delighted to see each other, and their only regret appeared to be that the meeting was in a place where it was impossible for them to clasp and shake hands, the river not being fordable on account of its swiftness and the rocky, treacherous nature of the channel, while the nearest bridge was five miles above. Both men lamented these unfortunate circumstances, but at length a way of getting over the difficulty suggested itself to one of them, whose pet name was "Broncho Bill."

"I say, Sam," cried Broncho, "it's a little rough for old friends and neighbours to meet away out here, thousands of miles away from home, and then have to part this way. Got yer pistol with ye?"

"I hev," cried Sam—"allers carries her."

"Good! That's one comfort; if we can't get across this yer stream to shake hands, why, that's nothin' to prevent us from takin' a shot at each other! Jist ride up to yer left thar a rod or two. Thar! Now jist one good old neighbourly shot!"

The men rode aside, and "Bang, bang!" went their pistols. "Yer smashed the pummel of my saddle," cried Broncho. "Yer see, the horse sbed a little jest as yer turned loose, or ye might 'a' plumped me good."

"You done better, Bill; yer got into the flesh of my arm 'bout half an inch. Good mornin' to yer—a safe journey to yer—and tell the folks at home we met and had a good sociable time together."

"Thank yer, and the same to yer; but I'll give 'em a good account of yer."

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And do our best to bring you back by honorable dealing,
For we can hardly see the odds 'twixt cheating folks and stealing.
You do not know, until you try, the bargain we now offer—
One price we have, and only one, despite what some may proffer
To meet the times, and at all times, without unfair devices,
We mark our goods to all alike, right down at bottom prices.
On this impartial system we make everybody equal,
And it is for the best we find, on figuring up the sequel.
No tossing up of prices here, to catch them in the falling,
Like far too many in the trade, "ACCORDING TO THEIR CALLING"
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To visit us without delay, and "view the situation."
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Nothing shall wanting be with us, to make your visit pleasant,
As well as profitable, too, be you a peer or peasant.
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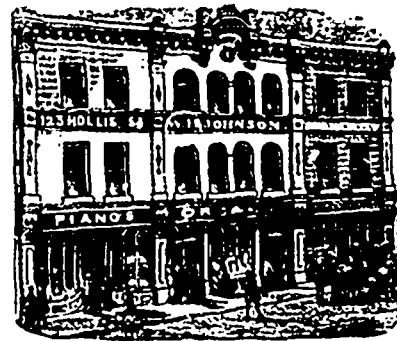


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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount inclosed 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 16. For \$2.50 in cash we undertake to send *The Critic* to any subscriber for one year, supplying him in addition with seventy-nine of the most readable of readable books. Those who are renewing their subscriptions, as well as new subscribers, should take advantage of this offer.

The winter arrangement on the Intercolonial goes into operation on Monday next.

The receipts from Quebec Crown Lands for the past year aggregate \$786,000, an increase of over 50 per cent. over those of the preceding year.

The Allan steamer *Polynesian*, the first weekly mail boat of the winter season to Halifax, sailed from Liverpool yesterday week, and will be due on Saturday.

The steamer *Yarmouth* has made an excellent record of passages this year, having, we understand, not missed connection with a single train during the season of travel.

It is evident that the Hon Edward Blake broke his health by excess of work. It is much to be lamented, and it is to be hoped the Hon gentleman will see the necessity of preserving himself more carefully in the future.

Messrs. Hattie & Mylius have put their messenger boys in uniform. This is a good move and the example might be followed with advantage. Why should we not have a regular Brigade of messenger boys in Halifax?

A very sad accident happened on Saturday to a laborer named Daniel Hunt, who got his foot crushed between the steamer *Carroll* and Phelan's wharf, in rescuing an intoxicated passenger who fell overboard. This he succeeded in doing, but his foot has had to be amputated.

It is announced in Government organs that the Dominion Government has decided to formally request the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to send delegates to Ottawa to negotiate for closer commercial relations between those colonies and the Dominion, as well as to consider the question of a Pacific Cable between Vancouver and Australia.

The Manitoba Legislature has met, having been called together to consider the railway question. The Lt.-Governor in his speech justly remarks "that it was believed the question had been set at rest, but that unfortunately it had been revived in a different form." Mr. Greenway moved for a Royal Commission to investigate the charges brought against his government by the Winnipeg press.

Capillaire is a berry of delicious flavor peculiar to Newfoundland, and a new industry has been started there in picking and preserving it. As an indispensable requisite to introducing it, the proprietor has despatched two large glass jars, in a beautiful walnut case, filled with capillaire preserves, which will be presented to her Majesty the Queen. Will not some of our Halifax importers give us a chance of seeing what it is like?

This is an age in which intelligent young ladies desire positions which will relieve them from dependence upon parents or relatives. For one or more of such we now have work in connection with *THE CRITIC* and applications should be made without delay. We desire to secure the services of one or more independent active lady canvassers, the work of canvassing to be confined to cities, towns and villages, and we promise liberal remuneration to those whom we may engage as canvassers for *THE CRITIC*. Here is a chance for the self-helpful girl.

The Manitoba Legislature is said to have decided to defer action on the proposal to enact retaliatory legislation against the C. P. R. till the January session. If this be correct the action is creditable to the Manitoba Government. It certainly seems that the action of the C. P. R. is against the spirit of the concession of their monopoly, for which they received and obtained the guarantee on interest of \$15,000,000, and if this be so their opposition to the crossing would seem vexatious and provocative of dissatisfaction and violence.

Our subscribers will please read this notice. We have just prepared a special list of handsome premiums suitable for Christmas gifts, which we propose to offer to any one sending us in the names of new subscribers. These premiums consist of a variety of ornamental and useful articles and few persons can afford to lose the chance of securing one or more of them. Send for our list of special premium offers which we will mail you free. If you do not care for the list yourself let some friend have the benefit of this offer. Sample copies of *THE CRITIC* mailed free to any address.

CHRISTMAS NUMBER OF THE GLOBE.—It is evident from the announcement made in our advertising columns that the *Globe* has in preparation something above the average of Christmas numbers, and there is, we should say, no doubt, from what we gather from its announcement, that its Holiday paper will be one of the handsomest ever published in Canada. The colored plates will include a very fine one of Vancouver Park, British Columbia, from a painting by L. R. O'Brien, one of the very first of Canadian Landscape painters. The number will doubtless be well worth the 25 cents which will be its price. Orders may be sent to any newsdealer, or to the *Globe*, Toronto, direct.

A terrible coal mine explosion is reported from Pittsburg, Kansas. 160 men were 120 feet down in the mine, and it is considered certain that they are all dead.

The Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain arrived at New York on Monday by the *Aurania*, and started for Washington. His marriage with Mrs. Endicott took place yesterday.

Fresh cases of yellow-fever, and more deaths, are still reported from Jacksonville and Decatur, Fla.

The usual sad story comes from Gloucester, Mass., at the close of the fishing season. Fourteen vessels and 63 lives were lost. The vessels were valued at \$63,000. Insurance \$54,000. Last year 13 Gloucester vessels went down, with 85 men.

A man (said to be a French Canadian) named Pilon brutally assaulted two married women at Grayling, Mich., last week. At midnight a party of fifty masked men took him from the house in which the sheriff had confined him, and hung him in a neighbouring grove. "No jury in this county" it was remarked "would convict the vigilantes."

A terrible fire occurred at Rochester, N. Y., on the 9th, instant. The premises consumed (those of the Steam Gauge and Lantern Company) on the brink of the Genesee Falls, were seven stories high. Several men were caught on the third story. Fourteen jumped and were frightfully injured. Ten of them died and four or five more bodies were supposed to be in the ruins.

We are in receipt of *Miss Parlo's New Cook Book*, (Estes & Lauriat, 301-305 Washington St. Boston) Miss Parlo is the author of several works of this description, and the one before us is doubtless valuable from the experience it embodies. It is a prepossessing looking volume and the price, 30 cents, postpaid, is very low. The edition is limited to 100,000 copies.

Minnesota has just tabled the result of a year's operation of high license. The result in the state, as wherever high license has been tried, shows a bigger revenue from a consumption of less whiskey. The two thousand eight hundred saloons of last year are represented now by sixteen hundred. The revenue last year of \$840,000 from \$300 per license is increased to \$1,040,000 from \$650 per license.

There is a well known lady in Wilkes county, Ga., who has enjoyed perfect health since the earthquake. For several years her health had been declining, and she was then quite feeble. The trouble was that she never perspired. When the earthquake came she was considerably frightened, and in a few moments the perspiration came freely from every pore. She began to improve, and soon entirely regained her health.

The following has been put forth as a possible forecast of General Harrison's ministry:—Ex-assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Chas. E. Coon (Rep.) thinks that Mr. Sherman will be secretary of state; Mr. Warner Miller, secretary of the treasury; Mr. Blaine, minister to England. The Mail and Express, (Rep.) thinks that Gen. Alger will be secretary of war, though Gen. James H. Wilson, of Delaware, has a chance; Senator Frye, secretary of the navy; Mr. Michener, of Indiana, attorney-general; Senator Allison or Warner Miller, secretary of the treasury. That Blaine will succeed Mr. Frye, and Mr. Reed, of Maine, be speaker of the house. Thursday afternoon, Secretary of the Senate, Edward McPherson, said: Information obtainable justifies the opinion that the next house will consist of 173 Republicans and 152 Democrats.

An old house in London collapsed on Lord Mayor's day, killing six and injuring 20 persons.

Lord Mayor's day (the 9th.) was this year devoid of the usual mediæval pageantry, which will probably never be revived.

The Austrian press now denies the statement that the Empress, under medical advice, is going on a voyage to the West Indies and America.

Mr. Redmond has been unconditionally released from Wexford Gaol, three weeks before the expiration of his sentence, on account of his health.

A "Professor" of the art of training animals is exhibiting in London a troop of twelve "performing cats" which he has succeeded in educating to the accomplishment of a number of tricks.

M. Nausen, curator of the museum at Bergen, with four Norwegian athletes, started from Copenhagen in May to explore the interior of Greenland, and have succeeded in crossing the inland ice.

A Miss Sterling, "colored," in the Salvation Army in Switzerland, has been sentenced at Orbe to 100 days imprisonment for continuing to make proselytes of minors in despite of the Swiss regulations against it.

The rearranging of the Russian troops in the vicinity of the Austrian frontier proceeds actively in response to the movement of the Austrian forces. No change in the relations between the two countries has taken place.

The veteran statesman Mr. Bright, the Speaker of the Commons (the Rt. Hon. Arthur Wellsley Peel), Lord Tennyson, and Mr. Laurence Oliphant, the author, are all reported to be in a very weak state of health, the condition of the latter being very critical.

A significant article has appeared in the *Esercito Italiano*, the Roman War Office Organ, indicating the imminence of war, on account of the necessity which exists for France to endeavor to burst the trammels imposed upon her by the Italo-Germanic alliance.

The Cunard Steamer *Umbria* collided with the French Steamer *Iberia* shortly after leaving New York, in a dense fog, and cut off about 14 feet from her stern. The *Umbria* returned to New York, her stem being started, and having a hole in her bow. No loss of life is mentioned.

