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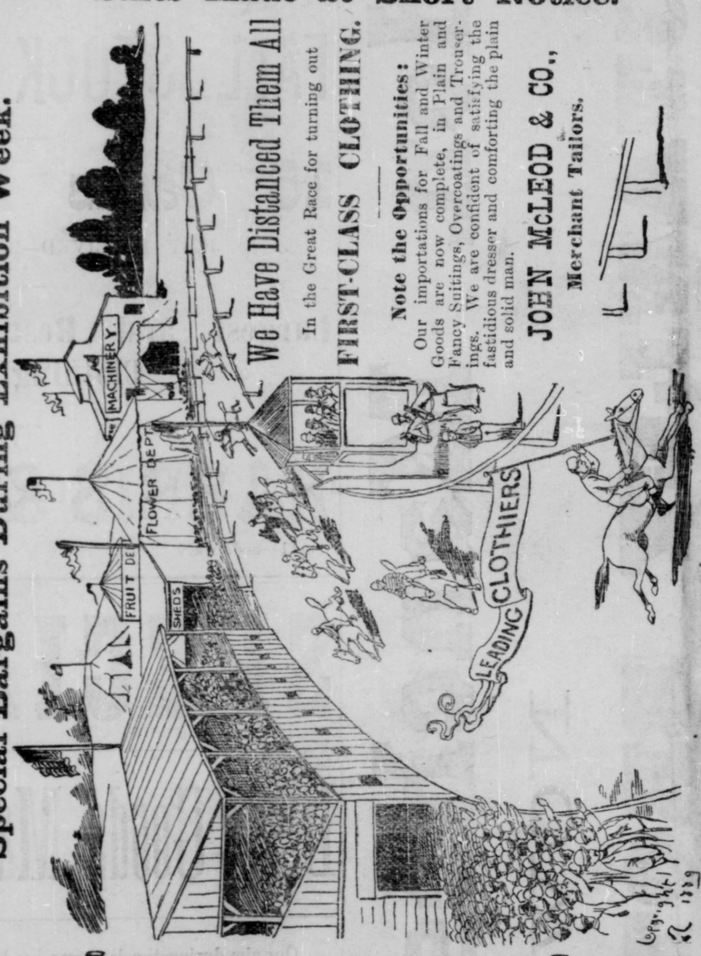

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with lame back and headache, and have been much benefited by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I am now 80 years of age, and am satisfied that my present health and prolonged life are due to the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla."—Lucy Moffitt, Killingly, Conn.

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Prime Labrador Herring.

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sept23

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FRED. W. HYNDMAN,
Agent for P. E. I.

Charlottetown, Aug. 6, 1889—tf

Varia.

A few weeks ago in this column I gave place to an American writer's criticism of the bagpipes. From a literary point of view the criticism is exceedingly amusing, but I fear that I have unintentionally given offence to some who admire the music of the bagpipe. I cannot say that I agree with the writer in question. I merely gave the extract because I thought the writer's manner of describing the pipes very amusing.

***

The bagpipe should be entitled to our highest respect. In the wars of Scotland they had no unimportant part. Even to the present day the Scottish regiments go into action to the music of the bagpipes. and was it not the pibroch, which to the sharp ears of Jessie Brown and the worn-out garrison of Lucknow, told of the approach of Havelock and his army of deliverers. Never, I fancy, was sweeter music ever heard by that imprisoned garrison than the bagpipes of their rescuers.

