The Coming Era.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

They tell us that the Muse is soon to fly
Leaving the lovers to sing that once were dear,
Her wand resounding to her sister, Science,
Her retort or Phœbus for the axle or cigar.

Optics will claim the wandering eye of fancy,
Physics will grasp imagination's wings,
Plain fact crowded fiction's necromancy,
The workshop hammer where the minstrel sings.

No more with laughter at Thalia's frolics
Our eyes shall twinkle till the tears run down,
But in her place the lecturer on hydraulics
Spouts Euclid, Mr. Spurgeon retires to the town.

No more call forth passions and affections
The tragic Muse with mimic grief shall try,
But nobler far a course of vivisections
Teach what it costs a tortured brute to die.

The unfeathered biped, long in buried rocks hid,
Shall tell the story of his long and sore mange;
The chemist show us death in life's black oxide,
Left when the breath no longer fans its flame.

Instead of crack-brained poets in third attics
Filling thin volumes with their flowery talk,
There shall be books of wholesome mathematics—
The tutor with his blackboard and his chalk.

No longer ballads with madrigal and sonnet
Shall woo to moonlight walks the ribboned sex,
But side by side the beaver and the bonnet
Stroll, calmly pondering on some problem's x.

The sober bliss of serious calculation
Shall mock the trivial joys that fancy draw,
And oh the rapture of a solved equation,
One self-same answer from the lips of two!

Shall we speak in solemn tones our youthful pages,
Patient, severe, laborious, slow, exact,
And see creation's protoplasmic pages
They browse and munch the thistle crops of fact.

And yet we've some times found it rather pleasant
To dream again the scenes that Shakspeare drew,
To walk the hillsides with the Scottish peasant
Among the daisies wet with morning's dew;

To leave awhile the daylight of the real,
Led by the guidance of the master's hand,
For the strange radiance of the fair ideal—
The light that never was on sea or land.

Well, time alone can tell the future's course—
Science may teach our children all she knows,
But love will kindle fresh young hearts, 'tis certain,
And June will not forget her blushing rose.

And so, in spite of all that time is bringing—
Triumphs of truth and miracles of art,
Beauty and Love will keep the poet singing,
And song still live—the science of the heart.

During Long Absence.

I see thy face no longer
In visions of the night;
Two far away is that last day
That lent thee to my sight.
But though the waves no longer
Reflect their absent queen,
Do tides forget? Love, long set,
I follow thee unseen!

I hear thy voice no longer
Amid the velvet moss;
Two long summers by that sweet notes,
My ear forgets the sound.
But though the shell no longer
Can hear the ocean's roar,
It sounds still—as thy words fill
My heart for evermore.

Hymn of the Hearth.

This good old Christmas mind
That with God's perpetual care,
A gratitude life's mirror find
Unfaltering, bent in reverent prayer.

Kneeling the heaped wood blazed sings
Bell Teacher to the frosty wind,
And briskly raised, the knee are rings,
The forests dark are left behind.

The flickering shadows dance and play
Upon the floor, the twilight wall,
And much romance endears the day
That ventures in our cottage-hall.

The tale so light it charms the time
Some memory of a friend's kind deed,
The manner of a warmer clime
Within our glowing coals we read.

THE JAMES BOYS.

Extracts from a History of the Lives and Adventures of these Noted Bandits.

How Pretty Annie Ralston Became the Wife of the Outlawed Frank James—The Perils of a Detective in Running the Bold Highwaymen to Cover.

A publishing house in St. Louis Mo., has in press, and will issue in a few days a four-hundred page volume, which promises to be of more than ordinary interest. The character of the work is revealed by its title, "The Life and Adventures of Frank and Jesse James." The author is Hon. J. A. Dacus well-known in literary circles as the author of several works which have met with a favourable reception by the public. Mr. Dacus has been for more than three years gathering the facts for this work, and the result is he has brought together a mass of new and interesting information concerning the remarkable outlaws, whose history he presents. It has been intimated that the author has had access to original sources of information, in other words that he has had direct communication with Jesse James, even since the appearance of that bandit chief at Glendale, on the line of the Chicago and Alton Railway in Jackson county, Missouri, the 8th of October. Be that as it may, a perusal of the proof slips with which he has favoured your correspondent, shows clearly enough that the information he possessed concerning the affairs of the celebrated outlaw brothers must have been extensive and accurate.