The appointment of Sir Arthur Blake to the Government of Queensland does not find favor in that colony. Both the Premier and ex-premier of Queensland agree in condemning it. The Queensland Government seems to desire a voice in the appointment of their Governor, which Lord Kintford says it is impossible to allow. Hence may arise serious difficulties. It seems to be a hasty decision, likely to raise a great question.

Sir Terence O'Brien, Governor of Heligoland, who, it is reported, is to succeed Sir H. A. Blake in the Governorship of Newfoundland, is, we believe, brother to Lt. Col. O'Brien, who for the last two and a half years has been the Commanding Royal Engineer in Halifax.

It is satisfactory to notice that the Admiralty has called for reports on the greatest breadth of ship that can be built at Chatham yard, and what alterations, if any, to two of the largest slips, would be required for laying down a vessel of 75 ft. beam. This is a new departure in the right direction.

The writer of the letters to the Police signed "J Ripper," purporting to have come from the Whitechapel murderer, has been ascertained to be a young woman, a mantle hand in the employ of a firm at Bradford. This mischievous young person is said to be good-looking and not much concerned at the folly she had perpetrated.

France, restless and uneasy, and coquetting about for new alliances, is attempting a *rapprochement* to Spain, which country seems to have given some response to the Gallic advances, though it does not probably amount to much. Spain is at all events not a particularly valuable ally, though her status has a little improved of late.

The Parnell enquiry commission is busy taking evidence, but its proceedings are not as yet sufficiently advanced to make reference to them of any value. This much, however, may be said; whether or no the *Times* suffers in reputation the proceedings of the League will be brought into unquestionable publicity.

In addition to the important additions to the British Navy accomplished in the last two or three years, it is now announced that, in accordance with the decision of the select committee of parliament, the Government will recommend the laying down of eight more first class Battle ships, a score of Swift Cruisers, and a number of new torpedo vessels.

Nothing is more contemptible than popular outcry on account of failure to capture criminals of exceptional skill and audacity, Sir Charles Warren, the Chief of the London Police has, it seems, found it intolerable, or perhaps wishes to relieve the Home Secretary of the embarrassment of the situation so far as he is concerned. At all events he has resigned.

London has again been horrified by an eighth murder in a house in Spitalfields (which is close adjacent to Whitechapel) with even more horrible mutilation than in the previous cases. The victim is of the same class, and the murderer seems to have taken the advantage of the withdrawal of a large portion of the police to attend the Lord Mayor's show to accomplish his purpose.

A recent English invention is a corrugated rolled steel waggon-tire for use in towns where street cars are run. The object is to assist the wheel to get out of the tram-line, and thus avoid skidding of the wheels and the wrenching of vehicles and horses. The invention consists of what may perhaps be described as a series of sloping projections on each side of the felloes of the wheel.

Systematic efforts are being made to promote the Pacific Cable project. Australia is said to have promised hearty assistance. A meeting of London merchants and others is to be held on the 16th to urge the admiralty to expedite the survey of the route. H. M. Surveying Vessel *Egeria* reports great depths in the proposed line of the cable, but it is to be presumed this only means so many more miles of cable.

The action of the Pope and the eloquence of Cardinal Lavigerie seem to have produced some tangible results. For more than half a century England has carried on the war against slavery on the coasts of Africa single-handed. The leading powers have agreed to co-operate, and Germany, Russia, Austria, Italy and Greece are each to send one or more men-of-war to patrol the coast from Cape Guardafui to Madagascar.

Private letters received from Madras record an important step taken by Lord Connemara in the enlightened policy which has marked his governorship of the Province. Hitherto it has been the custom that the post of Government Pleader should be filled by an Englishman. The office falling vacant, Lord Connemara has bestowed it upon a native member of the Bar, a new departure which has spread profound satisfaction throughout the native community.

Statistics of the export trade of India during the last ten years show a very considerable and gratifying increase. Raw cotton has risen 93,800,000 to 134,700,000 rupees, wheat from 28,700,000 to 88,300,000 rs., and rice from 69,500,000 to 88,300,000 rs. The only falling off is in opium, which declined from 123,700,000 to 110,700,000 rs. The growth has moreover been steady and the increase was larger last year than in any year preceding. The figures representing cotton and wheat point to possibilities which have a serious meaning for America, no less than for Europe. But increased abundance of food and clothing must tend to the world's wellbeing. The value of a rupee is about forty-seven cents.

The domestic relations of European Royal families are melancholy enough. The kings of Bavaria and Wurtemberg are imbecile. The Crown Princess Stephanie of Austria wants a divorce from her husband, while Queen Natalie of Servia protests against being divorced, though it might be thought she would welcome release from her disreputable husband King Milan. The formerly beautiful and dashing Empress of Austria is a martyr to acute rheumatism and contemplates a trip to the West Indies, and a tour through the States. It is no secret that her relations with the Emperor have been anything but satisfactory for years, and that far from bad Sovereign cannot lead the happiest of lives with one and another vexations, though he is tolerably philosophical. The Emperor William is said to entertain a cordial dislike to his mother, and is evidently an ill-conditioned potentate. On the other hand the Czar had a narrow escape the other day from a railway smash, which seems to have elicited a strong manifestation of affection from his subjects.

THE GLOBE Christmas

NUMBER

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be supposed to furnish a solution of this problem, careful observations have heretofore offered no indication whatever of the existence of life upon their surfaces. But life in some form or another may, notwithstanding, exist on those bodies. We must bear in mind that the planets are in all probability in various stages of development.

It may be reasonably presumed that the planets Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, in consequence of their enormous bulk, have cooled down more slowly than the earth and the other smaller planets of the solar system, and are therefore less advanced as abodes of animated existence than the latter are. But even in the case of the earth, it must be admitted to have revolved millions of years round the sun merely as a fiery orb before life appeared on its surface, and even after it had cooled down and become the abode of animated existence, it produced, during countless millions of years more, life only in its lowest forms.

The existence of man is but of yesterday. This is an instructive lesson. It teaches us that although man exists on the earth's surface, it does not follow that beings of the same order of intelligence as man exist upon all the other planets or even upon any of them. Upon some of the planets life may not have yet come into existence; upon others life may exist, but in a less advanced stage than upon the earth; and the same remark is obviously applicable to the numberless bodies of the starry firmament. The state of the question then is this: We cannot pronounce positively upon the existence of life anywhere beyond the planet upon which we dwell. But reasoning from analogy, we may suppose that certain, if not all, of the other bodies of the planetary system, which in so many respects bear a strong affinity to our own planet, are in like manner the abodes of life in some form or another, and that similarly there are countless bodies in the stellar regions which may also be the abodes of life. This is a question, however, upon which the noble science of astronomy, so distinguished for the exactitude of its conclusions, does not venture to pronounce a positive opinion, seeing that there exists no sure basis of facts available for its consideration. In these circumstances it is left for each individual inquirer to form his own opinion, independently of any support derived from scientific authority.—PROFESSOR GRANT, in *Good Words*.

THE TOAD IN THE ROCK.

In the *Times* of a recent date a communication, signed "Amelia B. Edwards," quoting a Mr. T. L. Patterson, of Greenock, gave an account of "A Prehistoric Toad," which the writer inferred had been immured in clay since the Glacial period. The following article in the *Illustrated London News* gives a rational explanation of the appearance of toads in the "bowels of the earth":—

"The story of the toad in the rock is a very old one, and although it has a 'dying fall' strain about it, well deserves mention and criticism once again. Miss Edwards being only the intermediary writer, I may deal with the statements of Mr. Patterson himself. Let us subject his narrative to the ordinary tests whereby we are accustomed to judge of the value of evidence. In the first place, then, Mr. Patterson's evidence is of 'hearsay' character, and as such might be rejected altogether if it were offered to us seriously in proof of the actual discovery of a live toad in a bed of clay. All that Mr. Patterson can tell us is to the effect that he saw a toad (species unknown or undescribed) which he was told had been taken out of a bed of clay, in which, presumably, it had been immured for ages. I cannot admit that on such bare testimony any scientist would be justified in assuming for a moment that the ordinary laws of animal life at large, and of toad life in particular, could be set aside or suspended altogether. What is wanted, and what never has been in my experience forthcoming, is the sworn testimony—accurately, and on the spot recorded (for after impressions are highly deceitful things,) by skilled and intelligent observers—of the individuals who have split the rock or clay asunder and found the living toad or frog embedded therein. Nothing less direct or accurate in the shape of evidence can possibly satisfy any rational mind, when the issue, to science at least, is of such momentous character.

The other points in Mr. Patterson's narrative will bear a brief criticism. His description applies simply to a state of torpor. You may see toads and frogs in this state during the winter by the dozen in any locality they frequent. The limp, thin body, the shut mouth (by-the-way these animals are not given to gaping much), and the glassy eyes, are all quite familiar to every naturalist in a toad which has spent the cold season under nutritive and other difficulties. Naturally, Mr. Patterson's toad breathed through its nostrils, because toads and frogs always respire in this way. As breathing is a necessary condition of animal life—largely assisted in the frog class by the skin, I admit—Mr. Patterson might well be puzzled to know how this toad contrived to respire embedded in clay, which, by-the-way, is just as solid as a rock in so far as permeation by air is concerned. As for its bones, I will guarantee that if Mr. Patterson will feel his toad—I presume it is still in the flesh, either as a living animal or preserved among 'the wine of the country'—he will soon discover that it has a skeleton. Possibly bony development has not proceeded in a thoroughly natural fashion in the animal for reasons connected with absence of food; but bones it must have, otherwise it would not be a toad.

If science utterly rejects the foolishness of the ordinary newspaper story, repeated as heard from the lips of ignorant and often superstitious workmen, unverified in one single particular by independent testimony, what, it may be asked, has science to say about the matter at all? I reply, a good deal that serves to put such stories in their proper place. First of all, there is never any proof offered that the rock or clay was solid. The animal is never seen until the rock is broken up or the clay disintegrated, hence it is a pure assumption to allege that the animal was immured in a solid formation.

A story was once submitted to me in which it was recounted that, after a rock was blasted in a quarry, a lively frog was found hopping about among the débris. Instantly arose the cry of 'A frog in the solid rock!'—that is to say, because the animal, disturbed by the explosion, had appeared among the rock fragments, the workmen concluded that it must have come out of the rock, and from nowhere else. Again, I say, this is not evidence. It is a piece of sheer gratuitous assumption. We know that frogs and toads can live, under rigorous conditions, for lengthy periods of time—more of this anon.

