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THE DAILY WHIG.

"Opifer per Orbem Dicor."

A CHANGE OF SENSE.

Dion Bouicault, in the seventies, appears to be a trifle stiff for the activities of the stage, but his mind is clear and his fingers supple, and he is writing continually for the press. There are incidents in the career of Mr. Bouicault which seriously affect his popularity. But no one will dispute that he is a most competent critic of drama. And so his article in the February number of the *North American Review* is read with great interest. It deals with the "mutilation of Shakespeare," that is with the carving and cutting the great poet's plays have received at the hands of certain writers in the adaptation of them to the development of particular roles. The works of the Grecian and Roman dramatic writers did not suffer thus, and the freedom which is taken with the classic English is therefore very notable. Mr. Bouicault interviews Shakespeare's ghost on the subject and learns that the great dramatist, if he must be disembowelled and embalmed to be retained on the stage, has no anxiety as to who performs the operation. "If," the ghost is made to say, "no one has taken liberties with Sophocles or with Moliere it is because their plays were perfect in design. Ours represent packages of jewels which may be reset to suit the prevailing fashion of the period." He did not object to such actresses as Mrs. Langtry and Mrs. Potter becoming his heroines. He did not know that they were equal to the task they undertook. "I could not tell," he said, "for looking. Mine eyes were made the fools of the other senses, and were worth all the rest." This idea, attributed to Shakespeare, put into the mouth of his ghost, is decidedly Bouicault's, who protests, and in vain apparently, to the obscuration of the intellectual features of the play by the attractiveness of the stage-dressing. On one point he is most emphatic, and indeed in perfect harmony with the moral sentiment of the age. It is set forth in these words: "During my short life-time I have remarked that the sense of decency has shifted from the ear to the eye. Fifty years ago language on the stage was unrestrained, and frequently we heard gross and blasphemous expressions. Such would not be tolerated to-day, but the dancers of that period wore their skirts down to their ankles, and Madame Vesties, in her burlesque characters, wore tunics which did not disclose the knee. Nowadays the ear is sensitive, so if the public discover a phrase to which a double meaning can be supplied it is saluted with censure, while a nude exhibition is applauded which a few years ago would have produced upon the spectators the effect of the head of Macbeth." The change which Bouicault describes has been remarked by others. It is a fact that the language of the stage has become purer and the dressing of its occupants more offensive. No art, some say, can compare with that exhibited by a "well-dressed" woman, and this idea of dressing has been singularly understood. It has tended too much in one direction, and that contributory to tastes which cannot be commended. The censure of Bouicault is deserved. It is corrective in its character, and yet it is not calculated to prove corrective. Only the virtuous should expatiate on virtue, and until public opinion, as expressed by those whose voice and patronage cannot be ignored, help on the purifying process its progress will be slow. The theatres are just what the people make them.

WOMEN AS VOTERS.

A ministerial print does not think Mr. Mowat went very far when he said he was in sympathy with the woman's suffragists. "He felt pretty safe," we learn, "in confessing this, for the only other tory premier we know of (Lord Salisbury) has just expressed similar opinions, and the liberal conservative premier of Canada is also in favor of woman suffrage." Well to be sure! It's singular how some people can delude themselves and others. Men are not to be judged by what they say so much as by what they do. It was D. L. Moody that observed: "Light houses don't ring bells and fire cannon to call attention to their shining—they just shine." And Mr. Mowat has been doing more than his opponents and talking less. It was the "innocent little premier" that gave the municipal franchise to widows and spinners, and he may be safely depended upon to give the women generally the votes which they demand in the interest of the public good and public morality.

