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MODERN NOTES AND COMMENTS.

No. 2.

Who would not live to almost any place where the young ladies are addicted to the delicious custom which is set forth by an exchange as follows:—

"Quaker young ladies in the Maine Law States, it is said, still continue to kiss the lips of the young temperance men, lovers if they have been tampering with liquor. Just imagine a beautiful young girl approaching you, young temperance man, with all the dignity of an executive officer, and the innocence of a dove, with the charge—"Mr. Ike P., the ladies believe you are in the habit of tampering with liquor, and they have appointed me to examine you, according to our established rules—are you willing?" you must acquiesce." She steps gently up to you, lays her soft, white arms around your neck, dashes back her raven curls, raises her sylphlike form upon her tip-toe, and with her angelic features lit up with a smile as sweet as Heaven, places her rich, rosy, pouty, sweet, sugar, molasses, strawberry, honeysuckle, mallow-ever, rosebud, nectar lips against yours, and buzzes you by, cracky! Hurrah! for the gals and the Maine Law, and death to all opposition!"

Which are the most industrious letters? The Bees.

Which are the most extensive letters? The Seas.

Which are the most fond of comfort? The Ease.

Which are the most egotistical letters? The I's.

Which are the loudest letters? The Ells.

Which are the most noisy letters? The Ohs.

Which are the most leguminous letters? The Peas.

Which are the greatest bores? The Tease.

Which are the sensible letters? The Wise."

While an officer was bowing, a cannon ball passed over his head, and decapitated a citizen who stood behind him. "You see," said the officer to those near him, "that a man never loses by politeness." Napoleon's hat having fallen off, a young lieutenant stepped forward, picked it up, and presented it to him. "You are, captain," said the Emperor, inadvertently. "In what regiment, sir?" inquired the sub, quick as lightning. Napoleon smiled, and forthwith promoted the witty youth to a captaincy. Notwithstanding the fury with which the the battle of Fontenoy was contested, it began with a great show of civility. Lord Charles Hay, a captain of the English guards, advanced before the ranks, and Count d'Auteroche, a lieutenant of grenadiers in the French guards, stepped forward to meet him. "Fire! gentlemen of the French guards!" exclaimed the English captain. "No, my lord," replied the French lieutenant "we never fire first."

This reminds us of an anecdote told of Curran, who being called out to give satisfaction to an officer for some imaginary offence, was told by his antagonist to fire first, which he declined saying, "As you gave the invitation, I beg you will open the ball." At the battle of Trafalgar, a generous British sailor, seeing a brother tar bleeding profusely from a severe wound, ran to his assistance. He had no sooner raised him from the deck on which he fell, than the wounded man said, "Thank you Jack; and, please God, I'll do the same for you before the fight's over."

ALUMINIUM.—Aluminium is contained in clay in the proportion of from 20 to 25 per cent. (Greenland crystile consists of aluminium, 13 per cent.) It is of a bright and shining white; intermediate between the colour of silver and that of platina. It is lighter than glass; its tenacity is considerable, it is worked by the hammer with the greatest facility, and it may be drawn into wire of extreme fineness; it melts at a temperature lower than the point of fusion of silver. Here is a list of characteristics sufficient to entitle this simply body to take rank with the metal of daily use in the arts; but its chymical properties render it still more valuable. Aluminium is a metal completely inalterable by the atmosphere; it may be exposed, without tarnishing, both to dry air and to moist air. While our usual metals—such as tin, lead, and zinc—when recently cut, soon lose their brightness if exposed to damp air; aluminium, under the same circumstances, remains as brilliant as gold, platina, or silver; it is even superior to the last of these metals as to resistance to the action of the atmosphere. In fact, silver, when exposed to sulphurated hydrogen gas, is attacked by it and turns speedily black; and consequently, silver articles, after a long exposure to atmospheric air, are dulled at last by the small quantities of sulphurated hydrogen which are accidently combined with the air. Aluminium, on the contrary, offers a perfect resistance to the action of sulphurated hydrogen, and in this respect claims a notable superiority over silver. Again, aluminium decidedly resists the action of acids; azotic and sulphuric acids, applied cold, produce no effect whatever. Thin plates of aluminium may be kept immersed in azotic or sulphuric acid without suffering dissolution or even injury. Chlorhydric acid alone attacks and dissolves it. The advantager to be derived from a metal endowed with such qualities are easy to be understood. Its future place as a raw material in all sorts of industrial applications is undoubted, and we may expect soon to see it in some shape or other in the hands of the civilized world at large.—Dicken's Household Words.

A COLT FROM A MULE.—Here is a curiosity! The following letter will remove all doubt however, as Mr Pitts is a gentleman of probity:—

San Marcos, Texas, Oct. 7.

I have a mule that I raised, three years old in June last, that now has a colt by her side. Please say what I must call it. Its ears are not like the mule nor the horse. In other respects it resembles the mule. If any one disputes it I have the mule and her colt in my lot; the doubting Thomasses can see for themselves.

