CURRENT TOPICS.

Of the Empress Eugenie, a Paris correspondent writes: "She was lately at Amsterdam, whither she went to consult a noted Dutch physician respecting the rheumatism, from which she is a constant sufferer. An American lady who saw her there tells me she has grown very stout and infirm, and has lost every vestige of her once dazzling beauty. She is subject to attacks of insomnia, during which she will sit the whole night through before the portrait of the Prince Imperial, and these attacks usually terminate in fits of weeping and acute hysteria."

Chevreul, the French *savant*, has just celebrated his 101st birthday. When asked the secret of his longevity, he replied: "There is no secret; there can be no rule of life; what is good for one man may no be good for another. We must study what is best for us individually. For example, my parents lived to be more than 90 years old, and they drank wine; from my childhood wine has been disagreeable to me. Like Locke and Newton, I have never cared for any beverage but water, and yet I am President of the Wine Society of Anjou."

Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, has more royal titles than any other European sovereign. He is King of seven countries or provinces, Grand Prince of one, Prince or Margrave of several others, and Archduke, Grand Duke and Duke of half a dozen more. He is considered the richest monarch of Europe, with the possible exception of Queen Victoria. Beside his personal revenues, which are enormous, the Emperor manages on various pretexts to extract about $2,000,000 a year from the public treasury. Altogether Francis Joseph is what is commonly known as "well fixed."

The *British Medical Journal* gives the following interesting particulars of the height, weight and dimensions of Thomas Longley, of Dover, who is said to be the heaviest British subject in the world. Mr. Longley, who is a respectable and intelligent publican, is 40 years of age, being born (of parents not above the normal size) in 1848. As a baby he was not considered large. His present weight is 40 stone; height, 6 feet ¾ inch; measurement of the waist, 80 inches; size of leg, 25 inches. He finds considerable difficulty in walking, and does not trust himself in a carriage, for fear of breaking the springs. He is said to be very temperate both in eating and drinking, and has never suffered from any ill-health of a serious nature.

The Sewing Girls of Germany.

The sewing girls of Germany, according to a report which has been sent to the Department of State, have a hard time. Their wages are barely sufficient for subsistence and lodging, leaving all necessary incidental expenses, including clothing, to be provided either by a girl's family or through independent efforts of her own. In the larger cities this condition leads to frightful suffering or degrading immorality and ruin. Their employers are endeavoring to compel them to purchase their thread and other supplies at employers' prices, and the well-to-do girls who want a little extra money for luxuries or fineries compete with the lower classes and do the work at even lower rates than those generally paid. In short, only those girls have a passable existence who have sufficient support in their family ties. The self-dependent girl who lives by herself generally falls an easy prey to designing men and ends in private or public immorality and prostitution.—*Washington Post.*

The Moneyed Girl Who Couldn't Write.

Not long ago a very nicely dressed woman, accompanied by a gentlemanly looking man, walked into one of the banks and asked for a certificate of deposit. The book was passed out to her for her signature. She hesitated a moment, glanced nervously at her escort, then boldly grasped the pen and put her face very close to the paper. When the teller took the book back he saw plainly enough that the girl had simply made some very minute up and down scratches. He looked at her, saw her confusion and decided to be lenient with her. As if unable to read the signature clearly he inquired the name. It was given promptly. Then it was slyly written in the teller's own bold letters, the certificate filled out and delivered. The escort never suspected the difficulty and the girl departed happy.—*Chicago Herald.*

Unlucky Bill.

"Your children all turned out well, I reckon?" said a man addressing an old friend he had not seen for many years.

"Wall, yes, all but Bill, pore feller."

"Drunk licker, I reckon."

"Oh, no, never drunk no licker, but han't amounted to nothin'. Bill wuz deceived and it ruint him."

"Love affair?"

"Yes, an' a mighty bad one."

"She married some other feller, eh?"

"Oh, no, she married him. She wuz a widder, an' let out that she was well off, but she wan't. W'y, she wan't able to get Bill a decent suit o' clothes the week airter they wuz married. Yes, the pore fellow has lost confidence."—*Arkansaw Traveller.*

A Line of Study.

Editor (to young assistant)—"Mr. Greathead, I want to map out a line of journalistic study for you!"