But I can appeal to direct evidence which vitiates entirely the 'toad-in-the-rock' stories. Dean Buckland, troubled in his day by like narratives, caused in 1825 two blocks of stone to be prepared so as to contain twelve cells each. The cells were 12 inches deep by 5 inches diameter in one block, and 6 inches deep by 5 inches diameter in the other. Each cell was fitted with two covers—a glass one below and a slate one above; so that by removing the latter the interior of the cell could be seen without removing the glass, and without admitting air. Both lids were firmly secured by clay. On November 26, 1825, a live toad was placed in each of the twenty-four cells, and firmly fastened in by the covers. Each animal was weighed on entering upon its imprisonment, and on the date just named the two blocks of stone were buried in Dr. Buckland's garden at a depth of 3 feet. On December 10, 1826, the blocks were disinterred. All the toads in the smaller cells were dead, and from the progress decay had made had evidently died long before the date of their disinterment. The majority of the toads in the bigger block were alive. Save in two cases—in which cracked lids explained a cause of the increase in weight by the admission of air, and possibly insect food also—the toads in the larger cells had decreased in weight. The living toads were again buried; but on being disinterred at the end of another year were found to be dead, without a single survivor. Again, four toads were confined in holes cut in trees, and were found dead at the end of a year; and of four enclosed in plaster of Paris basins, two died within the year, the other two being starved and meagre, and evidently fast hastening onwards to a fatal end of their confinement.

Here, then, are exact experiments which, be it noted, in their conditions were not nearly so hard and rigorous as are those of the toad in solid clay or solid rock. If Dr. Buckland's toads succumbed so soon, how comes it that the antediluvian frogs and the prehistoric toads are reputed as surviving through 'the long ages of the prime?' The real explanation of these stories, I believe, is founded on a very simple fact. Toads and frogs undergo a metamorphosis from the tadpole stage to that of adult life. Now, a toad or frog which has just left the water is a very small animal. Suppose it creeps into the crevice of a rock or into a crack in clay; it may there remain growing larger, receiving air and food, and is thus unable to escape from its domicile. Then the apparently solid rock is broken up, and out leaps the toad—credited with being a prehistoric creature, but in reality only the friend and companion of those which hop about freely in the adjacent country."

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Messrs. J. Harris & Co., St. John, N. B., will build three snow-plows for the Temiscouata railway. They will also construct a quantity of rolling stock for the same road.

Messrs. Thos. Connors & Sons, proprietors of the New Brunswick Cardage Works, Portland, N. B., will make extensive additions to their factory, and considerable new machinery will be added.

Mr. W. A. Erbs, Apohaqui, N. B., is building a machine shop, which is to be operated in connection with his steam saw and grist mills. The new building will be 48x30 feet, three stories high, and thoroughly equipped.

The Brownley Electrical Manufacturing Co. has been formed at St. John, N. B., with a capital stock of \$10,000, for the manufacture, purchase, sale, and repair of all kinds of electrical and magnetic machinery, plant and apparatus, steam engines, air compressors, and general machinery, brass and other metal castings, and fittings, etc.

Messrs. Ryan have completed an extension to their building and store at Moncton, N. B., for the accommodation of the knitting factory purchased from the estate of J. A. Stephens by Mr. H. A. Gross, of Hillsboro', N. B. The extension is two stories high, and 25 feet long. As enlarged, the upstairs apartments comprise one large factory room 22x45 feet, and a front room 25x25 feet, which is occupied as a store room and office. The machinery, which comprises not only that belonging to the old Universal Knitting Co., of Moncton, N. B., but that of the Archibald Knitting Co., of Halifax, is sufficient to give employment to 125 hands.—*Canadian Manufacturer*.

Mr. John Dewe, Chief Post Office Inspector, Ottawa, has invented a combination apparatus for marking letters and cancelling the stamps attached. The invention is being submitted to a practical test.

The Chicago cracker combination have decided to advance the price of crackers from one-half to one and a-half cents per pound.

Automatic action promises to overcome many of the perilous appliances of the workshop. A most invaluable invention is the safety steam boiler, of which, at a given pressure, below bursting point or the point of explosion, the points open, the fire is extinguished, and life and property rescued from destruction.

The value of the industrial products of Philadelphia increased between the years 1850-1860 from \$63,784,212 to \$152,355,318—a greater rate of increase than was ever made in an equal period before or since in the city's history.

The manufacture of cotton in the South gains in importance from year to year. The Southern Atlantic States, with a production of about 1,750,000 bales, consumed last season 353,042, or one-fifth their production, in their own mill.

The British North American Bank Note Company's building, at the corner of Wellington and Kent Street, Ottawa, is nearly completed, and it is expected the transfer of the Company's business from Montreal to Ottawa will be made in about six weeks. The Company prints all the Dominion notes, postage and other stamps, etc., and one of the conditions of its last contract was that the company should do its work at the capital. The Company will employ about a hundred hands.

The announcement that contracts had been given to English ship-builders for ten tank oil carrying steamers, to be used between the United States and Europe, has caused considerable interest in petroleum and freight circles. There are already twelve tank steamers regularly employed in the petroleum trade, with a total capacity of 253,000 barrels. As it is estimated that each steamer can make seven trips a year, they are capable of carrying 1,518,000 barrels. One steamer averaging 23,000 barrels capacity, and making seven trips a year, is equal to more than ten average sailing vessels (6,000), which can only make two and a half trips a year. The tank steamers are all owned abroad and are English built.

THE BIBLE AND MODERN CRITICISM.

One of the subjects discussed by the Church Congress was the question to what extent the results of modern criticism of the Bible should be recognized in sermons and teaching. The question is one of pressing importance for the Jew as well as Christian. On the one hand are the claims of truth and the need to keep advanced minds within the pale of Judaism; on the other hand is urged the danger of unsettling the convictions of those who have no doubts. In the one case frank discussion and a restatement of doctrine is represented as a positive duty; in the other case the policy of silence is imposed. We are all anxious to strengthen Judaism by making its basis as broad as possible; and it seems to us that here, as in every other problem of life, the right course is that suggested by a love of truth. We are not to accept new theories because they are new. On the contrary, suspicion and jealousy of novelty befits us. But when once convinced beyond doubt that certain results arrived at by critical investigation of the Scripture are trustworthy, it behoves us to adopt them candidly with all the modifications of belief they necessitate. Not only must justice be done, but truth must be respected, though the heavens fall. Nothing, indeed, is gained by the suppression of truth to be set against the violence to conscience which it involves. It is impossible to suppose that the pulpit is in these days the only vehicle for the dissemination of religious ideas, new or old. If a man does not hear of the new criticism in a sermon, he will read of it in a newspaper or a review, the only difference being that in the latter case it will be presented in its most aggressive and dangerous form, without those qualifications and explanations of the preacher, which will give it its true perspective. We do not say the pulpit should be always buying itself with the problems raised by modern Bible criticism, but we do say that it ought occasionally to deal with them for the purpose of showing how easily they may be solved without offending either religion or reason.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

COMMERCIAL.

It has not often occurred at this season of the year that remittances all round should be so unsatisfactory as they are now reported to be. Retailers both in town and country complain of dull business and poor collections. While there is no doubt the unprecedented wet and unseasonable weather has been the more immediate cause of the present state of business affairs, it still is true that trade generally is very largely overdone, and is extended much beyond legitimate requirements. Many evils arise from the indisputable fact that credit is too easily obtained. The majority of retailers never think of paying a note in full at its maturing, but always send to the wholesale merchant a small portion of cash, and a renewal note for the larger portion, knowing that few wholesale houses have the backbone to refuse payment in this manner. The prospects for business during the ensuing winter are not encouraging and numerous failures are predicted.

It appears from our readings that the practice of "dealing" or, properly speaking gambling, in "options" has obtained a firm footing in England with the usual disastrous effects. The *London Grocer*, which is one of the leading trade journals of the United Kingdom, under the heading of "Options" pertinently remarks:—"The practice of 'options' had become such a scandal in Devonshire, that the credit of the honest men in the county had been shaken by it." These are the words of the official receiver at Exeter, who had before him a few days ago, a debtor from Newton Abbot, who had attributed his failure to bad debts, and "speculations in wheat options." We fear that from a nation of shopkeepers (as Napoleon Bonaparte is said to have sarcastically described us,) we are becoming a nation of gamblers. "Stocks" are not so much regarded as investments as speculations, and most questionable proceedings are often resorted to in order to unduly raise or depress their market value. "Booms," "bulls," "bears," and other such words are

popular, even used by those who do not know their origin. Well will it be for them if they get no practical experience of their meaning! Another Devonshire tradesman recently had to call his creditors together. It appears that at his annual stocktaking at the close of last year he was able to show a balance of nearly £4000 to the good. Not content with a flourishing business, he must find money faster, and dabbled in options. In one day he sold 100,000 bushels of corn, purchased previously at a loss of over £700, and the same day bought another 100,000 bushels. These two transactions involved an amount of over £20,000, though by the system of "options" the speculator is only responsible for the "difference" on settling day. Now, two reflections occur to us; it is clear that creditors run greater risks than they otherwise would or should, if their customers thus privately deal in options. These speculations are pure and simple gambling; and gambling, it is well known, grows on a man until he may risk not only all he has—including the home and comfort of those dependent on him,—but also the money (and perhaps home and comfort) of others. Yet this dealing in options is daily brought before the notice and attention of all readers of newspapers by means of specious advertisements; and not only so, but firms of repute even encourage by circulars those whom they can thus reach—often their own customers—to indulge in this wild gambling. Notoriously is this the case in the South-west of England, and the remarks of the official receiver above quoted were, unfortunately, well founded.

Bradstreet's report of the week's failures:

	Week		Weeks corresponding to			Failures for the year to date.			
	Nov. 0	Prev. week	1887	1886	1885	1888	1887	1886	1885
United States..	177	220	203	206	165	8,471	8,128	8,731	9,715
Canada.....	37	50	25	21	24	1,497	1,100	1,032	1,111

The following are the Assignments and Business Changes in this Province during the past week:—Chas. L. Silver, shoemaker, Lunenburg, succeeded by Andrew C. Silver; Frederick C. Parker, genl. store, Aylesford, assigned to D. B. Parker in trust for benefit of creditors; Copp Bros., genl. store, Pugwash, dissolved, F. E. Copp retires, business continued by A. W. Copp; Redmond Bros., genl. store, Pugwash, sold out to F. E. Copp; S. E. Hue, dry goods and groc., Kentville, assigned to Chas. Langley in trust for benefit of creditors, liabilities about \$11,000, preferences \$6,000; Geo. E. Davis, hotel, Amherst, offering "Lamy House" for sale; Alex. Morrison, cabinetmaker, North Tryon, P. E. I., advtg. business for sale by auction; Ferguson & Wilson, genl. store, Spring Hill, dissolved.

DYE GOODS.—Within the past few days a fair number of sorting-up orders have been received, embracing the usual lines of winter wear, including a good proportion of British heavy woollen goods. Since the cotton combine disrupted, it is reported that production has increased and splurged largely ahead of requirements, and that ruinous competition is in progress which will eventually lead to some of the weaker mills being driven to the wall. No doubt this will in the end prove the best means of regulating production; as it is evident that our market is too limited for the large amount of plant invested in the manufacture of cotton. As illustrating the situation, it is stated that within the past two weeks, two good-sized orders were filled for western account in Montreal at a price known to be below actual cost, as one of the mills competing for the orders, which was anxious to realize, offered the goods at cost, but it lost both orders owing to another mill filling them at a lower figure! A little better demand has developed for woollen goods and a number of sorting orders have been filled at fairly steady prices. On the whole there seems to be a more hopeful feeling in the woollen trade as regards payments, though some of the large wholesale houses complain of too many renewals, while others say that they are satisfied with remittances received.