Very respectfully, your friend,

JOHN P. PITTS.

HOW TO WRITE FOR THE NEWSPAPERS.—As a general rule, short pieces are best liked. A gentleman in a bank once told us when we asked him to subscribe for a certain Quarterly Review: "Read a Review! why, I never read anything longer than a telegraphic despatch! But I will take it and send it to my brother, who is a minister in the country." The public like a short article when it is a condensation.

This introduces a second idea: An article to be printed should absolutely have something in it. If professed argument, it should be conclusive; if pathethic, it should moisten the eyes; if an anecdote it should have a sharp point; if philosophy, it should go the primitive rock; if practical it should go like an arrow to its work; if spiritual, it should awe the soul that reads it.

A good newspaper style is not as easy as it means. Its Scylla lies on the side of attempting a popular manner, and succeeding only in being more familiar than a man ought to be at his own table, or degenerating into slang, or becoming very childish. Its Charybdis yawns for those who, shunning Scylla, are determined to have real thought, pith, and value in their writing, and so become too learned, or profound, or imaginative, or philosophical for any but scholars or cultivated people.

Nothing ever touched the heart of a reader that did not come from the heart of a writer.

THE RECLUSE.—Julia—Now, Alfred, dear, I must leave you. I am about to shut myself out from the world.

Alfred,—Why, in the name of madness, Julia, are you thinking of retiring to a convent?

Julia—No, dear, don't alarm yourself. I am only going to put on my new Crinoline dress.

As a lady was walking a short time ago, a gentleman's button caught hold of the fringe of her shawl. Some moments elapsed before the parties were separated. "I am attached to you," said the gentleman, good humoredly, while he was industriously trying to get loose. "The attachement is mutual," was the good-humored reply.

ARRIVAL OF THE "BALTIC."

New York, February 5.

The steamship Baltic has arrived, with dates to January 21, but is detained below by fog.

The Europa arrived out on the 18th ult.

The political news is quite unimportant.

The Swiss question is considered settled, as the Neufchatel prisoners are liberated.

The event of the most interest is the trial of Verger, the assassin of the Archbishop of Paris. The trial is full of dramatic interest. Verger is condemned.

A mutiny had occurred on board the Bogart, in the Mersey, for Mobile. The first mate was badly wounded. The alleged cause of the mutiny was, that the crew shipped under articles for New York, but subsequently learned that the ship was to proceed to Mobile, where, as they were nearly all colored men, they would be retained in slavery.

Lord Palmerston has addressed a circular to the House of Commons, stating that business of great importance would be laid before them during the coming session, and expressing an earnest hope that all members will be in their places at the opening.

Lord Napier had arrived in London to make preparations for his departing on the American mission. He will probably leave for Washington in about three weeks.

A despatch from Berne, of the 18th states that the Neufchatel prisoners were, on the preceding night, escorted by a detachment of Swiss troops to the French frontier. The Federal Council has given orders for immediately disbanding the troops.

Private advices from Shanghae, of Nov. 19th, say there is a prospect that specie payments at that port may prove excessive, owing to scarcity of produce. The English at Canton were strengthening their position, but showed a disposition to remain on the defensive till they received advices from England. Meanwhile, reinforcements are understood to have been sent for.

MARKETS.

The following is from Richardson, Spence & Co's circular:—"Liverpool, January 20.—The grain trade has continued dull since Friday, and at Mark Lane, yesterday the business done was quite in retail. At today's market here there was a moderate attendance of buyers, but trade was very inactive. Choice wheat—red and white—were unchanged in prices, although in other kinds a reduction of 1d a 2d per bushel took place. Flour was most difficult to move, and quotations are nominal. Indian Corn must be again quoted at 6d per quarter cheaper, and slow of sale; yesterday 33s was taken for Mixed in quantity. We quote Wheat:—Red 8s to 9s 2d; White 9s 3d to 9s 10d. Flour—Extra Ohio 34s to 35s; Western Canal 30s to 32s. Indian Corn—Mixed 33s to 33s 6d; Yellow 34s; White, 35s to 35s 6d.

"Beef without alteration in value, and saleable only in retail. Lard—considerable arrivals and market very dull; nominal value of fine 68s a 69s. Consols closed at 93 a 93¼."

Arrival of the Steamship 'Africa.'

NEW YORK, February 6th.

The Steamship 'Africa' arrived yesterday evening at 3 P. M.

The Swiss difficulty was considered virtually settled, but the details of the adjustment were to be submitted to a Conference of the several Powers.

The British fleet had taken possession of Bushere and the Island of Karrack, in the Persian Gulf. It was also reported that the Russians had occupied Astracan.

Later advices from China, to the effect that the Government of Canton continued obdurate—that the British had taken and destroyed the French Folly fort—that the Chinese had set fire to the factories, and that all the Hongs were destroyed.

The Oriental Agra and mercantile junks had been burned.

