

SCIENTIFIC GOSSIP.

Describing the cranial differences observable in men and women, M. Manouvrier considers that while parietal is less developed in women the occipital is generally larger in them than in men.

Mr. N. B. Clark proposes, in the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, to employ, as a source of emergency power for ships of war, furnaces into which petroleum is sprayed along with superheated steam and hot air.

Dr. J. Otto, in an article published in the *Moniteur Scientifique*, maintains that the value of the therapeutic properties of veseline has been greatly exaggerated, and says that exposure to the light and air is decidedly capable of turning it rancid, all assertions to the contrary notwithstanding.

The population of the countries where the metric system is legally obligatory numbers 241,973,011, where it is optional, 97,639,825, and where it is often used without its having legal value, 333,266,386. The figures are those of Mr. James Jackson, the Librarian of the Paris Geographical Society.

Basing his remarks on Dr. E. Rousseau's report of the autopsy performed on Cuvier, M. Herve gives the weight as 1,830 grammes, and the horizontal circumference as 60.45 centimetres. He denies that Cuvier had ever suffered from any malady which could affect the size or condition of the brain.

A letter has been received from Mr. A. C. La Souté, of the Zoological Gardens, Melbourne, giving an account of the unusual occurrence of the production of two young ones from one egg laid by a black-necked swan. These twin cygnets were much smaller than a companion bird of the same age.

Phosphoric acid as it exists in the chief rocks of Bretagne is shown by M. G. Lechartier to be capable of direct assimilation by plants. If phosphoric acid has been extracted from rocks, &c., by ammonium exalate the solution must be evaporated down, the salt decomposed by heat, and the phosphoric acid separated from the ferruginous residue obtained.

The Lartigue balance railway, the locomotive for which is an electro-dynamic apparatus, supplied with electricity from a fixed generator, is a simple, single rail, elevated arrangement from both sides of which the carriages are suspended. A few men can build several hundred yards a day. This railway has been very serviceable in Africa.

Postulating the total fluidity of the mass of the sun, M. P. Lamey has endeavored to show that, in virtue of the continuous cooling of the surface layer, the whole volume must be in constant circulation and that the resulting circuit may be represented by a simple geometrical figure which has several points at a tangent with the surface of the solar globe.

A cement which resists damp and firmly attaches labels to iron and tin work consists of a paste of rye meal and a little solution of glue and water, to which as much Venetian turpentine is added as may be required. Ordinary flour paste, when well made and some glycerine thoroughly incorporated with it, does very well for fixing printed labels on tinted sheet iron boxes.

It is reported that MM. Pressac et Cie, of Paris, have introduced a salt which, placed in water, is partly dissolved without increase of temperature, and produces a liquid capable of generating with the aid of zinc and carbon an electric current. It is also said that this cell gives rise to no fumes or smell. The salt is partly melted in two parts of water, and the liquid can be used at once.

For a standard of light, M. J. Violle takes as his absolute unit the radiation emitted by a square centimetre of platinum at its point of solidification, the intensity of which is about equal to 11 Carcel lamps. MM. E. Mascart, F. de Neville, and R. Benoit conclude that the value of the ohm is represented by a column of mercury at 0° of one square millimetre in section and 1063.3 millimetres in length.

A cable dispatch says "The khedive is sadly in need of £8,000,000." The khedive has evidently been publishing a daily paper to fill a long-felt want.

A THIEF IN A COFFIN.

Novel Plot to Rob a Cathedral.

The city of Mexico, the scene of many peculiar crimes, is just now agog over the performance of a thief, which is generally admitted to surpass anything on record. A few days ago several men went to the priest in charge of the Santa Cruz church in that city and asked permission to hold funeral services over the remains of a deceased friend at 4 o'clock the next morning. There was nothing unusual in the request, for many people in that country bury their dead early in the morning before mass, and the priest gave his permission, agreeing to be present. The men then said they would like to leave the corpse over night, and to this the clergyman also consented. Some time after dark the men appeared bearing a coffin, which they carried up the main aisle and deposited in front of the altar. They then withdrew, promising to be there early the next morning.