The book will be fully illustrated and presented in good style. The author has travelled much, and sought all available sources of knowledge concerning the boys, and the result is a book which tells all about them. It relates how they became members of Quantrell's band of guerillas, how they became bank and train robbers; how they organized their bands and planned their raids. It tells of dashing midnight rides to evade pursuit; of moonlight nights and meetings in lonely places; of desperate encounters with detectives, and hair-breadth escapes from arrest. The domestic life of the outlaws find space in this book. The courtship, elopement and marriage of Frank James to a beautiful and highly educated young lady, and her subsequent removal to his pleasant home on the frontiers of Texas, affords a theme of romantic interest. The following extract relates how the fair girl

BECAME THE OUTLAW'S BRIDE.

But there came a time when a shadow fell athwart her pathway, and eclipsed this star in the social firmament. Annie's father had been ardent in his attachment to the southern cause, and all who had contended in behalf of that cause were ever welcome to the hospitality of his home. He had suffered much from the consequences of the war, and perhaps more from the general convivalities in which he indulged, and which had extended beyond the bounds of propriety. Frank and Jesse James with their confederates, became frequent visitors to the Ralston home. People saw them there often, and it was whispered softly at first, but shouted aloud later, that pretty Annie Ralston was an attraction for the outlaws, and received from them, without rebuke, their openly expressed admiration, and then her social star paled, and finally went out. Frank James became to her a hero worthy of her love—nay, her heart's deep adoration. She waited with impatience his coming, and when he was away, and the thought of the hazards which he might make, and the destruction which might overtake him, she grew faint through apprehension. To her, he was assiduous and gentle and kind, whatever might be his disposition toward others, and she gave her heart to him long before an opportunity was presented to her to yield to him her hand.

One bright day in 1875, some friends who had known pretty Annie Ralston from the days of her childhood, met her at the Union depot, Kansas City, with many valises and travelling-bags in charge. "Would she go up in town? Could they render her any service?" were questions which were asked. No, at another time she would go up town; there was nothing they could do for her. Soon she was joined by [illegible]

THE ESCAPE OF FRANK AND JESSE JAMES

after the raid on the bank of Northfield, Minn., when Coleman, James, and Robert Younger were captured, and Pitts, Chadwall and Miller, were killed, fills a chapter of thrilling interest in the adventures of the boys. The story has never before been told. The following extract will no doubt prove interesting to your readers:

Three days after they had separated from their comrades, they came to a wilderness region, where the timber was heavy and the undergrowth thick. Here they proposed to rest for a season. But they were tracked to their hiding place and fired upon by a band of pursuers. Frank James received a wound in the hip. The brush was so thick that the pursuers, who were on horseback could make no headway, and three of them dismounted to continue the chase on foot. The direction taken by the hunted men led to a swamp, but the season being dry, there was but little mud in the basin. The bushes were close together, and aquatic plants were high. The three men seemed resolved to close up with them. Several times the hunted bandits could have killed the citizens but for the fact that their ammunition was giving out, and they desired to take care of what remained for the last emergency. It was getting late; the sun was low in the west, and the shadows were deepening in the forest. The three pursuers were determinedly following them. Once or twice the hunted men were tempted to turn and try the issue with their foes.

But they kept on. Just when daylight faded away they emerged from the swamp, and found themselves in a travelled highway. They had lost

THEIR DETERMINED FOES

in the darkness of the sombre swamp behind them. They started down the road, which lay along the bank of a stream of considerable size. Wearied into a state of exhaustion, they hoped to find a snug place where they could rest and take some food. But their trials were not yet at an end. In the lonely depths of the forest, with the dark, still river on the one side, and the timbered wilderness on the other, they heard the ominous sounds of horses' hoofs. They listened. There were horsemen behind and before them. In another moment sounds came from the woods, which indicated that they were being surrounded.