Young Assistant (dubiously)—"I am pretty well up to newspaper stuff, as it is, sir."

Editor—"I am aware of that, Mr. Greathead; but you know too much. I would suggest that you devote one hour each day to forgetting something."—*Puck.*

Sad Result.—"Capital articles those of yours on Commercial Union, Mr. Young," said our young man to the hon. gentleman from Galt. "But why do you look so ashamed? You ought to be proud of your work." "Proud! Perhaps you haven't noticed that I'm being praised by the Toronto *World*," was all he said.—*Grip.*

The Pittsburg, Pa., Grand Opera House gives an opera glass with every seat. The glasses are chained to the chairs, the chairs are riveted to the floor, the floor is nailed to the beams, the beams are let into the foundation, and the foundation is sunk into the earth, but one of these fine nights some fellow will dig the whole establishment out and carry it off, rather than let go of his glass.

AN UNHAPPY BRIDE.

Overwhelmed by a Complication of Accidents on the Day of Marriage.

It was reserved for a bride lately to suffer a complication of accidents which fortunately could not occur more than once or twice in a life time. The young lady left the house and got ten blocks away when she discovered that she had not put on her bridal veil. This was no fool of a veil either. It was not the regulation square of blonde lace, but a lovely Brussels net, richly wrought by the nuns in the convent of the Sacre Cœur, in Montreal. Back went the bride for this gorgeous portion of her raiment. It was thrown over her in the carriage and the wedding procession again started. This time a breath of air produced an inclination to sneeze. The poor bride repressed it, but it escaped at last, and oh! horror on horror's head, her white satin waist split from belt to shoulder. Here occurred a halt, this time at a little shop where thread and needle were obtained, and the gaping space with difficulty was covered. At last, much too late, that unfortunate woman reached the church. In stepping nervously from the carriage the lace bottom of an under petticoat caught on the step and she felt the fastening give way. Every step up the aisle she could feel that cruel skirt slip, slip, till she feared she would have to step out of it at the very altar. She took a grip on the side and on she went. During the entire service she clung to it like grim death. She let go for a moment to get her glove off for the ring, and when she resumed her hold she felt that it had gained on her. Like Florence Wallack, she might have been married with the catechism for all she knew. She had these thoughts: "Will that petticoat be dropped in the aisle, or will I shed it on the sidewalk before the mob as I climb into the carriage? Is it the lawn skirt, with three ruffles of valenciennes, or is it that little blue embroidered cashmere ma made me wear so I wouldn't take cold?"

The perspiration started on her pallid brow as she hurriedly made the responses, and, half-fainting, made her way down the aisle.

"Don't lose your presence of mind, dear," whispered the young husband.

"It's my petticoat I'm losing," returned the lady, pettishly.

When once in the carriage the sentimental bridegroom pressed her hand and said:

"At last the prize is mine."

She said the same thing as she kicked the dreadful petticoat under the carriage seat. It was the woollen one.—*Philadelphia Press.*

Fresh News Notes.

A bill providing for several importan sanitary reforms will be prepared by the Quebec Provincial Board of Health and submiited to the Legislature next session.

The Dominion Government has been invited to send a representative to the Interprovincial Congress to be held next month in the city of Quebec, but will most probably decline.

At yesterday's meeting of the Montreal boodle investigation committee, counsel for the complainant attempted to put a number of fishing questions on the gas contract charge to witnesses, but they were ruled out by the committee. Nothing important was elicited, and unless something definite is proved at the next meeting the charge in its present form will fall through.

It is stated that Sir John Macdonald will within a few weeks resign the General Superintendency of Indian Affairs, the administration of the Indian Department reverting, as in former years, to the Department of the Interior.

The appointment of Mr. Burbidge, Deputy Minister of Justice, as judge of the new Court of Claims will be gazetted today. It is rumored that the office of Deputy Minister will be abolished, in view of the appointment shortly of a Solicitor-General.

Sir John Macdonald has not yet signified his acceptance of the position of Canada's representative on the Fisheries Commission, nor will the appointment be made by the Canadian Government until it is definitely informed as to the scope of the commission.

Kettles on the Boil.

