

NEWS NOTES.

Trials—The Triple Alliance Fisheries Exhibition—News Items.

Passing through the folds of a remnant of old sailcloth I find myself in the corner of a large loft—partly covered by a row of stables—stables unmistakably, from the occasional clamps of tired horses and the fragrant odor which proceeds therefrom—a little below the level of the foot-lights, and on the far side of the stage. There are no reserved seats whatever. From the raised platform to the outer walls are a number of rough planks ranged longitudinally, rising one above another as in an ordinary gallery. In the top-closure on the right hand is a small inclosure with a counter, devoted to the sale of "oranges, apples, and ginger-beer." The arrangements behind the curtain are primitive and simple; there are four tolerably well painted scenes slung over rollers, comprising an exterior, an interior, a wood, and a street. The brick-work at the back of the stage is colored to represent a landscape. Wings there are none; but the proscenium—3 feet wide on each side—being fixed parallel with the seats, offers some slight protection to the actors in their entrances and exits. The musical element was sparsely represented; one instrument only—a violin—constituted the entire orchestra. Gas, of course, was unavailable, and candles were too insignificant; the authorities, therefore, resorted to a fearful compound of grease and oil, the fumes of which were suffocating. Five pans, in shape like large garden saucers, were filled with this precious liquid and placed at intervals along the edge of the platform to do duty as "floats." Sometimes the business of the drama required a night effect; this was managed by means of a long slip of deal fastened to the stage by hinges, but lying flat thereon, until the appearance of the blood-stained spectre or the pallid ghost called for darkness, when, by the aid of a cord attached to each end, it was raised, and the necessary result followed. It should be mentioned that there are three "houses" or performances nightly, each of which lasts about an hour. The reader is supposed to be present at the first of these, say at 7 o'clock. By this time the audience has increased in number to at least 300, and the noise they make is deafening. "Stop it, old catgut!" "Pull up the rag!" "Now, then, look alive!" &c. Before the curtain rises, however, it may be as well to mention a little peculiarity attaching to the dramas enacted here. To-night we are to have "The Highland Cateran;" to-morrow, perhaps, "The Outlaw;" and the night following "The Freebooter." Thus with variations—harping on the same old string—we at last arrive at "Rob Roy," so that in reality the "change every evening" is a delusion and a snare.—Chambers' Journal.

A Funny Theatre.

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Strange Coincidences.

In the small town of Zeitz, in Prussian Saxony, lived two women, Frau Schmidt and Frau Feustel, occupying adjoining rooms in the same house. In February, 1881, each was made on the same day the mother of triplets, all boys. This was a decidedly curious coincidence in births. The Rev. Mr. Busch, of Winona, Minn., whose five children were all born on Sunday, has been the subject of some newspaper paragraphs, but his case is less noteworthy than that of a resident of Middletown, Conn., three of whose four children have the same birthday—Nov. 16. A less remarkable coincidence is noted in the case of Mrs. William Manning, of Mount Auburn, O., who celebrated on one day the anniversary of her birth, of her wedding, and of the birth of a grandchild. Why should accident have ordained that the same company of minstrels should have visited Washington on the day that President Garfield was inaugurated, on the day that his remains were borne in state to the capitol, and on the day that the oration was pronounced upon him by Mr. Blaine? An odd coincidence was reported not long ago in these columns. In 1862 a fire destroyed the city of Kingston, Jamaica. On the day of the fire Aaron de Cordova was born. Aaron de Cordova's grandfather was the first man on the island who erected a building. After the fire, three months ago, in the same place, the present Aaron de Cordova was the first man who erected a building. It was a curious fate which ordained that the son of the Austrian Baron Carl von Hofer, and Andreas Hofer's great-grandson, should perish by a bullet discharged during a rifle-match, being the fifth member of this distinguished family slain by such a wound. Three years ago one Lewis Hiltz, of Independence, Mo., killed Joseph Melody, but was acquitted on the ground of insanity. Two years later, on the same day and at the same hour, he received a fatal sunstroke on the same spot where he committed the crime. Coincidences relative to deaths are numerous if not always very noteworthy. On the 19th of April, 1882, Edward Goss was buried at Troy, in this state, from the same house at which, in 1870, the same clergyman had buried his brother James. Both brothers died on the same day of the month at the same hour.—New York World.