It was reported that the shelling of Canton had commenced just before the departure of the mail.

The ship 'Confederation,' from Philadelphia was ashore off the Mersey. It was feared she would prove a wreck. The crew had been saved.

The Africa sailed at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 4th.

The London Morning Herald announces that at a Cabinet Council held on the 21st, the subject of the re-construction of the Cabinet was discussed; and that offers of another Coalition were made some weeks ago.

Among other changes, it is said that Gladstone will be replaced on the Exchequer.

The Merchants of the principal Commercial Cities of France have appealed to the Emperor in behalf of the French citizens who suffered by the destruction of Greytown, by the American frigate 'Cyane.'

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.

Richardson, Spence & Co. report markets generally dull, at a decline of 2d per bushel on Wheat, and 6d per barrel on Flour.

Corn slightly cheaper.

Western Canal flour was quoted 24s to 31s 6d. Ohio, 34s to 35s. Mixed Corn, 33s to 33s 6d. White 34s to 35s.

Provisions generally dull without any material alteration.

Lard 67s 68s.

Of Texas unsettled and excited. An advance 3 farthings to 1 penny is noted.

London Money Market rather easier but unchanged.

Consols for Money closed at 93½ to 93¾. American Securities steady.

THE LONDON TIMES ON THE WAR IN CHINA.

By this outbreak of hostilities existing treaties are annulled, and we are left free to shape our future relations with the Chinese empire as we please. We have no interest in ruining the Government or disorganizing the society of that vast country—tasks only too easy had we the slightest wish to engage in them. All we want is liberty and security for our commerce, and a prompt and efficient redress of grievances as they arise. To secure the first the recent proceedings at Canton warn us that we ought to enforce that right of free entrance into the country and into the ports open to us which was stipulated for by the treaty of 1842. We must not again be told that our representatives must be excluded from the presence of the Chinese Governor-General because we have varied the performance of the article which enabled foreigners to penetrate beyond the precincts of our factories. Experience shows that we cannot submit to these degrading restrictions without exposing ourselves to fresh insults and injuries, and that if we are to live peaceably and trade prosperously with the Chinese we must teach them to treat us in every matter of social consideration as at least their equals. As to the redress of grievances, we ought to be content with nothing else and nothing less than the admission of a resident Ambassador at Pekin, dwelling there in all honor and safety, and having access at suitable times to the presence of the Emperor. We have been long enough at the mercy of provincial authorities; it is time that we should be released from these degrading mediators, and brought into contact with the central and paramount authority.

The treaty lately existing between us is destroyed by the recent outbreak of hostilities. We have a new treaty to make, and it is our own fault if we do not make it thoroughly satisfactorily. For this purpose we would urge on the consideration of the Government to send out at once to China an Ambassador whose rank and position may lend weight to his representations. We cannot acquiesce as a permanent condition of things in an outbreak of every ten years, only to be put down by such forcible means of coercion as we have just been employing at Canton, and therefore we had better make up our minds to settle matters once for all, and not conclude a new peace till we have eliminated from it the conditions of a future war.

ON TURKEY.

The news from Constantinople is of the usual kind. A feeble Sultan, intent only on ease, and almost too listless for enjoyment, a bankrupt harem obtaining the means of extravagance by every artifice, Ministers on whom not even the diplomatists who rule them can depend, and who, for the most part, are only trusted when they are known to be nonentities; financial embarrassment, decrease of revenue, and decay of credit, are the principal features of the present Turkish society. Yet we cannot despair of the country. In the first place, the territory is for the present secure, and guaranteed by a federal treaty from the ambition of neighboring States. Here, then, is this great country, extending over the finest regions of three continents, containing vast undeveloped wealth, the finest rivers, the finest harbors, and with a commanding geographical position. The will of Europe is that it should be kept together, and not divided. In this fact lies an almost certain hope of ultimate regeneration. Where the designs of foreign potentates and the ambition of domestic envoys must be given up, where the whole empire is by the guarantee of Europe subjected to the rule of one central authority, it seems impossible to doubt that some day a Sovereign or a Minister will rise who will be able to accomplish the task of improvement, made easy for him by the security which the empire enjoys under the protection of united Europe. A State with so large a population, with such resources, and absolved from the necessity of supporting great fleets and armies, wants only a vigorous will to direct it in the path of elevation and improvement.—[Times.

ST. PATRICK'S SOCIETY OF TORONTO.

The Annual Meeting of the above Society, for the election of officers for the current year, took place on Thursday evening, the 29th ultimo, at McCoukey's King Street West, the President, Mr. J. Sheridan Hogan, in the chair.

After the disposal of some routine business, Mr. Hogan returned thanks to the Society for the honor conferred upon him by electing him President at the last annual meeting, and announced that he was not a candidate this year, as other numerous duties would prevent him, even if he was ambitious to fill the office. He then called on the meeting to proceed to the election of officers.