The wearied freebooters quickly stepped into the deep shadow of a great tree which stood upon the bank of the stream to await further developments. That the horsemen were gradually closing around them they were speedily convinced. Their situation was critical. What could be done? The stream below them was evidently deep and dangerous to ford. Their plans were quickly formed and consummated. They quietly dropped down the bank to the margin of the stream, which at that place flowed close by an abrupt bank. "They were there by that tree but a moment ago," they heard one man remark, as a party came up to a spot where the outlaws had stood but a moment before. It was evident that their numbers must exceed twenty. Stealthily

THE HUNTED BROTHERS

moved down the stream along the margin of the water, and close up under the overhanging bank. They heard their pursuers discuss the situation. "They are still here at hand, no doubt," the brothers heard one remark. Then the movements indicated that they were preparing for a more careful examination of the situation where they were. Soon several men came riding down the road just over their heads. They had reached a place where the river flowed under a shelving bank, and the brothers could go no further without taking to the water. Four men came down the bank above, and came towards them. The brothers were constrained to take to the stream. The water was about two feet deep. They clung close to the bank, and silently reached a place they deemed safe, in a cave-like excavation made by the water under the roots of a great tree. The hunters came to the place where the bank and the waters met, and, apparently satisfied, they turned and went back. The brothers heard the clash of horses' feet on a bridge below, and then they knew that the crossing below was guarded. After a time all became still around them. They concluded to

SWIM OR WADE THE RIVER

from the point where they were, and, once on the opposite side, to strike through the country. Silently as possible, without any splashing, they came from their places of concealment, and waded out into the stream; until they were compelled to swim. The night was quite dark, and they passed over without being discovered. Climbing the opposite bank, they found themselves in an open wood. With all the haste that they could make they proceeded westward. A mile away they came to a cornfield, and in the field there was a thicket. Here they found a hiding-place, and as wet as they were they partook of a repast of green corn, and, lying down on the grass, they slept soundly until the sun was up. Waiting some time in a sunny place until their clothing had partly dried, the brothers started on their weary way. All day they travelled without being molested. In the evening, while travelling along a country road, they met a man leading two horses, one of which was saddled. They spoke to him, and from his manner and the answers he made them they were convinced that he had not heard anything about the affair at Northfield. They asked him if he would like to sell the horses he was leading. He answered that it was his business to deal in horse-flesh. What would he take for the pair? The man named the price, and, after some bantering, a trade was effected, and even the saddle on which he rode was transferred, the horse-dealer, declaring that he did not own anything which he would not sell.

Starlight.

The winter evening sky is now nearly at its greatest brilliancy. Of the fifteen first magnitude stars visible in this latitude twelve can be seen between 7 and 10 o'clock p. m. The only ones not visible within those hours are Arcturus, Antares, and Spica. This array of the chief leaders of the firmament furnishes a fine opportunity for a study that receives little attention, and which yet possesses peculiar interest for those who delight in the picturesque aspect of the starry heavens. To learn to recognize in the leading stars individual peculiarities by which they can be distinguished from one another, very much as one distinguishes faces in a crowd, is perhaps hardly a scientific pursuit, yet it is by no means an idle intellectual amusement. No better time than the present could be chosen for this study of what might be called the physiognomy of the stars. Nobody, for instance, could mistake Vega, the bright star that can be seen in the northwest early in the evening, for any other in the sky. Its peculiar colour and brilliancy have been admired by astronomers for ages. Over in the east, a little later, Betelguess and Rigel, the chief twinklers in Orion, may be seen, with Aldebaran in the Bull shining high above them. Rigel looks very much like Vega, yet a careful eye detects a difference of colour. Betelguess and Aldebaran are at once classed together as red stars, and yet there is the most beautiful contrast of hue between them. Aldebaran is of a pale rose colour, and Betelguess, which varies remarkably in brightness, is of a reddish orange. Nearly overhead, at about 10 o'clock, is Capella, which seems to vie in brightness with Rigel, yet the two can never be confounded; for while Rigel blazes and scintillates, like a diamond shaken in the sunlight, Capella shines with a steady, unchanging lustre that makes it one of the most beautiful of all the stars. Sirius, which rises shortly after Rigel, is distinguished by his superior size, and by the ceaseless flashing of prismatic colours, surrounding him with a sort of halo well becoming the chief of all the stars.