Alba and the Alligator.

There was quite an excitement near Frascati recently owing to the killing of a large alligator by Capt. P. F. Alba. The alligator having been discovered some distance from the shore, Capt. Alba, who happened to be passing, procured a pickaxe and waded into the water toward the monster, which was 10 feet long. Not being able to get within striking distance, the Captain procured a gun and fired several shots at the saurian, pounding him in several places. The Captain by this time was over his waist in the water. Suddenly he saw the alligator disappear, and soon after felt something under his feet as he was taking a step forward. It didn't take the Captain long to find out that this was the head of the "gator," who seemed bent on hostilities. Cap. Alba pushed the head away with the muzzle of his gun, and awaited developments. The alligator soon came to the surface again. On but showed no disposition to make off. On the contrary he opened wide his jaw in immediately in front of the Captain. Taking advantage of this gap, Alba put his gun in the alligator's mouth and shot him in the throat, killing him instantly. The monster was then hauled on shore. Cap. Alba was of course very wet, but a kind-hearted young lady lent him her buggy blanket which enabled him to reach town comfortably.—From the Mobile (Ala) Register.

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

FIVE MINUTES SELECT READING.

Summary of Foreign, Domestic, and War Items.—Concise, Fitting, and Pointed. DOMESTIC. The efforts to break up the ice at Cape Rouge have been unsuccessful. Hon. Mr. Blake will visit England shortly after the prorogation of Parliament. The Niagara Falls fire brigade are making preparations to have a great celebration on the 24th. The election for Albert, N. B., has been declared void by consent of counsel in the protest. The New Brunswick Legislature has been prorogued after three weeks' session. Mr. D. F. Campbell, registrar of the county of Peel, is dead, suddenly, of apoplexy. Several piers of the bridge across the Gatineau river at Maniwaki has been swept away by the recent break-up. The annual returns of the Grand Trunk just issued for 1882, show an increase on receipts of 14 7 per cent over 1881. W. R. McRae, one of Kingston's oldest and most respected citizens, was recently presented with his portrait by his friends. The B. C. Government has been informed from Ottawa of the intention of the Dominion Government to assist European emigrants. The Old Junction hotel at Prescott junction, owned by Mr. Wilkinson of the G. T. R. Toronto, has been destroyed by fire. The city police of Montreal is to be graded into three classes. The first will get \$10, the second \$9, and the third \$8 per week. A most enthusiastic and successful quarterly session of the Grand Division, Sons of Temperance of Nova Scotia, recently closed at Stoney Beach, Yarmouth. An iron bridge, after an American model, has been constructed in England for the Canadian Pacific railway, for placing over the Fraser river in British Columbia. The franchise bill, the factory bill, and the liquor license bill, the three most important measures