Mr. Ogle R. Gowan commenced by nominating all the officers of the Society, having been fully prepared with his "ticket," and in doing so recommended that his election be adopted unanimously. He referred to the St. Andrew's Society, where he thought all worked harmoniously together; and then commenced to make some remarks about the Globe newspaper, but he was promptly called to order.

The meeting having decided to elect the President first, on a ballot being taken, A. K. Boomer, Esq., was declared elected.

It was then moved by Mr. Gowan, and seconded by Mr. James Cotton, that James Hallinan, Esq., be elected 1st Vice President—Carried.

Mr. S. T. Green was elected 2nd Vice-President, and Mr. Ogle R. Gowan 3rd Vice President.

It was then moved by Mr. Gowan, that the Treasurer and Secretary, Mr. Holland and Mr. Manning, be re-elected—both of whom declined serving.

Mr. James Ashfield, after a great deal of persuasion, consented to act as Treasurer, and Mr. William McKee was appointed Secretary.

Moved by Mr. Gowan, and seconded by Mr. Hallinan, that the Rev. Dr. McCaulfie be one of the Chaplains of the Society—Carried.

It was next moved by Mr. James Cotton, and seconded by Mr. G. L. Allen, Grand Master, that the Rev. Father Mulloney, Dean of St. Michael's be also elected Chaplain—Carried.

The Committee of Management was then appointed, viz., Messrs. Rice Lewis, James Cotton, John G. Bowes, John Duggan, Chris. Mitchell, and J. Perkins.

After the election of officers, the retiring Treasurer and Secretary, with several of their friends withdrew.

JAMES MANNING,
Secretary.

THE RED RIVER SETTLEMENT.

To the Editor of the Colonist.

SIR,—In your paper of the 30th January, there appeared a short note from "An Enquirer," asking several questions relative to the Red River Settlement. I felt a desire, at first sight, to sit down and answer this note; but refrained in the expectation that some one better acquainted with the settlement would step forward and give the information. As nobody seems inclined to do so, (not even "S." or his generous rival "D.") I cheerfully volunteer to give my friend the benefit of my knowledge. With this prefatory word, I proceed to answer the questions *seriatim* as I find them.

Land is usually sold at two dollars per acre. I say "usually," for there is a difference of price (as might be expected) according to the distance from the more public or business part of the settlement. The highest price may be set down at three dollars per acre. Little or no difference arises from the nature of the soil, for it is everywhere good.

There are Saw-mills and twenty-three Grist-mills, (eighteen of these being windmills, and the remainder water power.) In a few months, there will be a Steam Grist-mill also.

There are several Woollen Factories and Tanneries of a small size.

Oxen are plentiful. The price varies from twenty to thirty-five dollars; but the average price is twenty-seven.

Cows, sheep, pigs, and other domestic animals abound and are easily obtained. The price of cows varies from fifteen to twenty dollars.

Wheat is usually sold at one dollar per bushel. No fall wheat is grown there, partly because of the cold, and partly (I think, especially) because there is no sufficient market.

Beef is generally sold at 2d. per lb.

Fuel and Timber may be readily and cheaply obtained. I cannot state prices, but if this I am certain—that almost any amount may be had, and at a low price.

Now, Mr. Editor, having given "An Enquirer" this information, he must allow me to say that it is evident he thinks seriously of going to settle there. I strongly advise him to do so. Beyond question it is a fine country—extensive and fertile—abounding in timber—rich in mineral resources—well watered and healthy. And though considerably north of us, its temperature differs little from that of Toronto. Verily, (we might almost say) his a land that flows with milk and honey. He will moreover meet with an intelligent, moral, and withal, a very hospitable people. As to scenery, it is unparalleled—admitted to be so by all who have visited the country. Oft have I gazed with mingled admiration and delight on its vast prairies and beautiful landscapes; on its—but I am forgetting myself. "An Enquirer" must not consider my matter-of-fact information at all invalidated by this closing almost poetic eulogy.

Yours, respectfully,

JUNIUS.

Toronto, February 3rd, 1857.

The British Expedition against the South of Persia.

From the Bombay (Dec. 17) Correspondence of the London Times.

We are now in daily expectation of hearing of the fall of Bushire. I have before stated that until that event should take place no despatches were looked for by the Government. An Arab vessel has however brought us news of the fleet from Muscat, or rather of the third division of the fleet, conveying the General, the head quarter, staff, and the Admiral in command. This, the last portion of the expedition, left Bombay on the night of the 19th. There they were to remain 24 hours to receive despatches for the Imaum, and to fill up coal and water. The next halting place would be Bunder Abbas, on the other, or Persian side of the Gulf, the rendezvous for the whole fleet. In my next I shall no doubt be able to tell you of the occupation, whether bloodless or otherwise, of the Persian Port. Of the preparations on the part of the enemy to meet the approaching storm I have still nothing to say, or nothing but rumors of a consistency as thin as that which characterized the stories to which I shortly alluded in my last letter. One journal authenticates a statement that 26,000 men were assembled at Bushire, prepared to give the fleet and army a warm reception. Another renews the report of the recent erection of formidable batteries upon a little low island of the port. These seem to be the least improbable of the various reports, and as such, and such only, I give them.