IRON, HARDWARE AND METALS.—In pig iron the market is quiet but prices continue steady. In hardware a good business is reported, in heavy goods at steady prices. Scotch warrants are cabled at 41s. 5d.; No. 3 foundry, G. M. B. at Middlesborough 35s. 6d. In London tin, spot £101 18s.; three months' futures £102. 7s. 6d. Chili bars, spot £78. 5s.; do. futures £79; G. M. B. copper, £78. 5s. Soft Spanish lead £13 12. 6d.

BREADSTUFFS.—There has been no improvement in the flour market, the demand having continued slow both on local and export account and, in consequence, little business was transacted. The feeling of the market was easier, straight roller and extra being somewhat lower. The indications are that the market will rule quiet for some time as buyers have ample supplies in hand for the present. *Boerboom's cable says*: "Cargoes off coast, wheat firmer, corn nil, do on passage and for shipment, wheat firm, corn strong. Liverpool, California wheat firm at 8s. 4½d. November; 8s. 5½d. December, 8s. 6d. January, 8s. 6½d. February. Mixed maize strong and active at 4s. 10d. November and December, 4s. 8½d. now December. French country markets quiet. Wheat in Paris quiet at 47s. November; flour do quiet. Antwerp spot wheat steady." There has been decided strength and some excitement in the Chicago grain market. Wheat was quoted at \$1.18 December; \$1.18½ May. Corn was also stronger, especially on the December option, quotations were 41½c. November, 40½c. December, 39½c. May. Oats stood at 24½c. November, 25½c. December, 29½c. May. At the seaboard wheat was stronger and moved up ½c. to ½c. Corn was firm at 50½c. November, 50½c. December, 49½c. January, 48½c. May. In Toledo, Detroit and Milwaukee wheat was active, very strong and advanced slightly.

PROVISIONS.—The local provision market has been fairly active and firm. The demand for pork in small quantities has been good and a fair volume of business was accomplished at reasonable prices. A moderate trade in lard was transacted and the enquiry for tallow has continued to be good. No change has occurred in the prices of provisions in the Liverpool market. Pork is at 82s. 6d., lard at 42s. 6d., bacon at 45s. to 46s. 6d., tallow at 30s. The Chicago provision market was quiet and inactive, quotations for pork were steady at \$14.62½ December, \$14.87½ January and \$15.17½ May.

Lard was \$8.10 December, \$8 12½ January and \$8.32½ May. The hog market was rather quiet and weaker, and prices declined 5c., except for light hogs which were firm.

BUTTER.—The butter market has continued dull, and aside from a fair local consumptive demand, which pays full prices for finest goods, business has been very quiet. The present indications are that there will be an ample supply of medium grades this winter and it is probable that prices will average low unless some other outlet than domestic consumption is developed.

CHEESE.—The market has continued very quiet, and the tone appears to be easier, though no business has been transacted to confirm or to do away with this impression. Private cables from Liverpool have a quiet tone, and so far as the market is concerned, there is no anxiety to buy. At the same time there is no disposition to sell, and holders are inclined to be firm. Late advices thence state that the stock of fine cheese is unusually small; one large house which in former years usually held between 20,000 and 30,000 boxes at this period, now holds only about 3,500 boxes. The opinion obtains on the other side, in spite of "bear" circulars, that the position of finest cheese is a strong one, and will successfully withstand the onslaught of the "Liverpool Throe" in their mad efforts to wreck present unusually low prices.

APPLES.—Large shipments of apples have been made during the past fortnight from all parts of Canada to Great Britain. Messrs. Pitt Bros. & Co., of London, write as follows:—"During the past few weeks the English markets have been almost glutted with a large quantity of inferior and soft fall apples from Canada and America, and in consequence low prices have ruled, and the prices for good sound well-picked brands have no doubt been affected. Notwithstanding our advice of July last, condemning the shipment of fall fruit, several very heavy shipments have been sent to London and Liverpool with the usual disastrous results, caused by their arrival in a wet, slack and wasty condition. There is now a steady demand for sound winter apples, prices ranging mostly as follows in London and Liverpool:—

	s. d.	s. d.
Baldwins.....	11 0	@ 15 0
Russots.....	10 0	— 14 6
Plonix.....	12 0	— 15 0
Greenings.....	10 0	— 13 0
Kings.....	12 0	— 20 0
Pearmain.....	12 6	— 15 0
Spys.....	10 0	— 13 6
Bon Davis.....	11 0	— 15 0
Canada Red.....	10 0	— 14 6

and Mann apples, 12s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. per bbl. for large good-colored fruit. Small apples are never wanted here, and prices for such usually rule very low. We believe that this demand will be maintained throughout the season at such prices as will net shippers a profit, the prospect being very encouraging, as the exceptionally wet weather prevailing during the summer caused the crop in this country to be short and very poor, and the supply from the continent is also limited."

GROCERIES.—The continued wet and unfavorable weather has had an adverse effect on the grocery trade, and has retarded the country distribution to a great extent, which, in turn, has resulted in a quiet market here. Prices of leading staples have, however, remained about steady.

FISH OILS.—Our Montreal correspondent writes as follows.—"Sales of about 250 bbls. of Newfoundland and Gaspe cod are reported at 37c. for the latter, and 38c. to 39c. for the former. Halifax is quoted steady at 30c. A fair sized lot of steam refined seal is reported at 47½c., pale seal at 42½c. to 45c., and straw seal 37½c. A lot of Newfoundland cod liver oil sold at 65c."

FISH.—The fish trade in general has been quiet, owing to continued weather unfavorable to handling. The orders by the S.S. *Alpha* have caused a slight enquiry in this market, but not sufficient to affect prices. The approaching close of the season is bringing the catch to a finish, and the fishermen are beginning to place their catches on this market. The receipts during the past week have been liberal. Henceforward, for about a month, every effort will be made by the fishermen to hurry their fish here before the coastwise harbors are closed by ice for the winter. This will have a tendency to temporarily glut the market and to weaken prices; but as the aggregate quantity of fish taken this year is far below the average of former years, prices must speedily recover. Our outside advices are as follows:—Montreal, November 12.—"Owing to the continued mild weather, the demand for fish has fallen off considerably, and the markets ruled quieter, with a small volume of business. Although the offerings have been fair, the market has ruled steady, with no change of prices to note. Labrador herrings were offered in round lots at \$5 25 to \$5 40, but met with slow demand, owing to the fact that jobbers generally have good supplies on hand for the present. Small lots have been changing hands at \$5.75 to \$6. Cape Breton herrings have ruled quiet and steady." Latest reports (November 13) from Bay of Islands, N.F., state that no herring have as yet struck there. Gloucester, Mass., November 12.—"We quote large Georges codfish at \$4.75 to \$5.87½ per qtl., and small at \$4.25 to \$4.37½. Bank \$4.25 and \$4. Shore \$4.50 and \$4.12½ for large and small. Dry Bank \$5 and \$4.50. Nova Scotia pickled Shore \$4.75. Cured cusk at \$3.50 per qtl.; hake \$2.25; haddock \$3.25; heavy salted pollock \$2.50; and English cured do. \$3 per qtl. Labrador herring \$6 per bbl; medium split \$5.50; Newfoundland do. \$6.75; Nova Scotia do. \$6.75; Eastport \$5; round Shore \$3.50; pickled codfish \$5.50; haddock \$4.50; halibut heads \$3; sounds \$12; aiewives \$5." Havana, November 8 (per cable)—"Codfish \$6.75; haddock \$5.75; hake \$5.50. Hake and haddock scarce." At our last report the Havana market appeared to have an upward tendency, but at our present writing the condition seems to be reversed, and fish does not promise well there.

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.

SUGARS.	
Cut Leaf.....	8½
Granulated.....	8½
Circle A.....	7½
White Extra C.....	7 to 7½
Extra Yellow C.....	6½ to 6¾
Yellow C.....	6 to 6½
TEA.	
Congou, 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.....	35
Demerara.....	36
Diamond N.....	43
Porto Rico.....	38 to 37
Cienfuegos.....	32
Trinidad.....	34 to 35
Antigua.....	34 to 35
Tobacco, Black.....	38 to 44
" Bright.....	42 to 58
DISCOUNTS.	
Pilot Bread.....	2.60 to 2.90
Boston and Thin Family.....	6¾
Soda.....	6¾
do. in lb. boxes, 60 to case.....	7¾
Fancy.....	8 to 15

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.....	11.00 to 11.50
" Am. Plate.....	12.50 to 12.75
" Ex. Plate.....	13.50 to 13.75
Pork, Mess, American.....	20.00
" American, clear.....	22.00
" P. E. I. Mess.....	18.00 to 19.50
" P. E. I. Thin Mes.....	15.50 to 16.00
" Prime Mess.....	14.50 to 15.00
Lard, Tubs and Pails.....	13
" Cases.....	13.50 to 14.00
Hams, P. E. I. Green.....	none
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.....	none
No. 1.....	21.00
" 2 large.....	17.00
" 2 small.....	none
" 3 large.....	12.50
" 3 small.....	12.00
HERRING	
No. 1 Shore, July.....	4.75 to 5.00
No. 1 August, Round.....	3.50 to 3.75
" September.....	3.50 to 3.75
Labrador, in large lots, per bl.....	4.50 to 5.00
Bay of Islands, Split.....	2.25 to 2.50
" Round.....	2.00 to 2.25
ALSWIVES, per bbl.....	5.00
CODFISH	
Hard Shore, new.....	4.25 to 4.40
New Bank.....	3.80
Bay.....	4.10 to 4.15
SALMON, No. 1.....	15.50 to 16.00
HAUDDOCK, per qtl.....	2.75
HAKE.....	2.35
CUSK.....	1.75
POLLOCK.....	1.25
HAWK SOUNDS, per lb.....	30
COO OIL A.....	26 to 27

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

LOBSTERS.

Per case 4 doz. 1 lb cans.	
Nova Scotia (Atlantic Coast Packing).....	5.00 to 5.40
Tall Cans.....	4.80 to 5.00
Flat.....	6.20 to 6.40
Newfoundland Flat Cans.....	6.25 to 6.50

The above quotations are corrected by a reliable dealer.

LUMBER.

Pine, clear, No. 1, per m.....	25.00 to 28.00
" Merchantable, do do.....	14.00 to 17.00
" No 2, do.....	10.00 to 12.00
" Small, per m.....	8.00 to 14.00
Spruce, demension, good, per m.....	9.50 to 10.00
" Merchantable, do do.....	8.00 to 9.00
" Small, do do.....	6.50 to 7.00
Hemlock, merchantable.....	7.00
Shingles, No 1, sawed, place.....	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

BREADSTUFFS.

Markets seem to have got into a steadier condition, and prices are much more certain than a week or ten days ago. It looks now as though current rates would be about \$6 00 to \$6.50 for roller flours, taking in the range of grades, excepting the lowest and very highest grades, which range below and above our quotations. No change in our quotations.