promised in the Governor-General's speech, are to be dropped for this session. UNITED STATES. A despatch from Lincoln, Neb., says terrible prairie fires are raging in the adjoining counties. A terrific hail storm at Milwaukee recently greatly damaged crops and property. The total receipts of the United States internal revenue since June, 1882, are \$121,255,000. Troops have captured eighty Canadian Cree Indians in the vicinity of Bear Paw Mountains. Mr. Thos. Hughes, the patriotic founder of the Rugby, Tenn., colony, is about to visit that place. The saloons in nearly every town in Illinois are closed, as the proprietors refuse to pay the high license. It has not been decided whether any criminal prosecutions will be brought in the case of the Battle Creek railway disaster. The bill preventing the consolidation of competing telegraph lines has been lost in the New York Assembly by 39 to 62. An Austin, Texas, despatch announces that there is considerable apprehension on the lower Rio Grande regarding yellow fever. The Lighthouse Board has decided to institute experiments with a view to determining the value of electric light for lighthouse purposes. The Michigan Assembly has passed a bill prohibiting the practice of dentistry by any person who has not received a diploma from the faculty of a reputable college. At Petersburg, Va., on two nights attempts were made to burn the houses of the fire department, by throwing balls of yarn, saturated with oil, through the windows. The suit of Agnes Robertson Boucicault against Dion Boucicault, author, for absolute divorce has been discontinued. Mr. Boucicault agreeing to allow his wife \$5,000 a year alimony. GENERAL. Fifty Irish members voted against the Affirmation Bill. Two Chilean murderers of a German captain have been acquitted in Chile. The Austrian Landwehr measure increases the military budget by 1,000,000 florins. The Reichsrath has fixed the minimum force of the Austrian Landwehr at 139,000 men. In the House of Commons the Affirmation Bill was refused a second reading by 292 to 239. The disabled steamer Hapsburg, from New York, was again spoken on the 20th April, all well. Owing to the rejection of the Affirmation Bill Mr. Bradlaugh intends to administer the oath to himself. The News says of the rejection of the Affirmation Bill: "The forces of bigotry and intolerance triumphed." At Brussels, the anarchists, Didier and Federsaber, have been sentenced to three months and seven months respectively. The German steamer Africa, Captain Buchholse, which left New York, March 27th, for Leith and Hamburg, is considered lost. The Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, approve the annexation of New Guinea to Queensland. Ghow, an African chief, has invaded British territory, capturing Bamayah, on the Boom river. A force has left Sierra Leone to expel him. The Times says it is to be regretted that the prudent and conclusive solution offered in the Affirmation Bill was not supported by a majority of the House. Five hundred agricultural and other labourers, mechanics and domestic servants recently left Liverpool for Canada under the auspices of the Samaritan Society.