From the Bombay Telegraph, Dec. 17.

From native boats which have arrived at Kurrachee, we learn that the expedition had reached Bassadore in safety, and it is just possible that our first despatches from the General commanding will contain an account of the bombardment of Bushire. It is also stated by the commanders of native craft that defensive works are being extensively planned and vigorous y executed all along the Persian coast, but particularly at Bushire, and a small island in front of it, named Halfday, on which a fort has been constructed, and which is said to be well manned with guns and men. The strength of the Persian force prepared to resist us is estimated at 100,000 men, which will be increased in the commencement of hostilities by the addition of several Russian regiments, which are now encamped near Tabreez, and are expecting orders to move towards Bushire.

CREDIBILITY OF WITNESSES.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—On the trial of Dedes Redanios for murder, reported in the Times of the 20th of December last, I find the following circumstances occurred:—

"Thomas Girling was called into the witness-box, and he said that, before he was sworn, he wished to state that he considered the administration of an oath was merely a civil ceremony.

"Mr. Baron Bramwell asked him whether he believed in a future state of rewards and punishments.

"Girling said he did not believe in a future state.

"Mr. Baron Bramwell said that he could not be sworn, and ordered him to leave the witness-box."

As his person was called on behalf of the prosecution, and the prisoner was found guilty without his testimony, it may be presumed that in this case the rule which led to his rejection had no important effect; but suppose he had been the sole witness to a fact which could establish the innocence of a man on trial for his life under circumstances of great suspicion?

Surely it is time that this matter should be set to rights. There is nothing new to be said about it in the way of argument; the only obstacle to the establishment of a rational practice is the general unwillingness to disturb the existing state of things in connexion with a question on which a great deal of prejudice exists.

Nobody pretends seriously to believe that a sceptic is incapable of telling the truth, or is in any appreciable degree less likely to tell the truth than another man. We all know the contrary, and make no such distinction in our daily dealings with our neighbors. Besides, what can be more irrational than to deny credibility to a witness because he himself makes a statement that is credited, and the making of which, moreover, is a very strong proof of his regard for truth? He might have kept his scruples to himself and taken the oath decorously like anybody else; but because he is too honest to do this he is declared to be utterly incapable of truth that it is useless even to listen to him. Observe, too, what an easy escape this rule gives to an unwilling witness, he has only to declare that he does not believe in a future state, and the law cannot touch him.

Great advances have been made of late years towards the establishment of the true principle as to the admission of evidence—namely, that all witnesses ought to be heard, and that it is for those who hear them to weigh the value of their testimony; and I hope it will not be long before good sense and common sense shall triumph in the abolition of the present religious test.

I do not say that there may not be cases in which a jury may properly disregard the evidence of a professed sceptic; all I say is, that it is preposterous to refuse altogether to receive it, when a man may confess himself to be a murderer, a swindler, a burglar, and yet be admissible as a witness.

In connexion with this subject I may also refer to the extreme foolish way in which courts of requests judges and magistrates seem to satisfy themselves of the capacity of children who are brought to give evidence. They seem to examine whether the witness "understands the nature of an oath." If the child can repeat the Lord's Prayer, and can say that "naughty boys who tell lies will go to hell" (which humbly hope is very far from true as a universal proposition) he is a competent witness; if not, he is rejected. Nothing can be more fallacious than such a test; take the rule against sceptics. It is based on the entirely false assumption that there is no moral sense independently of religion. The creed bility of children should be ascertained precisely as that of adults is ascertained—namely, by observation of their demeanour and the amount of intelligence and consistency which they display, aided, if necessary, by the testimony of others.

I do not want to see judicial baths abolished, because I know that, in point of fact, they do secure veracity in many witnesses; still no divine or moralist can allege that an oath adds anything to the obligation to tell the truth, which is absolute without it; and if a witness either objects to be sworn, or say that he considers it superfluous, his testimony should just be taken all the same without any further ado.

January 1. R. R.

Near Morven on the 17th ult., Mr. Jacob Johnson, at the advanced age of 92 years.

A PLEA FOR THE GALLOWS.

To the Editor of the Times.

SIR,—That good old institution the gallows reared its honest head once again, to my great satisfaction, in the Old Bailey this morning—its appearance since its first late severe indisposition from diseased sympathy. A wretched brute was hung like a dog, as he deserved to be; and as his dreary corpse swayed in the eager north wind it was a pleasant and cheering thing to think that nobody could now give him a ticket of leave and let him loose again upon society. He was disposed of once and for all, in the cheapest and most effectual manner.