It was on Friday that the ladies identified with the W.C.T.U. and Canadian women's enfranchisement association met the members of the local government in Toronto and made their wants and supplications known. The representatives of the one organization believe that a very large majority of the women would vote for prohibition and the cause of morality, and so "give their cordial support to Mr. Waters' bill (proposing to

extend the franchise to them) and hope that it may pass." The representatives of the other organization state that as Christian citizens, as property owners and intelligent women, they should have a voice in forming governments; that they are not office seekers; that they only desire a chance to impress their thought upon the nation; that in extending the franchise to the men and not to the women a slight is shown to the fair sex; that the fact that some women may not want to vote is not to be taken as an argument against the cause; that they support Mr. Waters' bill, craving the parliamentary franchise for women and spinners, but regard it as a relic of barbarism that married women should be excluded; that the women who desire to use the ballot are the best women in the country and desire to use it for the country's good; that women cannot be represented by men at the polls any more than at any other places; and that the legislature should give the women the chance to elevate and uplift humanity. The propositions of the enfranchisement association were as follows: "That the municipal law be amended so that the franchise be extended for municipal purposes to married women."
"That the provincial franchise be conferred without distinction of sex."
And it was the speeches of the women presenting these ideas that Mr. Mowat said he was in perfect sympathy, that he could not say their schemes would be realized this year or the next, but he hoped to live long enough to be the instrument of carrying them into effect. His position and that of Lord Salisbury or of Sir John Macdonald are compared, and to the disadvantage of Mr. Mowat. Why he is in advance of them all. Lord Salisbury's talk in favor of women's suffrage was done in an election campaign, for the purpose of winning the support of the women at a critical time, and as he failed in his object he may forget all about his promises. As for Sir John he is an arrant humbug. He doesn't mean to give the women votes any more than he means to give the men votes, unless he is sure that they are going to support him. And according to the about-to-be amended franchise act he cannot do anything to the lists until 1890. By that time the local legislature will have met the requests of the women and cast into an election a force which the political agencies cannot check and bridle. Mr. Waters' bill may pass this year, but it shouldn't. There is no sense in going half way in the enfranchisement of the women. They demand a perfect and complete recognition of their rights, and only such a recognition will meet the views of the fair sex. Mr. Mowat will have to make a surrender sooner or later.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

At Albany the house was opened with prayer by Dr. Leach, who pleaded for the subjugation of the electoral impurity which was ruining the nation. And for half an hour the legislators quarrelled over the remark and protested against the Throne of Mercy and the people being insulted in that way.

The rumour is current that Hon. Mr. Pope is tired of public life, that he is not well, and that he desires to leave the government and the house of commons. Some say he has actually placed his resignation in the hands of the premier. But in the language of the minister of railways, "there ain't nothin' it," or his successor will be son-in-law, Mr. Ives, M.P. Mr. Pope may deny that he is given to nepotism, but it cannot be denied that he has a great faculty for taking care of his friends.

The *Empire* rejoices to find Mr. Mowat describing himself as a "practical politician." There has been, it tells us, a suspicion abroad for a long time that "he is not the innocent little political moralist he pretends to be." And why this remark? Is it not indicative of political morality that a man tells a deputation that he does not see his way clear to grant the request it makes? Should he off hand promise anything asked off him, without regard to the possibility or impossibility of his succeeding? That's Sir John's idea of doing business, but not Mr. Mowat's.

Mr. Harrison, the president-elect of the United States, is not showing himself to be a man of grit and stout adherence to principle. Though a good churchman and a great stickler for plainness, he has, it seems, weakened in regard to the use of liquors by the gentlemen of the White house, he has surrendered to the champions of the great state inauguration ball, and he has decided to close his eyes to the appearance—for the first time in her life—of his wife in the decolette dress. On principle and prudence cannot hold the fort against fashion. It triumphs every time. The only hope of the president, that he will not drift into further folly, rests in the influence of his private secretary, the good Elijah Halford.

THE COST OF CONVICTS.

The Kingston Prison is Certainly the Most Economical in Canada.

OTTAWA, Feb. 11.—In the five dominion penitentiaries there are 1,117 convicts. The annual cost of keeping each convict, based upon the complete outlay at each institution, is as follows:

Kingston.....	\$203 38
St. Vincent de Paul.....	305 80
Dorchester.....	274 34
Manitoba.....	707 51
British Columbia.....	475 53

The daily cost per convict is fifty-three cents at Kingston; eighty-one at St. Vincent de Paul, eighty-three at Dorchester; \$1.31 at Manitoba; and eighty-two cents at British Columbia. The economy with which affairs are conducted at Kingston will be apparent when the item "burial of five convicts \$16" is contrasted with the item "candles for funeral service \$24.50" at St. Vincent de Paul. The expenditures throughout are for clothing, medicine, and rations.

