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THE DAILY EXAMINER

DECEMBER 6, 1897.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Chief Justice Davie has created somewhat of a sensation in British Columbia by holding that divorces granted by the courts of that province are of no effect. In British Columbia, as in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, divorces are granted under authority of provincial law. In Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and the Territories they can only be obtained by act of Parliament. If Chief Justice Davie has rightly interpreted the law, not only will some sixty divorced people in his province find themselves in an awkward predicament, but, as the Montreal Gazette remarks, the parties to some 150 marriages annulled in the other provinces will have cause to inquire where, matrimonially, they are at.

Commenting upon the election in Toronto Centre The Mail and Empire says that the contest resembled, in a marked degree, that of New York city a few days ago. It was a fight of good against evil, with the factions that profit by their nearness to the Government dominating and winning in the end. Mr. Howland, like Seth Low, fought nobly and well, and we believe that many who conscientiously voted against him, overlooking, for the moment, the prime issue, will yet acknowledge the excellence of his programme and the serious character of the influences against which he battled. His work supplemented as it has been with such marvellous ability by Mr. Foster, has not ended with the close of the polls. On the contrary, with the fact staring us in the face that the result will be accepted by certain influences at Ottawa as a justification of their carnival and an order to go on, the contest closed for the present is but the beginning, and a hopeful one at that, of a still greater and stronger fight for our country. We are but on the edge of developments to which allusion has been made in the contest, and it becomes us all, as patriots, to watch, to study, to unite, and to be ready.

The brave soldier is worthy of praise, and the Mail and Empire bestows a timely word upon Mr. Howland, the Conservative candidate for Centre Toronto. It remarks that "with little more than a week to fight in, with the power of two Governments exerted to the utmost against him, with the certainty that unlimited funds would be at the disposal of the opposing forces, he cheerfully and readily responded to the call to carry the Conservative standard, and has fought the fight with a degree of ability, dignity, and vigor that marks him as an able Britisher and a thorough gentleman. In the Legislature he has been during three sessions one of the most prominent members of the Opposition and



Fifty Years Ago.

Who could imagine that this should be the place where, in eighteen ninety-three That white world-wonder of arch and dome Should shadow the nations, polychrome... Here at the Fair was the prize conferred On Ayer's Pills, by the world preferred. Chicago-like, they a record show, Since they started—50 years ago.

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have, from the time of their preparation, been a continuous success with the public. And that means that Ayer's Pills accomplish what is promised for them; they cure where others fail. It was fitting, therefore, that the world-wide popularity of these pills should be recognized by the World's Fair medal of 1893—a fact which emphasizes the record:

50 Years of Cures.

had he chosen to retain his seat there would probably have become in due course a member of the Conservative Government that is to be. When his candidature was announced it was regarded in some quarters as a forlorn hope, but day by day he advanced in popular favour, until victory was almost within his grasp. Mr. Howland has no reason to be ashamed of the result, and is certain soon again to figure in the public life of Canada.

The opinion entertained by a great many more or less prejudiced persons that a good newspaper office is the best school going seems to gain some justification from certain passages in the newly-issued volumes of essays and discourses by President Eliot. Discussing wherein modern education has failed to do all that was expected of it, Dr. Eliot says: These, then, are the four things in which the individual youth should be thoroughly trained if his judgment and reasoning powers are to be systematically developed; observing accurately, recording correctly, comparing, grouping and inferring justly, and expressing cogently the results of these mental operations." To observe accurately and record correctly are the particular things in which every reporter for a good newspaper is drilled every day, and he does not get far in his business without getting practice, almost as regular, in comparison, inference and cogent expression. If practice in these things is the best thing for the judgment and reasoning power, we ought to be thankful that so much of it goes to equip the newspaper man for his momentous job of superintending all creation? There is no class of men in the country whose state of mind is of more importance to us than the newspaper men. It is a comfort to be able to infer from the statements of authority that there is no class that is in a better way to have its mind developed. Of course all pupils are not scholars, and the fact that newspapers constantly print inaccurate reports and draw unwarranted inferences only means that the task is quite difficult and that the learners do imperfect work.

THE SURGEON YELLED.

Thought Nothing of Operating on Other People.

"It makes all the difference in the world whose ox is gored," said a man who works around one of the Chicago city hospitals. "We have a surgeon attached to our faculty who has an international reputation for skill and daring. He approaches an operation with an eager interest that is ghoulish, and saving off a man's leg is to him a delirious pleasure. I believe that he would perform a capital operation upon his mother without a thought beyond the fact that it was a very interesting case. Not long ago he cut one side of a boy's face off and built him a new one. Except for a thin red scar running along the jawbone, there is no sign of the fearful work. The surgeon was so pleased that he not only refused to charge the parents, who were poor people, any fee, but gave the boy a city lot telling him that he would be a rich man if he held on to it. Taking out people's livers, sandpapering them and putting them back, pasting on new ears and screwing on new noses are everyday matters with him. His nerve is iron—when he is cutting and slashing somebody else. Like many other great surgeons, he has a good deal of the brute in him, and not infrequently savagely abuses patients who wait from pain.