Here is an advertisement that is appearing in the Utah papers: "Wanted, information of John Edmund Kettle, aged 26, formerly of London, Eng., latterly of Salt Lake City, by the undersigned, Marietta Kettle, Rosa V. Kettle, Lillian O. Kettle, Katharine K. Kettle, Mattie S. Kettle, Susan T. Kettle, Fannie B. Kettle, Constance C. Kettle, Margaret A. Kettle and Julia A. Kettle, all of Salt Lake City." Apparently these Kettles are all boiling; at any rate, it will be pretty hot for John Edmond if he is caught.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

Thoughtful Little Boys.

Some boys were playing in an alley off Congress street the other day when a woman came out of her back gate and said:

"Boys, I want you to go away from here with your noise. My husband is very ill."

"Yes'm," replied the leader of the crowd. "Is your husband's life insured?"

"No, sir."

"Oh, then, you don't want him to die, of course. Come, boys, let's go."

A Yankee Solution.

"Jones is getting rich." "Jones is making money." Such remarks are common.—*Hamilton Times.*

Copying the above, the Buffalo *News* wonderingly inquires in a headline, "Who is Jones?" Well, we may not be able to give all the particulars, but we have heard that "Jones, he pay the freight." If he is making money he ought to.—*Rochester Herald.*

Belgian glass-workers are now preparing to make glass into various shapes and patterns by running sheets of it at just the right temperature to work nicely through steel rollers.

Jacob Sharp is to be sent to Sing Sing on Friday and James A. Richmond, one of Sharp's colleagues, is to be placed on trial.

The Greenhorn mountains in Oregon are covered with six inches of snow.

Dark ngs: Looking for a match when aroused at 1 o'clock in the morning

HIT 'EM AGAIN.

The Toledo "Stroller" Takes a Shy at Two Handy Expressions.

Of all the shortening and clipping that goes on in daily conversation, what so meaningless as this exclamation—"Thanks"? If one has done you a favor, why not say "I thank you?" not "I thank ye," but "I thank you," plainly, clearly and distinctly. The exclamation "Thanks," jerked out of some unfathomable depths, savors of too much haste to be polite, and best be omitted.

"Thanks" is only equalled, in my judgment, in straight down wrongness in the idiocy that responds to the polite "I thank you," or "Very much obliged," for a favor rendered or a kindness performed, with "Not at all." I have, I think, written of this before, but it will bear repetition, and I can see no reason why, if you pick up a lady's kerchief, tender her your seat in a car, or save a friend from a dangerous fall on that result of a fool's carelessness, a banana peel, and are rewarded with that exactly proper remark, "I thank you," I say, I can see no good and valid reason why it would not be equally proper and true to say "You're a liar," as to respond with "Not at all." Honest now, can you?—"*Stroller*" *in Toledo Journal.*

The Drummer's Revenge.

A drummer had a spite at a hotel in Palestine, Texas, and resolved on a terrible revenge. So when he went to Galveston he "bagged" a lot of the cockroaches for which the island city is celebrated. Bringing a lot of the largest, commonly called by native Galvestonians "diggerloogers," the drummer took them to the hotel and turned them loose in the halls and corridors. In about two weeks the hotel was swarming with them and they got in the soups, preserves, jams, molasses, in the milk—everywhere—and worked hard all day and sat up at night to help that drummer get even. They have filled the hotel and gone to work on the private houses, and now Palestine is accursed with them.—*Chicago News.*

A Mother's Love.

Teacher—Yes, my children, always remember there is no human love equal to a mother's love.

Little Girl—Womens love their childrens better than their husbands, don't they?

"Very often."

"Yes, indeed. When we gets the hiccoughs mamma gets sorry and tries to cure 'em, but when papa gets the hiccoughs she gets mad."

The Widow's Mite.

She was a widow, and perhaps a little sensitive on that account. When she answered a summons the other day she found a good-looking ministerial chap standing at the door.

"Good day," he began; "I represent a loan association"——

"So do I," she responded shortly, "and I mean to stay alone; good day, sir."

He hasn't thought it out yet to his entire satisfaction.

Learning to Swim.