FLOUR	
Graham.....	6.50 to 6.70
Patent high grades.....	6.50 to 6.75
90 per cent Patents.....	6.20 to 6.35
Superior Extras.....	5.90
Extras from Patents.....	5.00 to 5.25
Low grades in sacks.....	3.50 to 3.75
" " barrels.....	3.75
Oatmeal, Standard.....	4.85 to 5.00
" Granulated.....	5.15 to 5.25
" Rolled.....	5.00 to 5.10
Corn Meal—kiln dried.....	3.25 to 3.30
Bran, per ton.....	20.00 to 21.00
Shorts.....	23.00
Middlings.....	21.00 to 22.00
Mill or Mixed Feed, per ton.....	30.00
Oil Cake, Ground.....	35.00
Oats per bushel of 34 lbs.....	37 to 39
Barley.....	nominal
" of 48.....	1.40 to 1.10
" of 60.....	1.35 to 1.25
White Beans, per bushel.....	5.55
Pot Barley, per barrel.....	13.00 to 14.50
Hay per ton.....	11.00 to 12.00
Straw.....	11.00 to 12.00

J. A. CHIPMAN & Co., Head of Central Wharf, Halifax, N. S.

BUTTER AND CHEESE.

Nova Scotia Choice Fresh Prints.....	23
" in Small Tubs.....	25
" Good, in large tubs.....	21 to 24
Store Packed & oversalted.....	14 to 16
Canadian Township.....	22 to 24
" Western.....	17 to 19
Cheese, Canadian.....	10 to 12

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 to 6
Ox Hides, over 60 lbs., No 1.....	6
" under 60 lbs., No 1.....	5
" over 60 lbs., No 2.....	5
" under 60 lbs., No 2.....	5
Low Hides, No 1.....	5
No 3 Hides, each.....	4
Calf Skins.....	25
Deacons, each.....	25
Lambskins.....	25 to 35
Tallow.....	2

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

HOME AND FOREIGN FRUITS.

Gravensteins.....	2.50 to 2.75
Apples, No. 1, new, per bbl.....	1.50 to 2.25
Oranges, per bbl, Jamaica (new).....	5.00 to 5.25
Lemons, per case.....	6.00 to 7.00
Cocoanuts, per 100.....	5.00
Onions.....	2 to 2½
" American Silver Skin.....	8½
Dates, boxes, new.....	7 to 7½
Raisins, Valencia, new.....	12
Figs, Eieme, 6 lb boxes per lb.....	13
" small boxes.....	6
Prunes, Stewing, boxes and bags.....	2.00 to 3.00
Bananas, per bunch.....	4.50 to 5.50
Grapes, Almeria, kegs.....	

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

POULTRY.

Turkeys, per pound.....	16 to 18
Geese, each.....	50 to 70
Ducks, per pair.....	70 to 80
Chickens,.....	50 to 60

The above are corrected by a reliable victualer.

LIVE STOCK—at Richmond Depot.

Steers best quality, per 100 lbs. alive.....	4.00 to 4.25
Oxen,.....	3.50 to
Fat Steers, Heifers, light weights.....	3.00 to
Wethers, best quality, per 100 lbs.....	4.00 to 4.50
Lambs,.....	4.00 to 5.00

These quotations are prepared by a reliable victualer

JESSICA'S CHOICE.

(Continued.)

"Yes; and it does you credit. You must be very proud of it."

"Are you in earnest? I never know. You are one of those brilliant sarcastic young women whom one can never feel sure about."

"What nonsense! I think you used not to be devoid of the power of repartee, if I remember right."

"The old story of the flint and steel," said Carroll, laughing. "You could strike sparks from the coldest."

"All this is not telling me about *Books and Authors*. Are you making a success?"

"I don't know yet. We are not yet paying expenses. Editing a paper for the select and favored few, you know, Miss Hilton, is not coining gold. My friends are a little scandalized at my choice. I might have been a prosperous merchant instead of a poor devil of a journalist, but, you see, I can't help it. I was born with a passion for journalism."

"And a scorn of mercenary motives," added Jessica, with a small burst of enthusiasm. "I honor you for it."

Carroll colored ever so little.

"That is more than I deserve. One can't help being made in a certain mould. These feelings are neither assumed nor cultivated."

Jessica hesitated a moment. She was longing to draw him into discussion, and by so doing to elicit the advice which Lily had jestingly bidden her seek.

"Do you think," she said, almost irrelevantly, "that women, as a class are mercenary?"

"As a class, no," answered Carroll, readily; "but I am sorry to say that I know a great many individuals who are so."

"How does it manifest itself?"

"In making calculating marriages, or in arranging them for other people. So many young women are doing it every day."

"And you think prudence and convenience unlawful motives in marriage?" almost faltered Jessica.

Carroll glanced at her with sudden keenness in his kind eyes.

"You surely do not ask that seriously, Miss Hilton?" he said, almost sternly.

Jessica blushed violently: she wondered how much he knew of her reason for asking. "I have as much sentiment as anybody," she said, defiantly, not wishing to acknowledge herself reproved, "but I like to hear people's views."

"Well," said Carroll, "I should say, if I knew anything experimentally of such matters, that the good old-fashioned passion of love was the only excuse for matrimony. No man should marry unless he is obliged to. I think most people are happy without."

He looked quite gravely into the fire as he spoke. It seemed to Jessica that it would be possible to discuss almost any subject with him, he was so perfectly impersonal in all his remarks.

He was thinking just then, "What a fine woman gone to seed for want of training!—beautiful and clever, and, I greatly fear, without much heart."

He sighed, he scarcely knew why. Jessica persisted.

"Men are well enough without marriage, I can well believe," said she; "but how about poor women? An old maid is a desolate being."

"Not half as desolate as a married woman wishing she were an old maid," he retorted, curtly. "These things can't be forced. If you have a friend, Miss Hilton, who is thinking of committing matrimony on any basis but that which I approve, pray tell her to keep on thinking a long time before taking the plunge."

He looked her full in the face, and she avoided his glance.

"I don't think I know any such," she said; "but if I did she would no doubt profit by your advice. You confess to know so much about it!"

Carroll took up his hat.

"You have really ensnared me into quite a dissertation," he said, ignoring her sarcasm, "but *Books and Authors* is waiting for me, and I must get to town some time to-day. It might as well be by the next train."

He held out his hand.

"Good-by," said Jessica. "Thank you for—" she paused, then ended with a laugh, "for making the fire."

"Don't forget my views," said he; and with a shake of the hand he left the room.

Jessica saw him walking away from the house. He was certainly not imposing by reason of his clothes. None but an acknowledged gentleman of good standing could have afforded to dress as he did, with an utter disregard of everything but cleanliness and comfort. His garments had once, of course, been new; but that was a long time ago. When most men were wearing collars up to their ears, Carroll wore his turned down. He never could be induced to don that badge of Philistinism, a frock coat, but always wore a cut-away. Every year, when his sisters expostulated with him on the shabbiness of his clothes, and told him that the back of his favorite coat was shiny enough for an advertisement of Sapolio, he would laugh good humoredly, and answer that he was waiting till he could go to England to buy another outfit.

At all events, his scedy hat covered plenty of brains, and the shiny coat was stirred by the pulsations of a true and manly heart.

For some reason or other, Jessica felt, after Carroll's departure, that her temporary indecision had vanished. Before rejoining her mother and sister, she went to her own room and wrote to Thorndyke, briefly but kindly, telling him that what he asked of her she could never grant.

CHAPTER III.

Several weeks passed uneventfully, at least for Jessica. Nature however, was full of events. The snow patches were melting away, and the willows were growing golden at the top. The birds were coming back from the South. Here and there the earliest of the spring flowers peeped out, and the sky was blue and wind-swept.

Jessica grew weary of the mute reproach on her mother's face, and the spoken repinings which she too often expressed. The consciousness that she had done her duty was not enough for Jessica's unchastened nature. There were times when she almost repented of what seemed over-scrupulousness.

Of George Carroll she heard nothing. She saw *Books and Authors*, for that brilliant little weekly came to her regularly, a silent token that she was not forgotten. Here and there in its pages she had no difficulty in recognizing Carroll's hand, and, as far as she was capable of judging, she thought that he had not mistaken his vocation.

Life was becoming for her more and more difficult. Among the many longings natural to a girl of her years, some as vague and undefined as the moon looks in the daytime, was a very distinct aspiration,—more distinct, perhaps, than creditable. She wanted money. She had not wanted it enough, however, to relinquish any of her ideals in order to obtain it, and that fact robbed the desire of its sordidness.

It is hard for beauty to robe itself in second-rate garments, to sustain life with second-rate dishes, and take its pleasure in a humdrum, poverty-stricken manner.

Lily stitched away on her curtains, and had the glad consciousness that she was contributing to the meagre family exchequer. But poor Jessica, a lily of the field, born useless, and too spoiled to conquer her native indolence, had more time to fret over her unfortunate lot.

But the turning-point in her destiny was near. She was as ignorant of this as everybody else is on the eve of a tremendous crisis. Fate came to her in the shape of an expedition to town one day in the last part of April. It promised at the outset to be a commonplace, every-day affair, relieved only by the rather rare interest of buying a few new trifles such as women love. What it proved to be in reality we shall see.

When Jessica reached New York she left the boat with a crowd of other passengers. As she stood waiting to take the car in front of the ferry-house, a carriage suddenly drew up near her and a lady alighted. A glance told her that it was Mr. Thorndyke's sister, Mrs. Langford; but her face was so pale and troubled that for a moment Jessica almost doubted her identity.

Mrs. Langford paused to give her coachman an order, and caught sight of Jessica.

"The very person I want!" she said, hastily coming forward and taking her hand. "I was on my way to see you. How fortunate that we should meet!"

Jessica looked perplexed. Mrs. Langford was not by any means an intimate friend of hers; in fact, she scarcely knew her; and they had not met for a long time.

The elder lady gave her no opportunity for answering; for which she was rather glad, as she had no reply ready.

"You must come with me at once," she continued, with a ring of imperativeness in her usually gentle voice. "It is a matter of life and death," she added, tremulously.

They were by this time blocking the way and attracting considerable attention. The car had gone, and Jessica had nothing to do but obey Mrs. Langford and enter the carriage, which still waited.

In less than a minute they were rattling away over the stones.

"Of course you think this very strange, Miss Hilton," said Mrs. Langford, as well as she could, considering the bouncing and knocking about she was getting from the carriage as it hurried over the execrable pavement. "The fact is that poor Theodore is dangerously ill,—we fear fatally so.—and he desires above all things to see you. So I started myself to fetch you, fearing that if I sent a note by a servant you would not realize the urgency of it."

Jessica colored and looked confused. "Does he really want me, Mrs. Langford? Would it be wise for a comparative stranger—that is, one outside of his own family—to disturb him just now?" she asked, doubtfully.

"Oh, yes, yes; he must see you," her companion answered, eagerly. "The doctor fears the worst results, and you must not refuse. I'm afraid this is a last request. He will take no denial."