It was, Sir, a fine wholesome corrective sight. I thought of the shattered, senseless victim—of the bloody work by which that poor creature was smashed and killed—of that awful night at the hospital when the grating trephine set free a flitting consciousness, and the identity of the assassin was established; and as the brute fell with the drop, and his muscles contracted with one short terrible spasm, I wondered how he liked it.

From these remarks many of your readers will at once see that I am of a low and animal state of mind. It may be so; I do not say I am right; but your columns are open to all opinions, and I shall be soundly corrected if I deserve it.

Of course, to-morrow fawning cant will stalk abroad and declaim against public executions; and we shall be told that the mob surrounding the gallows was composed of the lowest orders of society. It is proper it should be so, for to them does Jack Ketch address his lecture and hoist up his explanatory working diagram.—And I cannot see how it can very well be otherwise, considering the nature of the exhibition. A great public performance at 8 o'clock on a winter's morning, of any other kind of slack or tight rope, would, under no circumstances, command many respectable private families or even lounge-rs about town. We shall also hear that old, appalling fact, that pockets were actually picked under the very scaffold, and that therefore executions ought to be abolished. So they are on the 9th of November, and at the cattle show equally; but nobody adds that therefore it is time to put down lord mayors and farmers.—It will, however, gratify Clapham and Tulsehill to hear that at a quarter to 8 this morning Mr. Davis, the Ordinary, told Mr. Sheriff Mecki how Marley had requested him to state "that he very much regretted Cope's death"—contrite and heart-softened mistaken one!

But I am giving to Marley what was meant for the gallows—revenons. When you were so good, Sir, as to insert my last letter, in July, you may remember I told you that I was prepared to be strangled generally about the streets, night or day, at any time, or in any place where I might find myself alone. I also told you my house had been thoroughly burglarized three times, and, more especially, that the police informed me, what with the tickets of leaves and the disbanded militia, "it was nothing to what would take place when the long nights set in." How this prophecy has been fulfilled I need not recall to your mind; and yet I think, it was only last Saturday week that the authorities shook themselves, and began to take steps to meet this frightful and most disgraceful insecurity.

Away with maudlin sympathy and twaddle. When a ruffian watches for you at night, fractures your skull, lacerates your windpipe, or clogs your brain with apoplectic blood, hang him, if you are lucky enough to catch him. Shoot him at the time if you can, but, if not, hang him. He is a wild and dangerous beast, and treat him as such. When a savage cat flies at you in a wilderness you do not, having captured the creature, take it home, and place it in the kitchen, give it sops, and say, "Was it a poor pass, then?" On the contrary, you break its back with a stick that minute if you can, or you try what a wire cartridge will do if you cannot; and then it is got rid of. There is no expense of trap, or coppers to the boy who looks after it. The brute is hung and done with, and, what is a grand advantage, past further mischief. And if you know there are other savage beasts in their lairs, who are only waiting to pounce upon you, you do not let them alone, you smoke them on the head before hand. When Mr. Inspector Bowler goes to the chicken kitchen to look after "The Bishop," and the "Pimlico Pet," who is there also, says, "Do you want me, Mr. Bowler?" he gets an answer in the negative. But Mr. Inspector does want the "Pimlico Pet," and coughs take him away then and there. In days as bygone are sometimes given by country gentlemen to idle London friends, so I think, that on some fine night (not by any means to have its "sphere" prematurely) Mr. Inspector Bowler, and those of his standing, should bring down all the blackguard gangs in London and pack them securely in boxes for the colonies, with such care that they should be warranted to keep in any climate to which they were sent.

And then, between those which are forwarded in cases for foreign use and those hung for home consumption, we may make a great difference in the census at—

THE LONDON SOUNDREL.

London, Dec. 15.

DOMESTIC.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.—We understand that the Memorial to the Governor General, praying for the revival of Convocation and reorganization of the Faculties of Law and Medicine, will be presented to his Excellency at noon this day. Those members of the University who have not yet signed it are requested to call and do so, at office 29, in the Toronto Exchange, between the hours of 10 and 11 o'clock this forenoon.

An extraordinary seizure for customs duties occurred at Elgin, the village at the Canada end of the Niagara Suspension bridge on Monday last. It was no less than the seizure of a set of teeth, which the official alleged were of American manufacture, although the gentleman had worn them over in his mouth. The masticators had been removed by him after dinner, to be cleaned, but were "grabbed" by the watchful official in a twinkling.

At an unusually large meeting of the Orangemen of the County of York, which includes the City of Toronto, William Strachan, Esq., was elected County Master for the ensuing year. Mr. Strachan has long been the efficient Treasurer of the County, and his elevation to his present position is a simple recognition of his valuable services in his former office. The meeting was held this year at Berwick, and numbered upwards of a hundred Masters, Deputy Masters and others entitled to vote.

QUEBEC, Feb. 4th, 1857.

The trial of Hogan for the Corrigan affair still continues, the whole of yesterday being occupied in the examination of the witness J. B. Noper, who, it will be remembered was one of the hardest evidences for the Crown at the former trial. The prisoner's Counsel made him contradict himself frequently.