***

Of course there are different ways of playing the bagpipes. The harsh, unknown tunes which we hear sometimes by untutored players, cannot for a moment be compared to the music which an accomplished piper is able to produce. One can hardly help admiring the pipers, or being delighted by their music, when they are seen and heard marching at the head of a regiment of Highlanders; but it is a very different thing when one is forced to listen to an enthusiastic but unfamiliar player as he tortures the unfortunate instrument. Under such circumstances I am afraid the listener would not conceive a very favorable opinion of the music

***

Beautifully as the pipers of a Scottish regiment play, there is a certain time in the day when the most patriotic Highlander would be loth to admit the fact. This is in the early morning. Any one who has lived in a garrison town or who has been stationed in a military camp, can understand the feelings of the sleepy soldiers when they are awakened at the reveille on early winter morning, and are forced out of their beds by the pipe tune of "Hey, Johnie Cope, are ye wauking yet?" as the pipers march up and down blowing as hard as they can. However pleasant the music is at other times, it is entirely disregarded at reveille, and the exclamations which are made by the soldiers as they dress for parade are generally the reverse of flattering.

***

The complaints of the soldiers are, after all, selfish. I think that Robert Buchanan, in that delightful comic poem, "The Wedding of Shon McLean," very beautifully describes the music of the bagpipes:—

"Like the whistling of birds, like the humming of bees,
Like the sough of the south wind in the trees,
Like the singing of angels, the playing of shawms,
Like ocean itself with its storms and its calms,
Were the pipes of Shon when he strutted and blew."

And again:—

"Then Shon took the pipes! and all was still,
As silently he the bags did fill,
With flaming cheeks and round bright eyes,
Till the first faint music began to rise.
Like a thousand laverocks singing in tune,
Like countless corn-craiks under the moon,
Like the smack of kisses, like sweet bells ringing,
Like a mermaid's harp, or a kelpie singing,
Blew the pipes of Shon; and the witching strain
Was the gathering song of the Clan McLean.',

Twenty pipers "a' fu together, came o'er the heather" to Shon's wedding, and if they were fu' when they arrived they must certainly have been overloaded when they went away, for the last lines of the poem are devoted to them and the fates which befell them, as follows:—

"The small stars twinkled over the heather
As the pipers wandered away together;
But one by one on the journey dropt,
Clutching his pipes and there he stopt!
One by one on the dark hillside
Each faint wail of the bagpipe died,
Amid the wind and the rain!
And the twenty pipers at break of day
In twenty different bogholes lay,
Serenely sleeping upon their way,
From the wedding of Shon McLean.

***

A correspondent asks the origin of the strange name Qu'Appelle, one of a Canadian diocese, of the English Church. I believe it comes from the Indian word *Katepwa*, signifying "who calls," the same almost as Qu'Appelle.

***

"S. M." wants to know the meaning of "*Italia Irredenta*," a term evidently of political importance." This is so. It refers to a political organization, promoted in Italy some years ago. It aims at freeing all Italians from foreign rule, and re-unit-to the Italian kingdom all those portions of former Italy which have passed under foreign domination. It is especially directed against Austria, the chief sphere of the agitation being the South Tyrol and Trieste.

***

A correspondent asks the date and particulars of the first bible printed for the use of the blind. I have a pretty full account of this bible in my notebook, but by a strange oversight I omitted putting down the date. It was printed by Mr. Alston at Blind Asylum, Glasgow, and is in 15 volumes, super-royal, quarto, double pica. There are 2,470 pages, each page containing thirty-seven lines. The paper was made on purpose, strongly-sized to retain the impression. In order to account for the great size of the work, it must be remembered that it can only be printed on one side of the paper, and that the letters require to be of considerable size in order to suit the touch. The printing is effected by a copper-plate printing press. The types being strongly relieved and liable to give way under the heavy impression required, it was found necessary to have them recast four times during the progress of the work. There was in the operative department one man and one boy as compositors, who were taught in the institution, and one pressman, the ordinary teacher acting as corrector of the press. The New Testament was completed in four volumes, super-royal, quarto, in great primer. It contains 623 pages, forty-two lines on each page.

Death of Mr. T. A. Lepage.

AN EXPRESSION OF THE FEELINGS OF HIS FELLOW-TEACHERS.