After a moment's pause, Jessica said, "Tell me what is the matter with your brother."

"He was taken with a violent chill the day before yesterday, and the doctor was sent for at once. He has double pneumonia,—that is, in both lungs, you know,—and it is almost impossible that he should recover."

"Oh, we must hope for the best," said Jessica, feeling as she spoke that a miserable platitude she was uttering. Appropriate words on an occasion like this are not easy to find.

No more was said during the long drive. After a while they reached their destination,—a fine corner house on Madison Avenue, with a bay-window on the side-street.

The door was opened almost immediately, and they entered.

"Now sit down here, and I will go up to see how Theodore is," said Mrs. Langford, leaving Jessica in the drawing-room and hastening upstairs.

Jessica felt bewildered. Among all her plans for spending a day in New York she had certainly never anticipated this.

Now that poor Thorndyke was ill,—probably dying,—she realized how fond she had been of him all these years. It is an oft repeated truth that death hallows the meanest human being, and now in its grim shadow every act of Theodore's, no matter how trivial, seemed to assume a new

painful importance in Jessica's memory. Not one kind or chivalrous deed was forgotten. He was a man endowed with the rare gift of constancy, and as he had loved her, so she knew he would continue to do as long as life should endure.

Jessica looked about the large room, and thought how it might have been hers. It looked like what it was,—a bachelor's drawing room, somewhat stiff, and lacking in those graceful touches which betray the presence of a woman. But it had fine capabilities. She found herself mechanically considering how a dado and frieze would tone down the paper, how a *portière* between the rooms would soften the effect, how a lamp here and there, and a small tea-table—

The voice of Mrs. Langford roused her from her fit of abstraction, and she started almost guiltily as she remembered why she had come.

"Theodore would like you to see you at once, Miss Hilton," said Mrs. Langford. She was very tremulous and tearful, and had evidently heard no good news of her brother.

Jessica followed her silently up-stairs. At the door of Thorndyke's room they paused for a moment; then Mrs. Langford noiselessly turned the knob and they entered.

Theodore Thorndyke lay propped up by pillows, on a bed so large and heavily carved that his slight figure seemed almost lost.

He was dying. Jessica saw that at a glance, unused as she was to seeing the approach of death. He was breathing painfully, and his face was pinched and white, except for a scarlet spot on each cheek.

He looked at Jessica and smiled,—such a sad, sad smile to see. "He wants to talk to you," said Mrs. Langford. "Take that chair by the bed."

Jessica did as she was bidden, and an embarrassing silence ensued.

Thorndyke looked imploringly at his sister, with an expression which seemed to signify that he wished to see Miss Hilton alone. Mrs. Langford beckoned to the doctor, who was standing near the bed, and together they went into the adjoining room.

"Miss Hilton," said Thorndyke, in a hoarse, low voice, "I have wanted so much to see you. I thought you would come if you knew how ill I was. There is something I must ask you, and yet I hardly dare to, for fear you should refuse."

It was pitiful to hear his tones, so weak and altered. The tears sprang into Jessica's eyes.

"I am so distressed," she said, "to see you like this! I could not refuse you anything."

"Ah!" he said, with a long drawn breath of content. He closed his eyes, and lay for a moment or two as if he were unconscious. Presently he seemed to rouse himself, and said, feebly, "I want you to have my name. You did not love me. Never mind: I loved you. That is enough. Will you marry me—now? I cannot last long."

Jessica looked at him aghast. An inarticulate cry broke from her lips. This sound attracted Mrs. Langford, who came in at once, fearing that her brother had grown worse.

"He has told you?" she asked, bending over the sick man, but looking at Jessica.

The girl nodded in a bewildered way.

"Will you do it?" asked Mrs. Langford.

"How can I?" faltered Jessica, "It is so sudden, I must have time to think—"

Mrs. Langford raised her hand as if to interrupt her.

"Look at him," she whispered. "He has no time to give. He is dying?"

Indeed, the effort had been too much for Theodore. He had sunk into a sort of stupor. Jessica sprang up awe-stricken.

"Come away," she said, under her breath. "I cannot talk here." And she went towards the door between the two rooms.

The nurse and doctor hurried to their patient, and Miss Hilton and Mrs. Langford were left alone.

The elder women took the hand of the younger.

"I implore you!" she almost sobbed. "It is all he asks,—so little,—so little,—and I, who love him,—cannot win him this last happiness! Oh, Miss Hilton, why will you refuse?"

"I will not refuse," she said, gently. "Dear Mrs. Langford, don't be so distressed: indeed I will do it if you wish."

As she spoke, a tall man, in clerical dress, entered by the door which led into the corridor.

Mrs. Langford hurried to meet him.

"How is he?" he asked, taking her hand.

"He is dying!" she said, sadly. "But she has consented. You understand.—This is Miss Hilton, Dr. Farnham."

Jessica looked at the clergyman with large, scared eyes. She seemed moving in a strange dream. He grasped her hand warmly.

"That is right," he said, cheerfully, "that is right. Poor fellow! I know how much he desires it."

"We must not delay," said Mrs. Langford, with returning calmness.

"The time is too precious to waste."

"Is not Mrs. Westalcw coming?" asked Dr. Farnham.

"She is away, but we are expecting her every minute."

Then the physician came in, saying that if anything was to be done it must be done quickly.

The next few moments were more unreal to Jessica than anything else had been. She only knew that, rightly or wrongly, she had consented, and that she was being made the wife of Theodore Thorndyke. When the last irrevocable words had been said, she stood like a stone, not knowing what to do next, and scarcely caring what was expected of her.

(To be Continued.)

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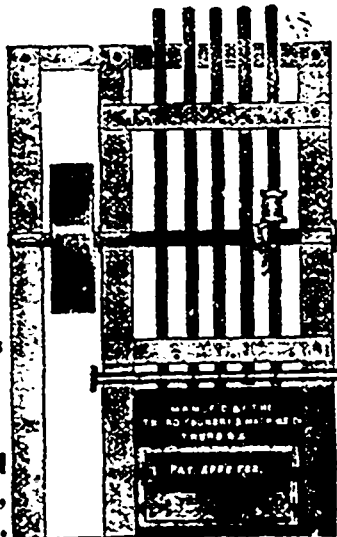
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MINING.

Perhaps the greatest difficulty a promoter of mining companies has to encounter in this Province is the sneaking, underhand opposition of mining shysters, who seek by every contemptible means to thwart his efforts. Capitalists visiting the country are button-holed by these men, and are told, in strict confidence of course, that the properties they are thinking of investing in are really worthless, and that the only mines in the country worth purchasing are those owned by them. If the promoter still succeeds in holding his capitalist, in spite of this underhand opposition, then the shysters turn their attentions to his property, strive to pick flaws in the title, or to take advantage of some technical point under the mining act and in this way to levy blackmail. So far these men have escaped punishment and their immunity has caused them to grow bolder and bolder until at last one of them has committed himself by writing a letter which is so clearly libellous that his punishment is assured. An example has long been needed and we know that the mining community will rejoice that one of these contemptible schemers has at last been brought to book.

The following are the official returns so far received at the Mines Office for the month of October.

District.	Mill.	Tons Crushed.	Ozs. Gold.
Sherbrooke,	Miners,	200	54
"	Goldenville,	40	5
Darrs Hill,	Dufferin Mfg. Co.,	650	267
Cariboo,	Touquoy,	380	54
"	Montreal Co.,	302	49
"	Caffrey Mill,	8	16
Uniacke,	Withrow,	46	217
Lake Catcha,	Oxford,	149	144
Whiteburn,	Whiteburn Co.,	80	113
Fifteen Mile Stream,	Egerton G. M. Co.,	170	74
Stormont,	Rockland,	396	386
Renfrew,	Free Claims,	40	25

MALAGA LAKE DISTRICT.—The Malaga Mining Company are milling lots of gold, the returns for August having been 411½ ozs. from 340 tons crushed and for September, 248 ozs. from 180 tons.

The unusually wet weather of the past spring, summer, and autumn months, has interfered greatly with the labor of gold miners. Mines usually almost dry have been flooded with surface water, while in others the pumps which before were of sufficient capacity to keep the water down, have had to be replaced with more powerful ones. This has caused delay, and it speaks well for the richness of the mines that, in spite of these great drawbacks, the yield of gold has been so large. If returns continue to come in to the Mines Office as large in proportion for the balance of the year, the prospects are that the total yield for 1888 will exceed that of the past year.

Copper mining in the Province of Quebec is about being pushed, an English Company—the "Excelsior Copper Company, Limited," having lately placed its shares on the London Market. The mines which the company purpose acquiring are said to be very rich in copper and cover an area of about 4,000 acres of which 2,800 are freehold. The capital stock is £450,000 in £1 shares, 150,000 of which are now offered for sale. A contract has been entered into by which Messrs. Vivian & Sons, of Swansea, have agreed to take the output of the mines up to 10,000 tons of metallic copper per annum for a term of three and a half years.

THE SALT UNION, Limited.—The prospectus of the long talked-of Salt Union has at last been advertised, and a gigantic concern it is. The share capital is £3,000,000 in shares of £10 each, divided into 200,000 ordinary shares, and 100,000 7 per cent. preference shares. There is also £1,000,000 4½ per cent first mortgage debenture stock, for which applications are invited. The directorate is a strong one, having for its chairman and vice-chairman Lord Thurlow and Mr. John Corbett, M.P., respectively, and having amongst its members six proprietors of large salt mines. The main object of the Company is to consolidate the undertakings of the salt proprietors in the United Kingdom, and thus endeavor to put an end to the keen competition which up to the present time has existed amongst them. The property, which is to have now for its sole owners this new Company, is of great magnitude, contracts having been made with more than sixty firms, companies, and persons for sale and purchase. The total purchase money, including all charges and expenses incurred in connection with negotiating the sale of all the businesses and salt lauds, &c., has been fixed at £3,701,519, in respect of which a contract has been made with Mr. Robert Fowler, a gentleman largely connected with the formation of the Company. The bankers to whom has been entrusted the bringing out of this important consideration are Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Co., 67 Lombard Street, E.C. and we do not doubt that it will be as remarkable a success as "Guinness" was a few years back. The share lists were only open a few hours on Wednesday, but during that short period it is rumored that the applications that were made reached thirty-five millions.—Public Opinion.

THE DIVINING HUMBUG.—The number of shafts sunk and the extent of prospect work done in the Black Hills in the past ten years, through the divining and other electric machines, is not known; but it is actually perplexing to contemplate them. As a rule they have proven signal failures. Notwithstanding this fact, these humbugs are as much in vogue here as ever in the past. It is some satisfaction, however, to know that it was not the only ones who have been taken in by this fraud. The Ladies

MINING.—Continued.