R. Tommony, of Toronto, sang in a pleasing style the "Ave Maria," during the offertory at high mass yesterday, in St. Mary's Cathedral.

A CALICO FAIR.

Friday, Feb. 15th.

FROM 1:30 p.m. till 6:30 p.m.

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Which for extent, variety and value, we believe to be unequalled in the city at the present time, and finding

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No other class of goods will be sold that afternoon. The goods will be so arranged and ticketed that ladies can see the goods and make their selections without any trouble.

Every lady is invited to come and look around. Take it in. No one expected to buy because they look.

OUR GREAT AIM

is to have our customers and the public generally get some fair idea of the stock we carry.

Our whole store is none too large for the proper display of this one department, but it is the best we have at present.

The Store will be closed during the forenoon of Friday to enable us to get things in order.

REMEMBER

Remember the Store Opens at 1:30 p.m. the day, Friday, Feb. 15th.

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HARDY'S,

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THE WESTPORT BAZAAR.

Successful Affair—Music From Brockville and Kingston Contingents.

The bazaar in aid of St. Edward's separate school, Westport, in progress last week, was one of the most successful events of the kind, both financially and otherwise, ever held in that section. The bazaar was held in the commodious hall in connection with the school, and each evening presented an animated and interesting scene. The hall was handsomely decorated and fitted with booths for the sale of fancy articles, of which there was a large and varied collection. The tables were presided over by Mrs. Rape, Mrs. O'Donnell and Mrs. Hart, assisted by able corps of young ladies, who presented the sale of the various articles. Father Twohey was indefatigable in providing each evening a programme for the entertainment of those present. He brought together some of the best known musical talent of Kingston and Brockville. On the opening night (Monday) an excellent programme of vocal and instrumental music was contributed by a party of ladies and gentlemen from Brockville, among whom were the following: Miss Carrie Braniff, Miss Shields, Miss Maggie Braniff, Miss McGlade, O. K. Fraser, Frank H. Fulford, Charles Fulford, and Brockville's brilliant young cornetist, Master Archie McCaw. The programme offered was appreciated, some of the numbers being enthusiastically received.

On Tuesday evening the programme was mainly contributed by Kingstonians, some of whom were already well-known in Westport, and whose appearance was a signal for a perfect ovation. The Kingston contingent included Miss Doretta Telgmann, Henry Telgmann, John Byrns, C. Kane, J. E. Andrieu, R. Tommony, and J. Brennan. All the members were well received, the humorous songs of Mr. Tommony and Mr. Brennan being enthusiastically encored. During the evening several fine instrumental pieces were rendered by an orchestra composed by Miss Telgmann, Miss Braniff, Messrs. Telgmann, Fulford and McCaw.

On Wednesday night the attendance was larger than on the previous evenings, and again the leading events on the programme were contributed by the Kingston contingent.

Westport is noted for its hospitality, but on this occasion Father Twohey, and those associated with him outdone themselves in their efforts to make it pleasant for those from a distance.

A ROYAL HIGH-NECKED UKASE.

Queen Consents to Wearing High-Necked Dresses at Her Drawing Rooms.

LONDON, Feb. 11.—After having insisted for over fifty years that ladies, young or old, plump or bony, strong or weakly, shall be presented in décollete dresses, the Queen has at last yielded to the pressure of public opinion. Hereafter ladies who by reason of illness, infirmity or advancing years are unable to wear the regulation court dress will be allowed, on obtaining permission from the Lord Chamberlain, to appear at her majesty's drawing rooms in high dresses. This permission has hitherto been only granted after great trouble in very special cases.

But the new court dress might, however, be made on a certain model which the queen has approved and which will allow a small portion of the neck to be visible, the sleeves coming to the elbow. The principal reason for the new regulation is to secure uniformity in the ladies' toilets.

A Brutal Fight Occurs.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Feb. 11.—Danny Needham, champion light-weight of the North West, and Pat Harrington, of Boston, fought to a finish at the Kasinet club yesterday. The fight was to have been fifteen rounds for \$500 a side, but came to an end in the fifth round when Needham settled his man with a terrific blow on the jaw.

GENERAL - NEWS - AGENCY

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