"Not long ago he got a bone felon on the middle finger of his right hand, and it troubled him a good deal. It kept him awake at night, and, of course, he would not work with it in that condition. The other doctors on the staff, told him to have it lanced, but he could not see the necessity. Finally it got so bad that two or three of them said that if it was not treated he would lose the finger and possibly the entire hand. Still he moaned dolefully and shook his head.

"Then his son, who is a student at the hospital, determined to have matters straightened out. He took a couple of surgeons to his house. They found papa in the garden, pacing up and down like a caged hyena, holding his hand above his head and howling like a dissipated cat by the light of the moon. They told him they had come to cut the felon open, whether he wished it or not. He started to run into the house, but they got between him and the steps. Then ensued a sprinting match around the garden—two doctors and a student chasing one of the most distinguished surgeons of the country. He is middle-aged and fat. Finally his son tackled him low down with a football twist and over he went. They pounced on him and in a second his arm was pinned to the ground and the felon was open. They say that the bass clef yell that blew out of him was audible a mile away. He got up looking rather foolish and was permitted to go to his room. His son got a new bicycle for keeping still about it, but his fellow surgeons thought it too good to keep.

"He has been at work for a month now, and strange to say, he is just as brutally intolerant of pain as ever."

TWINKLING OF THE STARS.—A discovery of much interest to astronomers has been made by Dr. L. L. J. See, who is in charge of Lower observatory at Flagstaff, A. T. The cause of the twinkling of the stars has always been a mystery, none of the theories advanced having stood the test of thorough investigation. Dr. See has founded the cause to be the presence in the atmosphere of innumerable little air currents or waves, which dart through the air and cause a break in the light of the star. The result is that to a beholder on the earth the star has the familiar appearance of twinkling. These little air currents can be distinguished through the 24-inch telescope very plainly on nights when this twinkling is observed most by removing the eyepiece of the instrument.

THE NEWS IN SHORT METRE.

Items of Interest Rolled Down For More Easy Reading.

Tomatoes have been grafted upon potatoes by a French experimenter, whose hybrid plant produces tubers underground and tomatoes above.

Kangaroos are being exterminated in Australia nearly as fast as the seals in the Behring Sea. In Queensland alone 238,658 kangaroos and 522,658 wallabies were destroyed last year. Kangaroo tails for soup are being shipped to London by the ton.

Owing to the approach of the meeting of the Dominion Parliament and the consequent rush of business in the departments, it is not possible for the Fishery Department to detail one of its officers to attend the inter-state fisheries conference, which is to be held at Jacksonville, Fla., in January.

There is a big demand in British Columbia just now for strong and muscular canines suitable for dog trains in the Yukon, and representatives of the Northwest Mounted Police are securing all available animals and training them for their work. Many private persons are also scouring the country for dogs and some of the most unscrupulous are picking them up illegally. The dog catcher carefully investigates the physique of his quarry victims and is not nearly so ready to consign the unclaimed to execution, whilst the owners of the valuable big dogs are growing apprehensive lest their dogs be consigned to the Yukon without leave.

The Italian Minister of Finance, Signor Luzzatti, has made his financial statement in the Chamber of Deputies. It showed a surplus of 34,000,000 lire for the financial year of 1896-97. The result was considered especially gratifying, as the abundant wheat crop of Italy has largely decreased the custom receipts. The revised budget for the current year showed a surplus of 40,500,000 lire. Part of the surplus will be devoted to the establishment of a consolidated fund, to be devoted to the withdrawal of state notes, and the most efficacious method of extinguishing the premium on gold. Thus, next year over 30,000,000 lire of state notes will be redeemed. It is proposed to reduce the expenditures in Erythrea, the Italian colony on the east coast of Africa, from 9,000,000 to 5,000,000 lire and gradually withdraw the Italian troops from the plateau to the coast, and to Masowah, the port of debarkation and embarkation.

The United States is now regarded as the leading dairy country of the world. In 1889 the annual value of dairy products was estimated to exceed \$400,000,000, and the value of the milk cows about \$370,000,000. There are about 17,000,000 cows in the country, or one to every four inhabitants; one cow, however, furnishes the milk, butter and cheese for more than four persons, as large quantities of dairy products are exported.

DEMANDED TWO SERMONS.—Not seldom in Highland districts the attendance a church during unpropitious weather is but scanty. One minister, finding himself, on a boisterous Sunday, confronted with but one solitary auditor, who happened to be a gruff, outspoken character, took him into his confidence, with a view to propitiate him. "Will I go on with the sermon John? John gruffly: "Of course." Getting into the pulpit, and leaning over it, he asked: "Will I give you the Gaelic sermon or the English one?" John more gruffly still: "Gie's baith; ye're weel paid for 't."—Good Words.