About midnight the sacristan was awakened by the barking of his dogs, and feeling that something was wrong he dressed hastily and stepped from his room into the chancel. A dim light was

BURNING NEAR THE ALTAR.

burning near the altar, by means of which he could see a figure moving slowly on the other side of the chancel. Making up his mind that robbers were in the church he ran quickly to his room for a pistol, and then made a search of the church. No one was to be seen. On the altar he found everything safe, but when he came to examine the images of the saints he soon saw that the costly jewels with which they had been ornamented were gone. He then redoubled his efforts to find the thief, but after half an hour passed in searching every nook of the great edifice he was more mystified than ever, for he not only could not find the offender, but he could discover no place where he could have come in or gone out. Just before he determined to give the alarm he thought of the corpse lying down below the chancel rail in the shadow, and the idea came to him that perhaps there might be something wrong about it. Lighting a candle he stepped softly to the bier and peered into the face of

THE SUPPOSED DEAD MAN.

As he looked he noticed that the eyelids of the "corpse" twitched nervously under the light, and at the same time his own eyes fell on some of the glittering jewels which lay beside the man in the coffin.

Overjoyed at finding the thief, the sacristan thrust his revolver into the face of the "corpse" and ordered him to get out. The cold steel on the man's forehead convinced him that the order must be obeyed, and a most extraordinary resurrection took place then and there. When the man had gained his feet, the sacristan, still covering him with his pistol, gathered up the jewels and then marched the culprit to the priest's house where he was turned over to the police. Several soldiers were then stationed in the church, and when the thief's confederates arrived in the morning they were taken into custody. At first they denied all knowledge of the conspiracy, but after a little one of them confessed and told the whole story. He said they intended to go through the form of a funeral ceremony and then carry their friend out to the cemetery, and after letting him out of the coffin, bury it and leave the country as speedily as possible. They will be severely punished.

The Art of Tattooing.

Englishmen only tattoo flags, leaves or flowers. The French don't do much. A flag, laid on flat, or a liberty-cap, is about their best. It is in the Sandwich Islands that the best artists are found. The Kanakas use indigo and cinnabar, all vegetable matter. A shark's tooth or a fish-bone is used. They accomplish excellent results. The bone is set in a stick, and then the tension is put on the flesh with their feet, as they beat the picture in bit by bit. Snakes, fish, and alligators are their strong points. The Japanese and Chinese are experts after a fashion. They draw only Chinese or Japanese pictures, and generally put the name of the object under what they portray. Turks and Russians know absolutely nothing about it, though I've seen sailors of both nationalities who were tattooed.

The sailors are the nomads of the profession. They go from port to port, and some of them are so well known that they have customers awaiting their arrival in nearly every harbor they enter, Spanish or Italian cities for instance. There is always a floating population in those seaports, and "Jack" gathers in a good many pesetas and silver soudis. In the East Indian ports, especially Bombay, he is in great demand among the Lascars and light-colored Hindoos. The latter are very partial to vermilion—which is red oxide of mercury, and therefore makes the flesh very sore. Often the "subject" gets quite ill from its effects on the system. There are only two colors that can be worked into flesh—black and red. The black Indian ink turns blue? There is no blue ink. It is a mystery which science has never solved. The change in color is due to some action of the blood doubtless.

An Ingenious Convict.

An ingenious contrivance, to be used in effecting the escape of a convict named Theodore Scheif from Sing Sing prison, was captured by Principal Keeper Connaughton, recently. This convict was a skilled machinist, and worked in the machine shop. The contrivance was made of tin, and designed to be strapped securely over the nose and mouth, in front of both of which were openings leading to a tube about an inch in diameter and three inches long, to which was to be attached a longer tube. The design of the man was to jump off the dock when unobserved, having previously strapped this contrivance to his face, and walk off on the bottom of the river with the air tube extending above the water. In this manner he could have walked or floated around the prison walls before going ashore. The keeper found the apparatus among Scheif's tools at his bench in the workshop. The man was all ready to go, and when searched it was found that he had a picture of his wife attached to some strings down his back. He said that he did this so that if he should get drowned or shot in his attempt to escape this picture would lead to his wife's identification. He has been taken from the machine shop, where he has proved himself too handy, and placed in the shoe shop, where his facilities for constructing such machines will not be so ample. He is a German, 26 years old, and was sentenced by Judge Geldersleeve Jan. 15 for four years for grand larceny.