Whoever has once learned to know these stars, as he knows the faces of his friends, may wander to every corner of the world without losing the feeling that he is yet at home.

The Army in Afghanistan.

Fears that the Entire British Force May Be Annihilated—Gen. Roberts and his Troops Now Holding a Position in Shirpur, But Grave Doubts Expressed Whether He Can Hold it Long.

The news from Afghanistan grows hourly more serious. It is feared that the tragedy of 1842 may be reposted, and the entire British force now in Afghanistan be annihilated. Gen. Roberts with his small, but gallant army, has taken refuge in Shirpur cantonment, two miles north of Cabul, and there are grave doubts whether he will be able to hold even this position unless speedily and strongly reinforced. He reports that the enemy in his vicinity number 30,000 fighting men, and he is liable to be attacked at any moment by overwhelming numbers. A telegram from the Viceroy of India says that communication with Gen. Roberts is interrupted near Jagdullah. Gen. Gough telegraphs that the tribes beyond Gandamuk are obstructing his advance. The troops under Gen. Gough, now on the way from Jollalabad and Gandamuk, number two regiments of cavalry, seven regiments of infantry, and two batteries of artillery. Such a force as this, once free from the defiles, should be able to give a good account of itself, and make its way forward, however large a force Mahomed Jan may detach from Cabul to arrest its advance.

The cantonments of Shirpur, to which Gen. Roberts has withdrawn, are on a low piece of ground on the road to Kohistan, and are surrounded by high brick walls, loopholed, with an outer ditch. Behind the walls earth has been thrown up, adding to their strength, and making a platform for the defenders to fire from. At the corners and at intervals along the walls are bastions for guns. The *Standard* says that against a position such as this, held by five thousand British troops, with abundance of artillery and munitions of war, the rush of a savage mob can do nothing; and their numbers, however large, would add little or nothing to their aggressive force. Sir William MacNaghten was assassinated in 1842 on a slight eminence, five hundred yards from the eastern rampart. "Doubtless our subsequent annihilation," said an English writer, thirty years ago, "may be ascribed to the unaccountable absence of judgement, or military skill, which selected such a position for an army in the heart of a half conquered country—a cantonment which troops could neither quit nor enter without running the gauntlet of a tremendous fire poured into them from fortress, garden, village, hill and wall, which hemmed in and commanded every face of the ill-contrived and widely scattered lines."

Another telegram from the Viceroy of India says: "Gen. Roberts has 7,000 effective troops, who have been withdrawn into the Shirpur cantonment with the slight losses already reported. The enemy must suffer very severely if they make any attempt upon Shirpur. I consider Gen. Roberts' position perfectly safe. He contemplates resuming the offensive as soon as he is settled in Shirpur; but, as he says, there is nothing to be gained in capturing the difficult distant hills while the enemy are out in such numbers. The enemy will shortly disperse for food; but meanwhile our evacuation of Cabul will encourage them, and probably enable them to keep together longer than they otherwise would, and tend to raise the tribes upon our lines of communication. The Governor of Jellalabad has fled from his post, but has been satisfactorily replaced.

"Letters from Afghan Sirdars have been intercepted detailing the arrangements for an attack on Cabul, and inciting the Kuzzilbashes to revolt. Similar letters have been sent to the Shinwaris, Mohmands, and Afredis.

"Gen. Gough reports from Jagdalak that all the tribes in his front have risen, and that his further advance are impractical without re-enforcements. Gen. Bright is sending what re-enforcements he can, but does not like to weaken the Kyber Line. One and a half regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, and a battery of artillery have left Peshawur for the front. A reserve division, composed of one British and three native cavalry regiments, three British and seven native infantry regiments, and three batteries of artillery, is forming at Peshawur. If the tribes do not disperse on finding that these can make no impression on Gen. Roberts at Cabul, a strong force will be pushed up to reopen the lines of communication."

A dispatch from Kohat announces that Gen. Tytler has attacked and captured Zawa, which was stored with the grain of all the Zimmukht tribes. The British loss was four wounded. The Afghans were badly cut up, and left a number of dead on the field. Remnants of telegraph wire and other British property found at Ziwa show the complicity of the natives there in the recent outrages.