Spoopeydyke's Printing Press.

Spoopeydyke came home one night bringing a small bundle in his arms. "It's a printing press on which I expect to do all my own printing hereafter," he said. "Oh, but isn't that lovely!" fluttered Mrs. Spoopeydyke, dropping the stork and rushing to her husband's side; "and can't we do the loveliest things with it! It is the kind the Herald and Sun and all those papers are printed with." "Oh, yes, Mrs. Spoopeydyke," growled her husband, "you've hit it exactly. This is the very kind. I got Mr. Bennett to kindly try it on, so as to get it the same size as the Herald is printed on." "And you will print papers with yours like Mr. Bennett and the other editors?" continued Mrs. Spoopeydyke timely. "Oh, but won't I though!" yelled her husband. "It needed a tough fellow idiot to think of that; you've struck the proper plan. Think you can print 50x60 show-bills with a 3x4 press? Well, I tell you that ye can't. Can you get it into your mealy head that this is a card press, and can only print a card three inches by four inches?" "Oh, it's a card press, is it?" ventured Mrs. Spoopeydyke; "then we can print those beautiful Christmas cards on it, can't we?" "Now you've got it," yelled her husband; "that's the idea. It prints in thirty-five different colors at one impression, and any design, from the picture of an old crank with a sealin' overcoat, looking round somebody's chimney with a game bag full of jumping-jacks, to the New Year, 1883, represented by a hump-backed baby dressed in a broad grin, with a napkin tied around his waist, driving out the old year, dressed as an old tramp with a mowing machine and a gallon jug of whiskey under his arm. That's the idea exactly. Think you can print chromos and lithographs on it, don't you! Well, you can't. You can only print one color, and that is black. Think you grasp it now?" "Well," said Mrs. Spoopeydyke, "I suppose you can print visiting cards on it?" "Yes, Mrs. Spoopeydyke, I can," said her husband, in a softer tone, and he grew in a much better humor as he proceeded to show his wife the press and exhibit his dexterity in the use of the type and the press. At last he got his worthy helpmate's name set up in type, and proceeded to put the chase on the press with a grand flourish. But in an evil hour he had forgotten to key it up, and at a touch the whole business went to pi, and at the next fell in a confused mass all over the carpet. "Why what makes it do that?" said Mrs. Spoopeydyke, laughing. "What makes it do that, Mrs. S.?" sneered her husband as he hit his head on a corner of a table in a mad dive after the type. "What d'ye s'poe makes it do it? What makes anything do anything? If I had your talent for asking idiotic questions I'd get a glass of beer and a three-inch paper collar and live out as a prosecuting attorney." By this time the worthy gentleman had got the name set up and securely fastened, and was printing with great gusto; but he had, unfortunately, set the type up in wrong order, and the first eight perfumed visiting cards came out like the following: ekydnepoopS srM When Mrs. Spoopeydyke saw it she set up a little scream. "Oh, isn't that funny, though? What makes it wrong side up?" "Funny!" howled her husband, with horrid derision, as he grasped the situation. "It's a perfect thunderbolt of fun. It's the most delicious humorous thing of the century. All you need is an advertisement of liver pills on the cover, and a joke about a goat on the first page, to be a comic almanac. With your appreciation of humor, all you need is a broad grin and \$3,000 worth of stolen diamonds, to be the leading comedienne of the American boards. Can't you see the mealy type's turned wrong? They have only got to be turned round the other way." After half an hour of diligent labor the types were again in position, securely keyed up, and put on the press. When the final arrangements were completed Mr. Spoopeydyke turned round to wink at the baby, and incautiously left his thumb over the edge of the press. As luck would have it, Mrs. Spoopeydyke, in her anxiety to show her husband how well she understood and appreciated the press, brought the lever down, and the press closed on that gentleman's thumb, making him jump four feet high, and utter an exclamation that would have made the second lieutenant of a company of pirates blush. "Dogdag the mealy printing press," he shrieked, as he smashed the base burner with it, and then he threw it in the alley. "Haven't ye got any sense scarcely? Why didn't ye go on with the entertainment? The mealy thing only got as far as the bone. Why don't ye finish the chapter?" and Mr. Spoopeydyke danced upstairs, five at a time, with a parting injunction to his wife to hire out as a slaughterhouse. "Well," said Mrs. Spoopeydyke, as she picked up the baby, and put a pitcher of water where her husband would be sure to fall over it when he went down stairs in the morning, "if we have so much trouble in printing one word, I wonder how Mr. Bennett gets along with a whole newspaper to print?"—Drake's Traveller's Magazine. Submarine Cables. Over 80,000 miles of submarine cable have been laid and are now in successful operation. The capital employed in establishing the cables is estimated by good authority as being \$150,000,000. A fleet of nearly thirty ships is kept in service, laying, watching and repairing the various cables, of which nine cross the Atlantic. A writer well versed in the subject says that the type of cable varies little from the first one laid, but the character of the material employed has greatly improved, so that the breaking strain of the homogeneous iron wire has reached 90 tons to the square inch. The methods of laying cables have so greatly improved that last year a cable was laid across the Atlantic in twelve days,—only a little longer time than that required for a quick ocean voyage.

NORTH-WEST NOTES.