LONDON, Dec. 2.—A special despatch from Shanghai, received this afternoon, announces that the Emperor of China has declared that he would rather forfeit his crown than agree to the conditions demanded by Germany as redress for the murder of the two German missionaries, Nies and Hennis, and the destruction of German property in the province of Shantung. Admiral Diedrich, the German commander of Kiao Chu Bay, the despatch further states, has proclaimed martial law in the district around Kiao-Chau. China, the despatch concludes, desires that her dispute with Germany be submitted to arbitrators appointed by Holland and Belgium.

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WINDS AND STORMS.

By a Banker

Although the atmosphere which we breathe when at rest is not apparent to any of the senses, being, when pure, absolutely invisible and devoid of odor, yet when in violent motion it exerts an almost irresistible power, the pressure upon each square foot exerted by a hurricane travelling at 100 miles an hour being no less than 49 lbs.; the impact against an average sized house exposed to the force of such a gale being therefore about 30 tons. It is true this does not approach the ordinary pressure of the atmosphere, which, upon such a house, is more than 5,000 tons, every square foot being exposed to a pressure of 18 cwt. The latter, however, is not felt, but if it were possible to withdraw the sustaining air from the interior by a great air pump, the weight of the external air would be so great that the house would immediately collapse. The force of an ordinary brisk wind travelling at 15 miles per hour is 1-lb. per square foot, while the force of a violent gale of 60 miles an hour is nearly 18 lbs.; the engine of an express train travelling at that pace has therefore in addition to the weight of the carriages which it draws, to push in front a dead weight of about 1,000 lbs., and a cannon ball of 3-lbs. weight, fired with a velocity of 1,800 feet, is calculated to meet with a resistance of 176 lbs., or 58 times its own weight.

As everything in nature is governed by fixed rules, we may fairly assume that wind and weather are also subject to established natural laws; at present, however, these laws have not been discovered, but if we ever succeed in finding out this undisclosed secret of nature it should be as easy to forecast the weather for an indefinite time in the future as it now is to foretell an eclipse or an occultation, and our almanac would indicate the daily weather at any given place. All we know at present is that if a "depression" as meteorologists call a more rarified state of the atmosphere, exists in any particular district of a continent, a movement of air will take place towards that district from the district where greater pressure exists, in other words a wind will spring up, more or less strong according to the intensity of the depression. And we also know that storms travel in circles; hence certain severe hurricanes are termed cyclones, and it is a singular fact that immediately outside the track of the cyclone a perfect calm, termed an anti-cyclone, may exist. A strange exemplification of this may be seen near Alum Bay, in the Isle of Wight. On the high cliff overlooking the bay is a cleft in the chalk shaped like the letter V, and when a very strong south or south-easterly gale is blowing the wind rushes perpendicularly up this cleft with such force that a walking stick, or a handkerchief with a fairly large stone in it, if thrown over the cliff down the cleft, is blown vertically upwards, and is then caught by the horizontal wind and shot inland 70 or 80 feet. But if two steps be taken to the side of the cleft a perfect anti-cyclone is found to exist, and a feather might almost be held in the hand without being blown away.

Depressions in the atmosphere, however, are not the sole cause of winds, for the "trade wind" is due jointly to the rapid movement of the earth at the equator—1,100 miles an hour as compared with 660 miles at the latitude of 45 degrees—and to the fact that the heat of the tropical sun rarifies the air to a greater extent in that zone. And explosions cause violent winds; as for instance when an 81 ton gun is fired it will blow off every hat not securely fixed on the wearer's head, for a considerable radius round the fort, and before firing notice is given by the authorities to the houses in the neighbourhood warning the people to open their windows otherwise they would be broken.

The most severe storm which has ever occurred in England of which we have any record appears to have been the "Great Storm" of November 27th, 1703, which filled the whole kingdom with terror, unroofing 100 churches, destroying 1,200 ships, barges, &c., 8,000 persons being drowned, uprooting 250,000 timber trees, and doing incalculable damage throughout the country, the air being at times almost darkened with the objects carried about with the violence of the wind.

We may conjecture that some such storm was present to St. Paul's mind when he alluded to those weak ones who were "carried about by every wind of doctrine." And at the present time there are multitudes of such; people of weak faith who have forsaken the simple gospel truths taught them in their childhood, and have tried to believe in the various new or resuscitated doctrines which are not so rare, which put the Bible in the back-ground, and detract from the all sufficiency of the Atonement as a substitutionary sacrifice for sin. Let all such follow St. Paul's advice and "prove all things," and if any doctrine has no warranty for it in the Word of God—let them be advised to eschew it.

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