Daoud Shah, formerly Commander-in-Chief of the Afghan army, had been professing to co-operate with the British since the occupation of Cabul, and his arrest would seem to indicate recent treachery, or the discovery of proofs of his perfidy in the affair of the slaughter of the British Embassy in Cabul, on which occasion he was sent by the Ameer to quell the revolt, and publicly received the thanks of the British officers for his pretended efforts to assist Sir Louis Cavagnari.

The *Daily News'* despatch from Lahore says: "The *Civil and Military Gazette* says that Gen. Roberts was warned by a native chief that the tribes were meeting, and that the inhabitants of Cabul were disaffected and were holding frequent communications with the Afghan troops and hill tribes."

Analysis of a Cigar.

To the world in general a cigar is mere a tightly-rolled packet having brittle fragments of dry leaves within, and a smooth, silky leaf for its outer wrapper. When it is burnt, and the pleasantly-flavoured smoke inhaled, the habitual smoker claims for it a soothing luxury that quiets the irritable nervous organism, relieves weariness, and entices repose. Science, scouting so superficial a description, examines first the smoke, second the leaf, third the ash. In the smoke is discovered water in vaporous state, soot (free carbon), carbonic acid, and carbonic oxide, and a vaporous substance condensable into oily nicotine. These are the general divisions, which chemists have still further split up, and in so doing have found acetic, formic, butyric, valeric, and propionic acids, prussic acid, creosote and carbolic acids, ammonia, sulphuretted hydrogen, pyridine, viridine, picoline, lutidine, colodine, parroline, corodine, and rubidene. These last are a series of oily bases belonging to the homologues of aniline, first discovered in coal tar. Applying chemical tests to the leaves, other chemists have found nicotia, tobacco camphor or nicotianine (about which not much is known), a bitter extractive matter, gum, chorophyll, malate of lime, sundry alluminacids, malic acid, woody fibre, and various salts. The feathery white ash, which in its cohesion and whiteness is indicative of the good cigar, yields potash, soda, magnesia, lime, phosphoric acid, sulphuric acid, silica, and chlorine. The ingredients extractible from a poor and cheap cigar, would be fearful and wonderful to contemplate. Here is a list from a Parliamentary Report on adulterations in tobacco: Sugar, alum, lime, flour or meal, rhubarb leaves, saltpetre, fuller's earth, starch, malt cummings, chromate of lead, peat moss, molasses, burdock leaves, common salt, endive leaves, lampblack, gum, red dye, a black dye composed of vegetable red and liquorice, scraps of newspaper, cinnamon stick, cabbage leaves, and straw brown paper.

BELFAST, Me., can boast of a boy of nine, who a year or two ago pushed a little girl into a bonfire, and caused her death. Subsequently he caused the death of his own father by the simple process of tying a string across a path, over which the old gentleman heavily fell. This precocious child would make an excellent playmate for Jesse Pomeroy.

Soup.

Soup is universally regarded as the indispensable beginning of every well ordered dinner. In discussing its *rationale* Sir H. Thompson says: "Some regard it as calculated to diminish digestive power, on the theory that so much fluid taken at first dilutes the gastric juices. But there appears to be no foundation for this belief: a clear soup, or the fluid constitution of a *purée*, disappears almost immediately after entering the stomach, being absorbed by the proper vessels, and in no way interferes with the gastric juice, which is stored in its appropriate cells ready for action. The habit of commencing dinner with soup has, without doubt, its origin in the fact that aliment in this fluid form—in fact, ready digested—soon enters the blood and rapidly refreshes the hungry man, who, after a considerable fast and much activity, sits down with a sense of exhaustion to commence his principal meal. In two or three minutes, after taking a plate of good warm *consommé*, the feeling of exhaustion disappears, and irritability gives way to the gradually rising sense of good-fellowship with the circle. Some persons have the custom of allaying exhaustion with a glass of sherry before food—a gastronomic no less than a physiological blunder, injuring to stomach and depraving the palate. The soup introduces at once into the system a small instalment of ready-digested food, and saves the short period of time which must be spent by the stomach in deriving some portion of nutriment from solid aliment, as well as indirectly strengthening the organ of digestion it off for its forthcoming duties.