It is perhaps not generally known that if a child is taught to swim at a very early age it learns much more easily than when it is older. Instinct teaches it exactly what to do. The children of the South Sea islanders almost live in the water from their early infancy and are quite as much at home there as they are on land.—*London Telegraph.*

Bill Nye in the Barber's Chair.

Barber—You are very bald, Mr. Nye.

Nye—That's so.

Barber—What was the cause of your baldness?

Nye—The top of my head grew faster than the hair.—*Texas Siftings.*

Somewhat Indefinite.

Old Friend—Well, good-bye, my boy. I say, why don't you come up to dinner with me some time? My Boy—Why, I will; of course will be glad to. When shall I come? "Oh, come up—er—some time. Well, so long."—*Texas Siftings.*

Nikita, Maurice Strakosch's latest discovered star, about whom he told that wonderful Indian story, and for whom he prophesied a future more brilliant and glorious than that of Patti, has appeared in London at the promenade concerts given at Her Majesty's under Col. Mapleson's management. So far the success of this young lady has been of a rather doubtful nature, if we accept the verdict of some of the leading London papers.

A striking instance of the extent to which saving machinery is carried nowadays, says the *Industrial Journal*, is shown in the tin-can industry. Everybody knows that tin cans are manufactured by machinery. One of the machines used in the process solders the longitudinal seams of the cans at the rate of fifty a minute, the cans rushing along in a continuous stream. Now, of course, a drop or two of solder is left on the can. The drop on the outside can be easily cleared away, but it is not easy to secure the drop left on the inside. It wouldn't do, of course, to retard the speed of the work—better waste the drop; it is only a trifle, anyhow, and to 999 men in 1,000 would not seem worth a minute's attention. The thousandth man worked for a firm using one of these machines, and he set about devising an ingenious arrangement for wiping the inside of the can, thereby saving that drop of solder and leaving none to come in contact with the contents of the can. He was encouraged by his employers to patent his invention, did so, and has already received several thousand dollars in royalties for its use. As the machine solders twenty thousand cans a day, the solder saved by his invention amounted to about $15 a day. It pays to think as you work.

"Orchard tea" is the name sometimes applied to hard cider by the Connecticut deacons.

A New York despatch says: Preston candidate of the Union Labor party for Secretary of State, has resigned to allow John Swinton's name to be put at the head of that ticket. This makes four parties already in the field. The Republicans have Col. Fred. Grant. The Democrats will nominate to-morrow. Henry George represents United Labor and John Swinton Union Labor. The fall election promises to be lively.

PROFESSIONAL WINDOW-GAZERS.

A Queer Profession Followed by the Young Men in the Quaker City.

Two young men who spend the day and a large part of the evening on Chestnut street are paid to do so. They are both well known figures, and generally travel together. They are professional window-gazers. The young men, in common with everybody else, know that to attract a crowd to a window all one has to do is to stand and gaze into that window. In a short time ten or a dozen people will be gazing with him. They were down to hard pan—on their uppers so to speak. One of them went to the proprietor of a men's furnishing house on Chestnut street and told him that for so much a week he would guarantee to attract more attention to his window than all the displays that could be laid out. The proprietor was struck with the idea and gave it a trial. As a consequence, there was a crowd at his window nearly all the time. The young man would walk up to the window with his friend and stand gazing there until a crowd of a dozen or fifteen were standing with them. To keep the crowd moving he would walk away, and that started the break in the crowd. The performance was repeated every ten or fifteen minutes. The young man went to other stores along the street, unfolded his plan and pointed out the success of it. In a short time he had the whole street from Ninth to Broad on his beat, and he had to take his friend into partnership, and he makes plenty of money. If other window-gazers do not get on to the idea and get into the business, these two originators will shortly establish branches of the 'Gazers' in other cities.—*Philadelphia News.*

The Telephone Craze.