Called from our Prairie Province Exchange. The Birtle people are organizing a band, and \$300 has been subscribed towards the object. The Winnipeg Commercial has been enlarged by four pages. This is a satisfactory evidence of prosperity. Tenders are now being received for the grading of 21 miles of Manitoba North-western Railway from the Beautiful Plains to Minnedosa, to be completed in August. Farmers in the neighborhood of Manitoba City are preparing for spring seeding. About three times the acreage of wheat sown last year will be put in this season. The P. W. & N. W. Railway Company are having trouble with their line at the Westbourne marsh. A break has been temporarily repaired, and another is feared soon. Miss Olive Henderson took a pencil sketch of Edmonton town and for a few days ago, which is to be inserted in a forthcoming publication of James Campbell & Son, Toronto. Business at Brandon has been very good, the fine weather has removed all the snow and dried the streets, and dust has been flying. Building is being pushed forward rapidly; structures of all descriptions being put up. It is stated that a land syndicate, formed under the presidency of Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, has secured all the Hudson's Bay Company sections along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. They were obtained at the same time and on the same terms as the celebrated section 26, upon which Regina has been located. The Winnipeg Consolidated Mining Co., have had a host of callers to see the bricks recently brought from the mines. The effect produced by these bricks was very marked and in consequence many hitherto sceptics have become firm believers in the future of Keewatin. The Winnipeg Free Press is responsible for the statement that the Grand Trunk Railway Company have purchased the steamboats from the proprietors of the Goodrich Line, of Chicago and Milwaukee, and that during the coming summer these will ply between the terminal points of the Company's lines in Ontario and Prince Arthur's Landing or Duluth. The directors of the Portage and Westbourne Railway are pushing ahead their work, and are determined to tap the Saskatchewan at the earliest possible date. They have already secured ample terminal and depot grounds at Goschen, in Prince Albert, and Messrs. Bridges and Scarth and other capitalists interested in the enterprise will shortly visit Prince Albert in connection with it. This road will penetrate this country by the way of Birch Hills and the Carrot River country. The stringing of the wire on the Government telegraph line from Qu'Appelle to Touchwood Hills was successfully accomplished in sixteen days by A. McConnell, of the former place, and three Indians, although the snow on the plains was two feet deep. Poles are being got out for the gap between the hills and Humboldt, and there is a prospect that the through line will be in operation in two or three weeks. The Lake Winnipeg Mining Company have received intelligence that Supt. Borden, who left the city for their mines on Tuesday last, had succeeded in reaching the ice on the lake in safety. As the ice in the lake a short distance from the shore is perfectly safe, Mr. Borden and his men have reached the mines, most probably by this time. The latest reports from there are reassuring and a demand has sprung up for this company's stock in consequence, but hitherto none of it has passed into public hands. The Hay Island Mining Company sent out a gang of men to open a shaft and developments will be henceforth vigorously prosecuted. Work would have been commenced on this Company's property long since had not the snow prevented the possibility of locating the shaft. As the location is in the immediate continuation of the well-known Keewatin, but little time will elapse before the Hay Island will take rank with the best companies in Keewatin. Bread Making. If flour be worked up with water it forms a sodden, insipid, indigestible mass; but if heated to the temperature of boiling water the starch granules burst; and it is thereby rendered a little more digestible, although still forming a close, stiff, and not very palatable cake. Such is the character of unleavened bread, and of sea biscuits, a slightly different form of the same thing. To be fit for digestion starch must be dissolved or softened by boiling or baking; hence the reason why raw nuts are so indigestible as compared with the favorite roasted chestnuts, and hence one reason for cooking food, which mankind has been taught by experience, ages before chemistry could give a scientific explanation of the reason why. Cooking is, in fact, a partial digestion; and the same is the case with baking, both being preliminary aids to the changes which take place in the mouth and stomach before the food is in a fit state for the preparation of the blood. Accordingly, we bake our bread; and we bake it in the way we do because a soft, spongy loaf is more readily moistened and acted on by the saliva and the juices of the stomach. A Monster Fishing Craft. The three masted schooner Hera, now taking in stores at Washington street wharf, is the largest vessel ever fitted out for a cod fishing voyage in the United States. Her crew consists of twenty-four fishermen, who, with the captain, salters, splitters, dressings, two cooks and four boys, make up a total of forty men. No more expensive and complete outfit has ever been put on a fishing vessel, and is only justified by the large catch her owners expect her to make. The fishing grounds are in the Okhotsk sea, 4,000 miles distant, and the voyage will last between five and six months. A full cargo will be 250,000 codfish, which will weigh out 400 tons or more.