How a Snake Killed a Girl.

(From the Fort Bend Snag.)

The horned ringer of the Staked Plains is one of the most deadly snakes in the world, though luckily it is seldom met with. It is very quick in its movements, and is said to be provided with a sharp, venomous tail, which it brings in contact with any object that arouses its anger. While gathering berries, a young woman of eighteen, daughter of David Slicer, of Dutch Cross Roads, on the Little Big Sandy, Texas, was attacked by one of these snakes. Terrified, she fell to the ground, when it fastened itself to her face, and, vibrating its deadly stinging tail, compelled the persons who came to the poor girl's assistance to keep away. Of course death ensued in a few minutes.

Good Advice.

Now is the time of year for Pneumonia, Lung Fever, &c. Every family should have a bottle of BOSCHEE'S GERMAN SYRUP. Don't allow for one moment *that* cough to take hold of your child, your family or yourself. Consumption, Asthma, Pneumonia, Croup, Hemorrhages, and other fatal diseases may set in. Although it is true GERMAN SYRUP is curing thousands of these dreaded diseases, yet it is much better to have it at hand when three doses will cure you. One bottle will last your whole family a winter and keep you safe from danger. If you are in consumption, do not rest until you have tried this remedy. Sample Bottles 10 cents. Regular size 75 cents. Sold by your Druggist.

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HENRY H. CROFT,
Professor of Chemistry, U. C.

AGENTS—Gen. Grant's Tour Round the World; fastest selling book now offered; exclusive territory; for terms address at once, Oberholtzer & Co., Berlin.

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SEWING MACHINES.—The Wanzer machines are now taking the lead in Canada. The great interest they created at the exhibitions at Toronto and Ottawa this fall on account of their light running, noiselessness and simplicity is proof alone. The factory is running night and day to fill orders. Vendors of American machines are giving them up preferring the Wanzer to all others.

For gents' underwear in fine Scotch and Canadian goods at prices as low as the lowest, go or send to Cooper's great American shirt factory, 109 Yonge st., Toronto.

Aged People.

To pass from poverty to wealth is only changing misery, but to pass from illness to health is like flying from the world to paradise. Many aged people who are troubled with derangements of the urinary organs would find relief by using Victoria Buchu and Uva Ursi, which is prepared expressly to meet their cases and cure diseases of the secretory system. $1 per bottle.

Or the six hundred Russian exiles transported to the Island of Saghalien, and who were on ship-board fully two months, only three suffered by seasickness, according to the report of the captain to his Government. It would be of interest to travellers to ascertain what means were used by the captain to bring about such a wonderful result.

CHEST AND LUNG DISEASES.—Of all diseases to which frail humanity is liable, there are none more generally neglected in their commencement, or more fatal in their termination than those arising from defective or suppressed perspiration, whether we regard them in the trivial light of a slight cold, or whether we view them in the terrific form of Pulmonary Consumption—the latter, alas! but too frequently the sequel of the former. At the very first symptoms of a Cold, or as soon after as possible, Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam should be administered. For sale by all dealers at 25c. per bottle.

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Barristers & Attorneys,
Watson & Haggart, 30 Adelaide East.

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Files Recut. Thos. Graham, 55 Sherbourne.

Furniture.
Oshawa Cabinet Co., 97 Yonge street.

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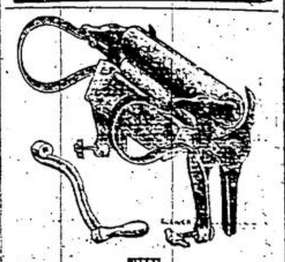

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This Machine has no equal in the following points:
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4.—There is no pressure upon the Rolls when the Wringer is removed from the tub, which is a great saving of time.
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6.—It cannot get loose on the Tub in working, as the double leverage tightens it when working.
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Messrs. Bell & Co. are to be congratulated on their success in developing the manufacture to such an extent as is manifest in the instrument you have sent me.
Wishing them large and remunerative sales,
I remain yours truly,
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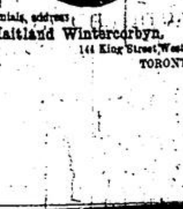

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