Periodically the public have a craz thrust on their notice; at one time it is a gold-mine, at another a lead company that seeks to draw the hard earnings from the people's pockets. In ancient times it was the South Sea bubble that turned the heads of kings and senators, who were ultimately engulfed in one grand maelstrom that ruined them by thousands. Montreal just now is quietly being flooded with telephonic schemes as flighty in imagination and as dubious in results as the black angel companies floated in the States, to the financial ruin of those who once prided themselves on being in affluent positions. It is against investing in these imaginary companies that we desire to caution our readers. But yesterday a new scheme was afloat to wipe out the Bell Telephone Company by reducing its tariff to $35 per annum for subscribers; to-day another bubble company which wishes to reduce the price to $12 is floating in the air. It is needless to say there is little room for the next fifty years for any competition such as is perhaps intended or intended for sale. From personal inquiry we find that no person, director or otherwise, in the Bell Co., has ever received any bonus on his stock, and that that company has never sold a share below par for stock gambling purposes. It is not to be supposed therefore that any of the new concerns can place the shareholders in a better condition. Again the Bell Telephone Co., with its 4,000 or 5,000 miles of lines, connecting cities and towns, offers to its subscribers facilities which no other Telephone Co. can furnish. The Bell Telephone Co.'s dividends, with the practical monopoly of the past eight years, average about 5 per cent. Therefore it is certain that with its economical and conservative management it has been no special bonanza for its shareholders. Its stock sells to-day at about par. With two or three competitors in the field, and the consequent rate cutting, what prospect is there for dividends from any of them, since it is not to be supposed that the Bell Telephone Co. will retire from the field? This then is a fair financial view of the matter as to the prospect of a new, poor and untried company paying any dividends. Knowing the large number of our subscribers who are shareholders in the Bell Telephone Co., we should be base to our trust did we not try to protect their interests as well as prevent others from losing large amounts of money by investing in new bubbles which cannot by any possibility pay a fair dividend, if any at all. We find on still further inquiry that the Bell Telephone Co. to-day has about 14,000 sets of instruments in use and owns between 4,000 and 5,000 miles of line, connecting cities and towns in Canada and the United States. It has also the exclusive right to connect with the system of the American Bell Telephone Co., in the United States. Any person at all familiar with the business and the cost of construction can readily see that no company could duplicate this construction without a very large capital. Opposition may be a good thing, and where it has a chance of success a creditable thing, but where in common sense is there anything to be made with three or four companies in such a small population as we have in the Dominion of Canada? We have, therefore, two desires in this matter, the first to protect our friends who have already invested in one company, and the second to protect those who may be solicited to invest in certain losses. Finally, what is there to prevent the Bell Telephone Company, with its wealthy and paid-up organization—in case of a doubtful success of their rivals—reducing the price of their subscription to such a point as would wipe out all and sundry who opposed them by a tariff on which none but themselves could subsist?—*The Shareholder and Insurance Gazette.*

—The Paris *Figaro* says that those who must but cannot take quinine should mix the dose prescribed with a very small quantity of fresh butter and spread it under the armpit. The absorption will be as perfect as if introduced into the stomach.

—A witness in a Scott Act case at Paris, describing what he had got to drink at one of the hotels, said: "There was not much whiskey in it. I could drink twenty glasses of good whiskey and never feel it, but I call the mixture I got in the Windsor just rotgut."

According to the Washington *Star*, Secretary Bayard is unable to find suitable men who are willing to take places on the United States section of the Fisheries Commission.

"I say, waiter, this beefsteak is at least three weeks old!" "Can't say, I'm sure; only been here a fortnight."—*Paris Estarette.*

MONSTER MASS MEETINGS

Declare in Favor of Gladstone and Home Rule and Condemn the Police and Government.

A last (Sunday) night's London cable says: A great Liberal demonstration was held at Templecombe, Dorsetshire, yesterday. Twenty thousand persons were present, Somerset, Hants and Wilts sending contingents. Mr. John Morley, who was the chief speaker, replied to Mr. Chamberlain's recent speech at Birmingham. He denied that the Gladstonian position was not perfectly clear. The Liberals, he said, stood with their feet upon a rock. Mr. Gladstone had announced his assent to modifications of his original Home Rule plan, and every one of his colleagues who had been concerned in preparing the Bill had also cordially assented. What more did anybody want to know? He was amazed that Mr. Chamberlain did not produce his own plan. Was Mr. Chamberlain against Home Rule altogether? The Gladstonians wanted to know also what Radicals like Mr. Chamberlain thought about the doings at Mitchellstown, Ennis and other places. As for Chamberlain's urging a postponement of Irish for English legislation, the position of Ireland, the speaker said, would not allow Parliament to deal with other affairs. The ship of State was in a storm and was surrounded by tumultuous waves. There was only one way of making port—to summon back the old pilot. (Cheers.) Resolutions were passed expressing confidence in Mr. Gladstone and demanding justice for Ireland.