THE MURDERESS SENTENCED.—Mr. Justice Duval passed sentence on Annais Toussaint yesterday, condemning her to be hung. Mr. Alleyn moved the Court in arrest of Judgment on the ground that the prisoner is pregnant. The Court ordered the Jury to summon a Jury of matrons to determine this point. This is the first time such an order has been made in this country.

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH.—On Saturday afternoon, the Grand Jury returned a "true bill" against John Donaghue and Edward John Charlton, the publishers of the Quebec Colonist, for libel; and returned "ignoramus" on a second bill, against the same individuals, for another libel, submitted for their finding. There are now five indictments for libel, pending in this Court, against these persons. The St. Sylvester murder trial was resumed, and occupied the Court throughout the day. Anais Toussaint, convicted of the murder of her husband, will be brought up for judgment this morning, at a quarter to 10 o'clock, when Judge Duval will pronounce sentence of death upon the prisoner. It is thought her Counsel will move in arrest of judgment.

A man named Moses W. Hawkes, who has been figuring in the American papers for some time, was arrested yesterday at the Robinson House, Bay St., by Constable Courtney. Hawkes was a clerk in a jewellery establishment in New York, but some time ago established himself in business in Chicago in partnership with a Mr. S. N. Griswold. Hawkes then married, but was soon divorced from his wife by process in the State of Indiana. Soon after that the firm became insolvent, and Griswold and Hawkes made away with a large portion of the stock of jewellery, and proceeded to leave Chicago as quietly as possible. Hawkes undertook to convey the wife of Griswold and her two children to Connecticut, to her father's residence; but, disregarding the old adage about honor among thieves, he brought the woman through Canada, living with her as his wife, and finally settled down at a hotel in Roxbury, near Boston. There Griswold found the guilty couple, but the woman adhering to her paramour and alleging her detestation of her husband, no legal steps were taken. The whereabouts of the parties was made known, however, and Griswold was arrested by his New York creditors, but Hawkes made his escape, as it now appears, to Toronto. He has been living at the Robinson House for some time, going over to Niagara generally every fortnight. An anonymous telegraphic despatch was sent to Chicago, announcing his presence here, and detective officer Williams, of that city, came after him. The telegraph said the Rossin, instead of the Robinson House; but his whereabouts was speedily discovered, and he was placed under surveillance, until it was decided whether he could be legally taken. Mr. Garnett, after enquiring into the case, issued a warrant, and Hawkes was arrested. It was urged on his behalf that the act with which he is charged was not felony, and, consequently, not recognized by the Ashburton treaty; but the Police Magistrate overruled the objection.—Globe of the 6th.

In his calm retreat in Dorsetshire, Mr. Macready, the actor is living the life of a Christian gentleman. He has built, at his own expense, a school for the education of fifty boys, which has now been in full work for a year.

BROCK'S MONUMENT.—A brass plate containing the following interesting resume, is to be seen in the window of Mr. Ellis, of Toronto, engraver. It is intended for the new monument at Queenston heights, and is destined, with a similar plate and an appropriate inscription, in honor of Colonel McDonald the brave general's aide-de-camp, to occupy opposite sides on the exterior of the base of the new Monument. It will hereafter rank among the curiosities of literature:

IN A VAULT

Underneath are deposited the mortal remains of the lamented Major General, Sir Isaac Brock K. B who fell in Action near these heights on the 13th October 1812 and was interred on the 16th October, at the Station of Fort George, Niagara, removed from thence & reinterred under a Monument to the eastward of this site, on the 13th October 1824, and in consequence of that monument having received irreparable injury by a lawless act on the 17th April 1840. It was found requisite to take down the former structure and erect this superior. The Foundation Stone being laid, with the remains so reverentially preserved with the addition on the 13th Oct. 1853.

DESTRUCTION OF THE BANNERTOWN STANDARD, PAR.—On Wednesday night a fire occurred in the building occupied as the office of the Standard, at Brampton, by which the Printing Materials, Books, &c., have become a perfect wreck. We have not been able to ascertain how the fire originated, the proprietors, Messrs. McBean and Jones were in the city at the time of the occurrence, making arrangements for the issue of the Standard semi-weekly during the coming session of Parliament, and the fire is so shown a heavy blow; their stock was but partially insured. They are making preparations for an early issue of the Standard in which we hope may be successful. As it is the only journal published in Brampton its non-appearance would be prejudicial to the interests of that locality. We shall lay before our readers further particulars to-morrow.

Two or three fires have recently occurred in Hamilton, which, though trifling in themselves give rise to apprehensions that the old work of incendiarism has been re-commenced. In one instance, an unoccupied building fronting Turnbull's Foundry, on Mary street, was burnt down, between two and three o'clock in the morning. It is difficult otherwise to account for fires originating at such times, and where no fire is used during the day.