Journal of a recent date says that at least ninety per cent. of all the foolish prospecting and mining recently done can be distinctly attributed to this new *ignis fatuus*. Like all humbugs it has done its share in giving legitimate prospecting a great backset. We have had a long series of such experiments. The first was the witch hazel rod, which, passed over the ground, indicated by twists and turns the presence of lodes. Others sunk shafts in solid granite under the direction of spirits. Still others attempted to penetrate the depths by electrical forces of one kind and another, but in no instance that we have ever heard of has the result been different from that first defined as the experience in Leadville. Nor has it been confined to mining. Innumerable processes for chasing the precious metals out of the ores by a short cut, which, according to the claims of the inventors, permitted no escape, have been introduced. The mountains even at one time were strewn with machinery gotten up by these misguided men; but the most of them have gone into the old iron piles of the several foundries for conversion into practical machinery. Not one of the processes which were designed to revolutionize the business of treating ores and extracting their contents is in operation to day, and not one survived the crucial tests of continuous operation. The machinery which has done the work faithfully and well, are the stamp mills, the better concentrators and the smelters. We know what these appliances have done and can do with absolute certainty, because founded upon the laws of science.—*Chicago Mining Review*,

We have frequently called attention to the immense value of the iron ore deposits in this Province and have pointed out how they might be worked at a profit not only to the owners but to the Province at large. In the West hundreds of miles of railway had to be constructed in order to reach the iron ores of Minnesota, but the capitalists wise enough to advance the money have reaped millions from their investment. No country in the world has equal shipping facilities to Nova Scotia and yet the large iron deposits practically remain unworked. Let the owners of our iron mines read the following from the *Iron Journal* and see how enterprise pays:—

Through the energy of George C. Stone and the money furnished by Charlemagne Tower, of Philadelphia, the known iron deposits of Northern Minnesota were developed and brought in contact and competition with the iron markets of the world. Wonderful have been those developments, and the Minnesota Iron Company's output is to-day the largest of any iron mine in the world. The ore is a high grade Bessemer, and brings the same price as the famous Republic ores. The original promoters of the old Minnesota Iron Company, Mr. Charlemagne Tower, of Philadelphia, and Edward Breitung, of Negaunee, now deceased, and S. P. Ely, the great ore merchant of Cleveland O., having harvested returns which remind us of "Aladdin's wonderful lamp." Their original investment was comparatively small. Four years of development brought the property up to a cash value of nearly eight million dollars for which it was sold to a syndicate headed by H. H. Porter, Rockefeller, the Standard Oil King, Roswell P. Flower, D. O. Mills, Phil Armour, C. R. Cummings, Marshall Field, and others; in short a syndicate comprising the ablest financiers in the country.

Five years ago no one knew of iron east of Tower. If any one who was likely to like investing, began inquiring about it being possible, he would invariably be informed, "no, there is no iron east of Tower, and the man who wants you to invest is excited and don't know anything." This and other sentiments were coming right along. Of course it retarded the development of the country for a few years, but "perseverance and constancy of purpose" achieved final success for the old standbys and the old pioneers of the east Vermillion range. To Capt. H. R. Harvay and Mr. Emily Hartman belongs the credit, for discovering the ore twenty miles east of Tower. To their discoveries, which are the "Chandler mine," "Pioneer mine," "Zenith mine," "Sixty-three-twelve mine," "Fall Lake mine," and scores of others, the new Minnesota Iron Company is building an extension of their railroad and will bring those great properties into connection with the world of traffic and commerce. The railroad will reach the Chandler mine in May and shipment will commence at once. The other properties in the succession named will be reached soon after and then will enter the shipping list also. When the new railroad reaches all those properties, a mighty list will loom up of the iron producing mines of Minnesota. All this will be hardly the tenth part of all properties bidding fair to develop into good shipping mines. The investment of eight million dollars in cash and a further outlay in improvements of about two or three million dollars by such able financiers will be an able guidance to other capitalists, who will come in and help develop this wonderful range, and all will be well repaid for their investments.

For nine months this year the imports of foreign gold have been \$37,000,000; net gold exports for the same period were only \$209,923, and the net silver exports \$575,160.

The gold and silver mines in the United States last year produced \$35,959,700 gold, and \$30,389,950 of silver; or \$4,200,000 more of gold and \$1,000,000 less of silver than in 1886.

The output of Park county, Col., mines has increased about ten fold in smelting ores, and about that same proportion of gold ores in the past eighteen months. The great bulk of this is from old mines re-opened.

One of the large halls of the National Museum at Washington has been set apart for the exhibition of a collection of building and ornamental stones. Each sample is placed under a suitable glass case with proper back-ground.

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CLASS D.

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LIST OF PRIZES.

1 Real Estate worth.....	\$5,000	\$5,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	2,000	2,000
1 Real Estate worth.....	1,000	1,000
4 Real Estates worth.....	500	2,000
10 Real Estates worth.....	300	3,000
30 Furniture Sets worth.....	200	6,000
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HOME AND FARM.

The Annual Meeting of the Halifax County Agricultural Society was held in the Provincial Library, on the 6th inst, W. C. Silver, President, in the Chair. The publication of a practical work, adapted for general use, on the system of agriculture, suitable for Nova Scotia, was brought forward as a desideratum. We certainly think it would be an object towards which the Society might, as suggested, probably afford aid by an appropriation of funds and otherwise.

The suggestion of holding a joint Provincial and Dominion Exhibition this year fell through, owing to the unexpected lapse of the Dominion Government grant. We hope this project will be entertained for next year, and that the Dominion aid may be forthcoming.

The Society had under consideration the destructiveness of the English sparrow, which, it appears, (no doubt, as was observed, unintentionally,) comes under a Nova Scotian Act for the protection of small birds, supposed to be useful. There can be no question, we take it, that the sparrow is a nuisance. Nature provides in different climates for such fauna as are incidental to natural conditions, and therefore beneficial. The check of one species or the undue multiplication of another is also incidental to the scheme of Providence. Canada is provided by nature with her own birds, whose natural operations agricultural science now decides to be an aid to the farmer more than compensatory of the damage they effect. Our indigenous birds ought therefore to be protected, but the sparrow is a ruthless invader—he is far too tough a customer to be called an exotic—and his destruction ought to be accomplished if still possible. Those who, from a foolish sentiment—for there is nothing engaging about him—first imported the bird, committed a detrimental error as those who first let loose the rabbit pest in Australia. *Passer delendum est!* Let the sparrow be destroyed!

Again and again we insist on the points that Nova Scotia does not produce the butter she ought to produce, either in quantity or quality, especially the latter; and again and again we point to the advantage our noble Province has in being at the door, so to speak, of the English market. In this connection the London *Canadian Gazette* at least does its duty from the other side of the Atlantic, and endeavors to wake us up. Here is what it says, and it is well worth our serious attention:—

“If in regard to cheese as a staple article of commerce, Canada has little to learn from her competitors, the same cannot be said in regard to butter. In that product Canada is lamentably behind, and unless speedy steps be taken she must soon fall out of the contest altogether. In cheese the percentage of increase in Canada's total export has, during the last half decade, been 42.5; in butter the percentage of decrease has been no less than 62.7. The record of British imports of Canadian butter is no less unsatisfactory. In 1876 the United Kingdom imported 98,579 cwts. of butter from Canada, and in 1886 only 31,522 cwts., a decrease of 67,057 cwts. or over 68 per cent. The United States has similarly been losing her hold upon British markets—her decrease in the same period was 75,741 cwts., or 64 per cent. On the other hand, Holland, whence Britain now receives now by far her largest supply of butter and margarine, increased her exports to Britain in the same period by 791,366 cwts., or 196 per cent.; while Denmark showed an increase of 195,361 cwts., or over 400 per cent. It is true that in this comparison Canada suffers from the fact that her exports to Britain in 1876 were exceptionally large, and it is also to be noted that in 1887 she exported to Britain about 1,500 cwts. more than in 1886; but nevertheless there is only too much justice in the remark which Mr. Bear makes in his pamphlet, that the diminished British imports of butter from Canada ‘seem to indicate that production relatively to population has decreased,’ while he is not far wrong when he adds that the general quality of Canadian butter now reaching British markets ‘is not good enough to command a ready market.’

Canada has abundance of cheap land and cheap food. Why then should she fall behind in this part of the commerce of the dairy? The answer is only too obvious. It is because her product lacks ‘quality.’ ‘All the eminent agricultural authorities who have visited Canada are of opinion that if the farmers were willing to take the necessary trouble, there is no reason whatever why Canada should not participate to a great extent in the benefits of this important trade’—so said the high commissioner in his last annual report. ‘It is, of course, to the inferior quality of the butter that the lack of expansion in the Canadian trade is due’—added Mr John Dyke in his report; and all other practical authorities say much the same. While Denmark, Holland and Sweden have been marching ahead, Canada has been marking time, and she is marking time still. It is true that in this she is only following to a large extent the example of the Mother Country.

At the Dairy Show meetings it was repeatedly admitted that very little progress is being made in respect to the British production of butter, and the same may be stated of Canada. Shall it be Canada's permanent record—this stagnation in the face of increasing progress on the part of her European rivals? For the credit of Canada, we hope not. The question is, in truth, the question of all others which Canada must face, and happily there are signs that her public men are not altogether forgetful of its importance. On this side of the Atlantic, for some time past, no effort has been spared by the representatives of the Dominion to arouse Canadian producers to the imperative need for prompt and united action to ‘level up’ the quality of the Canadian article. Year after year the same fact may be found insisted upon in the reports of the British agents of the Dominion Government, to be found buried away in the blue-books of the department of agriculture—would that some means were devised of bringing these valuable reports to the direct notice of those they most concern—the Canadian producers.—But still, little or nothing has been done; and while Canada's export cheese trade is progressing by leaps and bounds under the stimulus of a healthy

system of co-operation among the producers, Canada's export butter trade is languishing for want of an equal share of attention.

"But what can we do?" some Canadian reader may ask. The first thing to do is to focus public opinion upon the steps really necessary for the development of the trade. There is no better method of doing this than by such a Dominion dairymen's convention, as Mr Lynch suggested in these columns some months back. Nothing could be more simple, nothing could be more effectual. Let the various provincial associations arrange to summon a joint conference at Ottawa during the coming session of the Dominion parliament. In this conference a large proportion of the members—those representing agricultural constituencies in all parts of the Dominion—would eagerly take part with the delegates from the various associations, and from the deliberations of these practical men a common plan of campaign would speedily emerge. All the better if from such a conference there arose an annual Dominion dairymen's convention, at which notes could be prepared and united action agreed upon. To reform Canada's butter trade it is first necessary to know what is wrong in the present methods, and how that wrong may be set right. This can only be done effectually by the counsel of all concerned. Their united utterances would command universal attention, and half the difficulties and uncertainties now surrounding the question would at once disappear. Let a few earnest men set to work to bring about this Dominion convention, and the rest will soon follow."