A mass meeting, which was attended by 10,000 persons, was held to-day at Tower Hill. The police seized the placards announcing the meeting and demanded the names of the promoters of the demonstration. Speeches were made from six platforms. The speeches condemned the Government's Irish policy and the conduct of the police at Mitchellstown. Appropriate resolutions were put and carried. A strong force of police was present, but their services were not needed, as the proceedings were orderly throughout.

The Canadian Northwest.

A collection of Manitoba exhibits has been sent by the Canadian Pacific Railway to Charlottetown, P.E.I.

A carload of anthracite coal from Banff has been received by the Naval Department at Esquimalt. If the results are satisfactory a large order is expected.

It is stated that Mr. Somerset Aikins, son of the Lieutenant-Governor, is to be married in ten days to Miss Colby, daughter of the member for Stanstead.

At a meeting of the Council of the Board of Trade this afternoon a report was presented by the Secretary in which the total yield of wheat for this year in the Province is placed at 11,000,000 bushels, giving 7,000,000 bushels for export. This, with the surplus of other products, will realize about $7,000,000. The average yield of wheat for the Province will be about 25 bushels to the acre, and may probably reach 30.

One hundred cars of wheat passed through the C. P. R. yards yesterday en route to Port Arthur from points in Southern Manitoba and between this city and Brandon. The railway company reports the wheat movements brisker every day, and their locomotive power will shortly be taxed to its utmost.

The Moosomin Fair ended last night in a banquet to the eastern press representatives, which lasted till 2 in the morning. Prof. Saunders was present and made favorable comment on the Moosomin district. To-day the eastern pressmen were driven here across the prairie to Wapella. There were 260 entries at the fair there to-day. The party leaves for Whitewood by to-night's train to attend the Whitewood Fair.

A municipal election in Emerson yesterday resulted in a small riot. C. S. Douglass, M.P.P., a candidate for mayor, tore up the official voters' list at one of the polling sub-divisions because it was incomplete, he claimed, and a row ensued. In consequence there is no election of mayor.

When the Nelson Valley Railway Company was dissolved by Parliament some years ago the Hudson Bay Company was directed to pay the Nelson Valley Company $10,970 for surveys, etc. This has never been paid, and Mr. S. Drummond, of Montreal, has applied in the Courts here for an attachment of the line of the Hudson Bay Road in order to liquidate the debt.

All the bridges on the Red River Valley Road are now completed excepting the one at Morris, and the construction of the stations have now been begun.

Four mounted policemen arrived at Edmonton last night with a half-breed and his son from Lesser Slave Lake charged with the murder of the wife of the former and the stepmother of the latter. The woman became insane and was inciting to cannibalism and murder. Therefore, in accordance with Indian custom, her nearest relatives killed her.

Major Phipps Free.

The term of imprisonment of Major Ellis P. Phipps, the defaulting superintendent of the almshouse, expired last midnight. His season of mental and physical depression, which invoked the solicitude of his physicians and friends, was followed, as the time of his release drew nearer, by brighter spirits and his old physical vigor. When he left the prison he was as vigorous-looking as when he was first arrested. He has yet formed no plans for the future. It was announced some time ago that he would tell all he knew about almshouse irregularities when he was released, because he fancied that his quondam friends had deserted him in his hour of need. The Major the other day denied any intention of making any statement.

It is understood that the new Exchequer Court provided for by the bill passed by the Dominion Parliament last session is to be started immediately, Mr. Burbidge, Deputy Minister of Justice, being spoken of as the Judge.

A witness in the recent convict inquiry in Georgia said it was necessary to whip the men to get any work out of them. If they were whipped in time, however, it was not necessary to whip them much.

The Illinois State Board of Agriculture declines to recognize the Galloway breed of cattle as a breed, but classes them the same as the Aberdeen-Angus.