A Cholera Cure.

M. Claretie, in the *Paris Temps*, mentions a rather sensational case of recovery from Cholera during one of the earlier visits of the epidemic, due to the skill of Dr. L. Rain, a well-known physician of the time. The patient had sunk into the last stage of collapse, and the hospital physicians had stopped the treatment as useless. Dr. Rain, happening to enter the ward, determined, after a hasty examination of the sufferer, to try an experiment with the object of restoring the circulation, which had practically ceased. He first performed the operation he contemplated on a rabbit, into whose carotid vein he injected a certain quantity of warm water. He then repeated it on the dying man, into whose circulatory system he pumped 400 grammes—nearly a pint—of the same fluid. The heart began to beat at once, though so faintly as to be hardly perceptible. The operation was repeated with still happier effects. The pulse could now be felt at the wrist; the patient recovered his sensibility and his voice. In ten days he left the hospital perfectly well.

A Ghastly Question Answered.

As human curiosity is never satisfied as to the precise moment of death in the case of beheading, the account of the latest experiment on a decapitated criminal, which is communicated to the *Revue Scientifique* by a French scientist, who made his observations on the head of a Champi, is of interest. This time the results are more satisfactory than has hitherto been the case, and Dr. Pettigand makes the following statement with regard to the manifestations of consciousness after the head has been separated from the body: 1 That the head, on being separated from the body, remains in possession of all its faculties if the hemorrhage does not pass certain limits; and if the proportion of oxygen in the blood is sufficient for keeping up the nervous functions for a few short moments, which can never exceed half a minute. 2 That repeated convulsive maxillary movements after the separation of the head from the body, generally called "biting the dust," are nothing but the reflex action common in cases of a late asphyxia.

A Strange Case of Blindness.

Three months ago Amos Barden, of Barton, near Waverly, fell sick with fever. A week afterward he became totally blind. He was blind six weeks. Then he suddenly recovered his sight; but although during his blindness his general health improved and his mind was sound, with the return of his sight he lost all power of recognizing the different members of his family, his surroundings, and his friends. His wife he treated as if she were some person he had once known, and his actions indicated that his home seemed to be some place where he must have lived at some former time. His conduct was apparently governed by imaginary surroundings entirely foreign to the actual ones. He remained in this condition six weeks. Last Thursday he became enraged at Mrs. Barden, who, appearing to him as the unknown person referred to, did something contrary to his wishes. He left the house and was gone until Friday morning. No one knew where he had been. Shortly after his return he went out in the yard. He presently returned, much amazed and addressing his wife by name, exclaimed, "Why, I've got my sight back, but how did I come to be in the garden?" He said he had felt something give way in his head, and instantly what he supposed to be his sight returned. The six weeks previous were an entire blank to him and it was with difficulty that he could be convinced that it was July instead of May. His physicians are unable to account for his strange case.

The Regular Boarder.

"For ten years past," said the new boarder, "my habits have been regular as clock work. I rose on the stroke of 6; half an hour later sat down to breakfast; at 7 I was at work, dined at 12, ate supper at 6, was in bed at half-past nine, ate only hearty food, and hadn't a sick day in all that time." "Dear me," said the deacon in sympathetic tones, "and what were you in for?" And in the awful silence that followed you could hear the ash grate its teeth.

Eaton's

BIG

CLEARING SALE.

As the season is rapidly advancing and we are anxious to clear out all that remains of our spring and summer stock before our fall importations arrive, we are marking our goods and in many instances are putting them at less than half price. It will be studying your own interest to take advantage of this opportunity.

GLOVES.

Special lines of Kid Gloves at \$5, \$5 and 50c pair.
Mousquetaire Gloves \$1, \$1.25 pair.
Clearing Lisle Thread Gloves, 10 and 12c pair.
Taffeta Silk Gloves, in black and colors, greatly reduced.

HOSIERY.

While our big sale continues we have decided to clear out all lines of Ladies' and Children's Cotton and Balbriggan Hose, and in marking them nothing has been considered except our limited space of time, and the prices we have put on them is certain to accomplish the object. Come and see for yourself.
Boys' Jersey Suits 25 and 35c, a genuine thing.