A man named Lawson accidentally lost his life on Tuesday last, at the mills of Cummin, Gill & Co., of Waterdown, while making some repairs of the water wheel, which started, contrary to his expectation, on his placing his weight on one of the arms, and crushed him fearfully between the buckets and the wall, so that he died almost immediately. It seems that he imagined the wheel to be frozen tight, and could not withdraw when he discovered his error. No blame attaches to any one.

A SOLDIER KILLED.—Friday night, a private of the 9th, named Dickson, being exceedingly disorderly in the barrack room, about bed time, some of the men sent for a sergeant, who placed Dickson, and the latter went to bed. Its soon after got up, and seized a musket, loaded it, and put on the bayonet, and swore that he would shoot any man that interfered with him in any way. The guard was sent for, but before it came Dickson locked the door and threw the key on the floor, and went round the room threatening the men, and many of them were forced to shelter themselves under their beds, through which he thrust his bayonet at random wounding one man in the thigh. Whereupon a private named George Edwards loaded his musket, and told Dickson if he did not surrender himself he would shoot him, the latter having snapped his gun at the men several times; he however, still maintaining his attitude of defiance and outrage, Edwards fired, the ball passing through his body from left to right. The door was then unlocked, and the Corporal of the Guard entering disarmed Edwards with the Gun in his hand, who acknowledged having shot the man, and surrendered himself accordingly. The unfortunate man only survived twenty minutes. An inquest was held on the body by Coroner Shaw, and the verdict of the jury was "justifiable homicide." Intemperance in every sense of the term characterized the conduct of Dickson, who was always very troublesome to his comrades.—[News.

THRILLING ADVENTURE OF A BOY.—A lad named Tracy, 14 years of age, on Saturday forenoon last, was passing through Colt's Meadows, carrying the dinner of one of the workmen of the armory, and was passing along where the snow was about a foot deep, when he suddenly found himself going down, down, down, he knew not where; but, to use his own expression, he thought he was "going to heaven or the other place, sure." When he struck bottom, he found himself in five feet of water at the bottom of a forty feet well, with a smooth brick wall, all the way up. Fortunately in coming to the surface of the water, he found a sweet plank, cut off his boots, tore off his coat and vest, and then, bracing his back against the wall and his feet upon the other side, he commenced working his way up by inches. After struggling in this way for half an hour, he succeeded in reaching daylight, completely exhausted, but thankful to escape with his life. His escape from death was remarkable under the circumstances.—Hartford Courant.

A parcel of blacklegs who had chosen Hamilton as the place of rendezvous for a grand dog-fight, and many of whom had come from a distance, were sorely disappointed of brutal sport by the prompt interference of the local authorities, on Wednesday. A number of the same gentry took passage by the cars from Hamilton yesterday morning, intending to have the fight come off somewhere between this city and Hamilton, but we hope it will not be permitted. It is a little too bad that the off-scourings of the neighboring Union should come here to pollute Canadian soil by such brutal exhibitions.

INDIAN CONCERT.

The Indian Exhibitors of the Ojibway and Mohawk Tribes, who have lately been so successfully performing at Toronto and Hamilton, will give one of their Entertainments shortly in Kingston, consisting of Hymns sung in three Indian Dialects and in English, and a descriptive account, in English, of many of the Social Customs and habits of the Red Man. The Press of Canada West speaks in the highest terms of the Entertainment, which from its rarity, cannot fail to draw a large audience here. One night only, towards the end of the week.

THE GREAT JANUARY THAW.

This has been a Great Thaw indeed, though it did not happen to take place, as it should have done, in January. In three short days it took the whole snow, body, bones and breeches, off the roads, and left them as bare as the palm of one's hand.—Last night the Moon changed and the weather began to get cold again, but nothing equal to what it was before the thaw.—Now that the snow has disappeared, the country folks who grumble so at the paying of tolls, will find out the benefit of good Macadamized Roads in the dead of winter.

NICKINSON'S VISIT TO KINGSTON.

Mr. Nickinson Telegraphed Dr. Barker last week to say, that he had made his arrangements, and would most certainly be down here with Miss N. on the 18th inst. He sends down his Stage Carpenter and Scene Painter some time this week.

STATE OF THE ICE.

A Span of Horses crossing over to the City from Wolfe Island on Saturday, fell through the ice, and one of them was drowned. The quantity of water on the ice, owing to the recent thaw, is very great, and has much weakened it. The crossing from the head of the Island to Morton's is good and safe.

MAYOR OF COBURG.

A telegraph Despatch of Saturday, by the International Line, informs us that D. E. Boulton, Esq. having resigned, W. Weller, Esq. was elected Mayor of Coburg for the present year.

With regard to the imports at particular places, we must observe that in nearly all the smaller ports, there has been a marked decrease in 1856. This is also the case with Quebec. In Montreal, Toronto, and and all the other larger towns, a decided increase has taken place. Toronto is the only port of consumption, which shows an absolute increase over any past year. We give a few examples:

	1855.	1856.
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[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
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