It is our persistent endeavor to prompt our farming friends to any market that seems likely to be open to them, and to stimulate their productions. In pursuance of this plan, we extract the following from one of our exchanges:—

"Under reciprocity we are told our farmers could send their pork, beef, etc., to the United States markets. It is a fact that our farmers receive quite as large prices now for such produce as the New England farmer receives for that of an equal quality. In view of this fact, which no one who knows the state of the markets in the rural districts of New Hampshire and Vermont will controvert, it might be well for our farmers to enquire whether, pending the negotiating of a treaty which does not appear to be imminent, it would not be well to endeavor to secure access to some of the markets which are now supplied from Boston or New York. In this we refer more particularly to the supplying of ships' stores, etc. In many instances vessels sailing regularly between provincial and U. S. ports purchase all their supplies in the latter. This should not be the case. Our farmers can produce such supplies as cheaply at least as those of New England, and would, we believe, find it a profitable business in which to engage. Mixed farming is the safest system our farmers can follow, and we can see no reason why, in addition to his apples and potatoes, his small fruits, and his live stock for the English markets, the Kings Co farmer should not put up the bacon and beef required for the home market. If more of such articles were produced, cured and packed in the best manner, the demand would increase, and better prices be secured. We would like to have the opinions of some of our farmers on this matter."

OUR COSY CORNER.

Says a correspondent of an exchange:—"Everybody who writes about fashions ought to think every new confection or creation in the dressmaking line heavenly and too lovely for anything, but I am bound by my sense of what is due to the truest womanhood to protest against the public indecency of full dress. A young lady of my acquaintance, the other day, was trying on a dress, and her arms were bare, as the sleeves were not in yet, when her brother came into the room, and she gave a little squeal of dismay, and seized a shawl and threw it around her shoulders, and yet she had just finished a ball dress, and it is made in just such a way that she has to take off all other garments above the waist line to be able to wear it. One old lady who goes each year to Saratoga with her children and grand-children, told me one day that a prominent gentleman told her that one reason why our best men have given up dancing is, that they are positively ashamed to be seen on the floor with their arms clasped about a partner in such a state of undress, and yet one and all of these women will squeal with real horror if anyone sees them with their arms bare in their homes."

A recent New York letter says:—"The plaids are large and very quiet. They are in soft wools and heavy cloths, the firm, smooth finished ones, as well as those that are so heavy and fluffy, that they seem like blankets."

All the historical combinations are shown, and many are original with the weaver. Stout women should sedulously avoid them.

The black gown obtains. It has few enemies. There is nothing that quite takes its place. A black gown is always refined, and everybody, from housemaid to duchess, may wear one.

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Plain Black Brussels net is set apart for morning wear when the crepe veil is thrown back from the face.

Short hair at the nape of the neck may be held in place by a pair of little side combs of the finest amber, and have a line of tiny pearls or Rhine stones as their finish."

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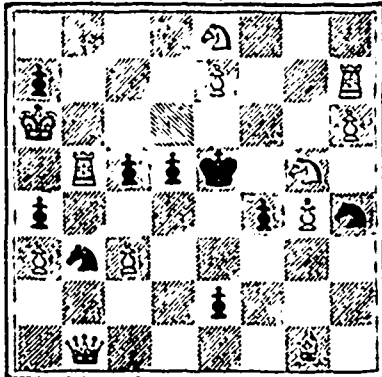
CHESS.

All communications for this department should be addressed— CHAS. EDITOR, Windsor, N. S.

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.

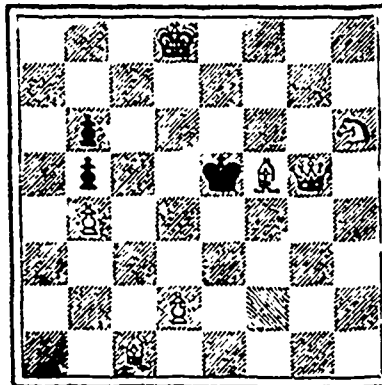
TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PROBLEM No. 50. "Croydon Guardian." BLACK—9 pieces.



WHITE—12 pieces White to play and mate in 2 moves

PROBLEM No. 51. "Croydon Guardian." BLACK—3 pieces.



WHITE—7 pieces. White to play and mate in 2 moves.

GAME No. 37.

From the Quebec Chronicle.

- WHITE. Dr. Ryall. 1 P to K4, 2 Kt to KB3, 3 B to B4, 4 B to Q5 (a), 5 P to Q3, 6 P takes Kt, 7 Kt takes P, 8 P to Q4, 9 Kt takes BP, 10 Kt to K5, 11 Q to K2, 12 Castles, 13 Q to R5, 14 P to QB4, 15 Kt to R3, 16 Kt to B3, 17 Kt to QKt5, 18 R to K1, 19 B to Kt5, 20 R to K8, 21 Q takes R +, 22 R to K1, 23 Q to R5, 24 Kt to KR4, 25 P to KKt3 (d), 26 P to B4, 27 P takes B, 28 P to B5, 29 Kt to Kt6 +, 30 Kt to R4, 31 Q to Kt6 +, 32 R to K6, 33 B to B4 (f), 34 Q to R5. BLACK. Mr. Barry. 1 P to K4, 2 Kt to QB3, 3 B to B4, 4 KKt to K2, 5 Kt takes B (b), 6 Kt to K2, 7 Kt takes P, 8 B to Q3 (c), 9 Q to K2 + Castles, 10 Kt to R1, 11 P to B4, 12 Q to K3, 13 Kt to QKt5, 14 P takes P, 15 Kt to B3, 16 B to Kt1, 17 Q takes P, 18 P to QR3, 19 R takes R, 20 Q to Kt1, 21 P to Q4, 22 B to B4, 23 B to Q6, 24 B to K4 (e), 25 B takes P, 26 P takes Kt, 27 P to E3, 28 K to R2, 29 R to KB1, 30 K to R1, 31 R to B2, 32 Kt to K2, 33 R takes P.

- 35 Kt takes R, 36 Q to K8 +, 37 Kt to Kt3, 38 K to Kt2, 39 Q takes P, 30 Kt to B1. Q takes R, K to R2, Q to K8 +, B to Kt3, P to Q6, Q to K6+ and White resigns.

NOTES.

(a) Apparently a favorite move with the player of White. The German Handbuch gives but one variation: 4 R to Q5, 4 KKt to K2, 5 Kt takes P, 5 B takes P +; 6 K takes B, 6 Kt takes Kt, with the better game. (b) We would much prefer 5 P to Q3; if then 6 Kt to Kt5, Kt takes B; P takes Kt, Kt to K2, etc. (c) Why not B to Kt3 instead of this cramping move. (d) The student will observe that if White had played R to K8 Black would have replied with B takes P+, then R takes R. (e) The manner in which Black gets quietly but surely out of his constrained and dangerous position is highly commendable. (f) Up to this point both attack and defence have been carried on with great precision; we think that White should now have played K to B2.

DRAUGHTS-CHECKERS

All Checker communications and exchanges should be addressed to W. Forsyth, 36 Grafton Street, Halifax.

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.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Chicago Evening Lamp has been received in exchange. Many thanks.

Problem 69 was correctly solved by Mrs. Moseley, but her solution reached us too late to acknowledge last week.

As promised we herewith present the corrected solution by S. C. H. Yarmouth, of Problem 64. The position was:—black men 13, 18, 21, kg. 23; white men 12, 25, 30, kg. 16, white to play and draw:—

- 12 8 23-30 11 15, 13-17 16 11 22-29 drawn, 30 26 (1)17-22 15 22

VAR. I.

- 18-23 23-27 (2)27-32 drawn, 11 15 15 19 19 23

VAR. II.

- 27-31, 19 24 drawn.

Mr. H deserves much credit for this very fine and ingenious correction of the author's and all other solutions of this problem. In a regular contest for problem solution this would be the only one to receive full points.

PROBLEM 71.—As we have received but one attempt and that an incorrect one to solve this problem, we withhold its solution for the present, and meanwhile we call the special attention of our best solvers to it as we are sure they will profit by studying it. The position is as follows:—black men 3, 15, 18, 19, 22; white men 21, 27, 32, kg. 6; black to play and win.

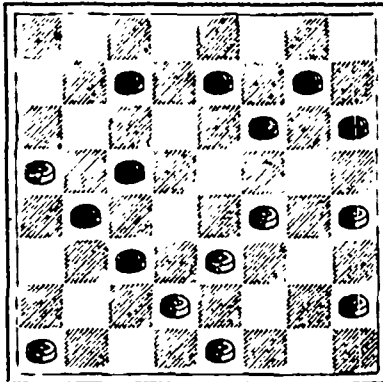
GAME XVII.

"Cross," FROM LYMAN'S BOOK OF PROBLEMS, by A. S. McKay, Dumfries, Scotland.

- 11-15 22 17 1-5 17 13, 23 18 14-18 22 17 14-17

- 8-11 17 14 18-22 27 23, 27 23 10-17 25 1E 10-14, 4-8 21 14 15-22 30 26, 23 19 7 10 24 20 * 2-7, 9-14 14-7 5-9, 18 9 3-10 32 27, 5-14 26 22 9-14

* This forms position 866 in Lyman's Book of problems and our PROBLEM 74. Black men 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 17, 22.



White men 13, 19, 20, 23, 26, 28, 29, 31.

White to play. What result?

We doubt the soundness of the solutions given in Lyman's book. At the same time we have never seen a correction of it published. If any reader has we will be greatly obliged if they will communicate the facts to us.

Blank forms, (suitable for both Chess and Checkers), for copying down problems, positions, endings, etc. Fifty for 25c, post free. Small sheets, numbered, and with appropriate headings, for recording games. Twenty-five for 15c.

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Sault Ste. Marie Canal.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tenders for the Sault Ste. Marie Canal," will be received at this office until the arrival of the eastern and western mails on TUESDAY, the 23rd day of October, next for the formation and construction of a Canal on the Canadian side of the river, through the Island of St. Mary.

The works will be let in two sections, one of which will embrace the formation of the Canal through the island; the construction of locks, etc. The other, the deepening and widening of the channel way at both ends of the canal; construction of piers, etc.

A map of the locality, together with plans and specifications of the works, can be seen at this office on and after TUESDAY, the 9th day of October, next, where printed forms of tender can also be obtained. A like class of information, relative to the works, can be seen at the office of the Local Officer in the Town of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Intending contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms and be accompanied by a letter stating that the person or persons tendering have carefully examined the locality and the nature of the material found in the trial pits.

In the case of firms, there must be attached the actual signatures of the full name, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the same; and further, a BANK DEPOSIT RECEIPT for the sum of \$21,000 must accompany the tender for the canal and locks; and a BANK DEPOSIT RECEIPT for the sum of \$7,500 must accompany the tender for the deepening and widening of the channel-ways at both ends, piers, etc.

The respective DEPOSIT RECEIPTS—cheques will not be accepted must be endorsed over to the Minister of Railways and Canal, and will be forfeited if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works, at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted.

The deposit receipt thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order, A. P. BRADLEY, Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 8th August, 1888.



SAULT STE. MARIE CANAL.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

The works for the construction of the canal, above mentioned, advertised to be let on the 23rd of October next, are unavoidably postponed to the following dates.

Tenders will be received until

Wednesday, the 7th day of November next.

Plans and specifications will be ready for examination at this office and at Sault Ste. Marie on and after

Wednesday, the 24th day of October next.

By order, A. P. BRADLEY, Secretary.

Department of Railways and Canals, Ottawa, 27th September, 1888.

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