LACES AND RIBBONS.

To-day we are offering the balance of our Ribbons at very low prices.
Silk Lace Ribbons, 25c a yard, reduced from 50, 75 and 85c.
Moire and Plush Ribbons, 5 and 10c yard, worth 15, 20 and 25c.
Oriental Laces, Maltese, Torehon, Creme, black and colored Spanish Laces at clearing prices.
Clearing Boys' Jersey Suits at 25, 35c.
A splendid assortment of Ladies' Hand Satchels in plush and leather, all colours, 40, 50, 65, 75c and \$1 up.

Special Reduction in Boys' Jersey Suits To-day.

Pants, Coat and Cap, a complete suit for 25 and 35c.
Bargains in Linen Handkerchiefs.
Pure Linen Handkerchiefs, 6, 7, 8 and 10c. Large sizes.
A splendid line of Ladies' hemstitched Handkerchiefs with coloured border, at 6, 8, 10, 12 and 15c.
Gentlemen's Linen Handkerchiefs 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 20c.
Pure silk Handkerchiefs, 25c, former price 50, 75 and 90c.
Printed Lawn Handkerchiefs 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6c.
Ladies' Linen Collars, 4, 5 and 7c.
To arrive next week, special line of Oriental Lace Collars, 15c, worth 75c.

Letter Orders promptly attended to.

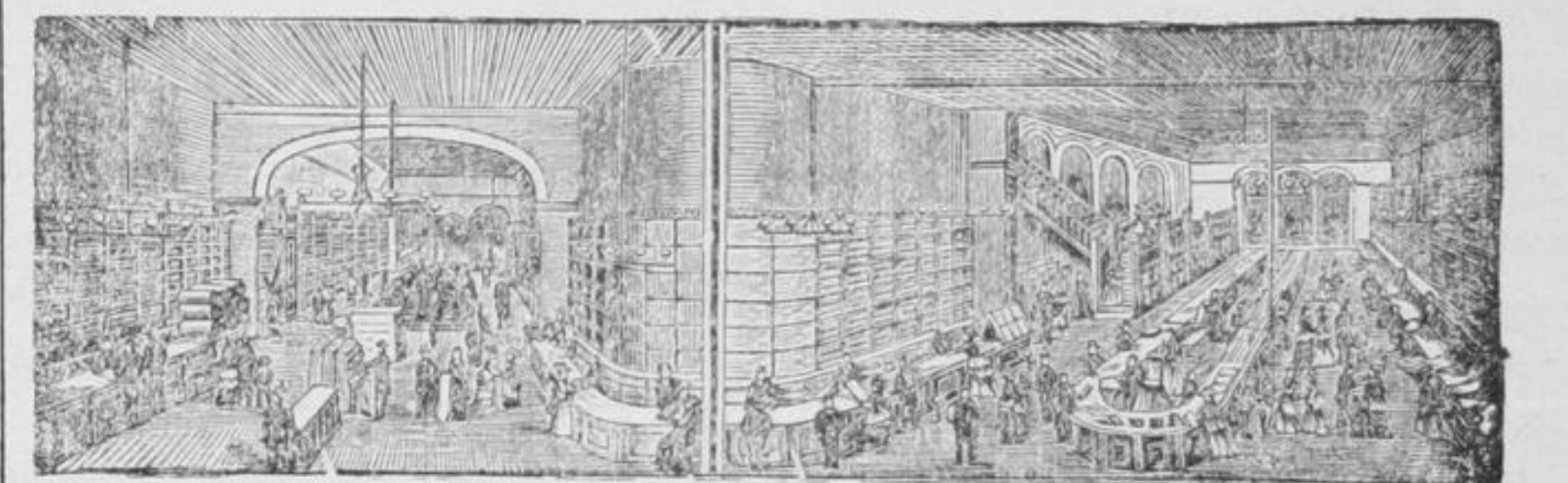
T. EATON & CO.,

190 TO 196 YONGE STREET.

INTERIOR VIEW

OF THE FIRST FLOOR OF

PETLEY & PETLEY'S

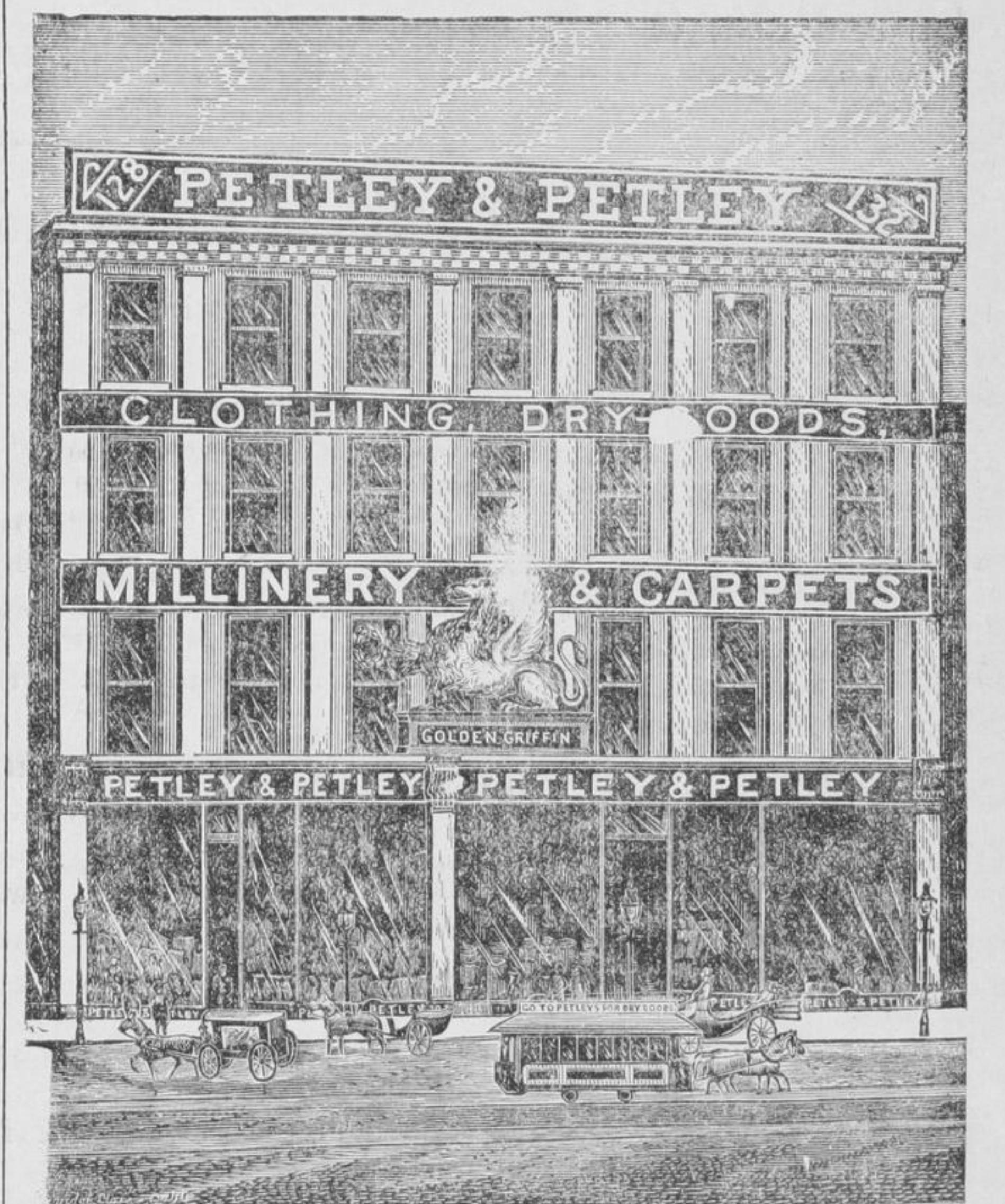


Great Dry-Goods

—AND—

CLOTHING HOUSE

TORONTO.



NOTE THIS.—All Street Cars pass our Stores, ask the Conductor to let you off at

PETLEYS,

128 to 132 King St., East.

Six doors East of St. James' Cathedral.