THE following short and hastily-written summary of the speeches delivered by members of the Teachers' Association respecting their lamented fellow-worker, now at rest, was prepared for THE EXAMINER of yesterday, but was unavoidably crowded out of that issue:—

Mr. Montgomery said he had long known Mr. Lepage, and that he had never, in all his life, met anyone whose character he more admired. His life was a great moral lesson to all teachers and to everyone who knew him. In his opinion, no teacher who labored in the province had exerted as much influence for good as Mr. Lepage. He had never met a more unselfish man. Nothing could be more beautiful or more impressive than Mr. Lepage's life in respect to his parents and his brothers and sisters. The impress which he made upon the teaching profession would, he believed, never be removed. As a friend, he had frequently had occasion to ask Mr. Lepage's advice and assistance in complicated and annoying cases connected with his office as Superintendent of Education, and had ever found him judicious, sympathetic, and honorable. In respect to the views Mr. Lepage entertained regarding the future state he would only say—"If there is another world, he lives in bliss, If there is not, he made the best of this."

Mr. Neil McLeod, Principal of the Davies School, Summerside, seconded the resolution, and said that Mr. Lepage's life had been for him an object lesson—an object lesson which presented an ideal of what a man should be. He was Mr. Lepage's fellow-student for a short time, and he felt that the influence exerted by Mr. Lepage had been for his good. He referred to Mr. Lepage's characteristic devotion to his home duties as well as to those relating to his office of teacher, his pre-eminent unselfishness, his great ability as a writer,—the terseness, clearness, and accuracy of his diction, and the concentration of thought exhibited by his poetry. His sonnet, *Ecce Homo*, showed that he had an elevated conception of the Lord Jesus Christ. His self-sacrificing life showed that, whatever his doubts on some points, he was full of the Master's spirit.

Mr. Seaman briefly and feelingly expressed his appreciation of Mr. Lepage's life and work, and bore testimony to his sincerity and earnestness. The loss sustained by the Association and the province would, he believed, be felt more and more as time goes on.

Mr. Kiley spoke of Mr. Lepage's pre-eminent ability as a teacher. He had been one of Mr. LePage's scholars, and he felt that he had been made a better man by reason of the influence exercised by Mr. LePage in Prince of Wales College.

Mr. Thompson also spoke as one who had been a pupil under Mr. LePage. He, too, bore testimony to the high ability of the deceased. He believed that Mr. LePage's influence will be felt almost as long as our educational system continues to exist.

Mr. Arbuckle, (Inspector of Schools) remarked upon Mr. LePage's pure love of duty as a son, a pupil and a teacher.

Mr. Stewart, of Georgetown, concurred in what had been said by others: Mr. LePage approached as near to perfection as any man he ever met.

Professor McLeod said that Mr. LePage was the very essence of unselfishness, and suggested that a tablet or oil painting should be obtained and placed in the room in which the Association met as a memorial of him.

Dr. Anderson said that he had known the deceased since he was six years old—a precocious little boy at Sunday School. As a pupil of Prince of Wales College, he was one of the few who attained to the highest rank; and as a teacher he was one of the most enthusiastic, assiduous, and in every way excellent. His unselfishness was a very marked feature of his character.

The President (Mr. Millar) spoke briefly. Mr. LePage was, he said, without doubt *facile principas* among the teachers of the Province.

The speakers and the hearers were alike visibly affected during the delivery of the speeches.

The resolution was carried by an unanimous standing vote.

It was afterwards, on motion of Mr. Seaman, seconded by Miss Barr, resolved that committee be appointed to obtain a suitable memorial of the deceased, to be placed in the room in which the Association meets.

It is natural that in the absence of any clue to the Whitechapel murderer, the public imagination should run riot, and all sorts of theories start into existence as to the kind of fiend who is committing these atrocities and startling the whole civilized world. A correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* suggests that the Whitechapel horror is perpetrated by a veritable Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. This extraordinary creation of fiction was a nature indulging its propensities for crime under a different personality, and escaping detection by transforming itself back into its virtuous character, the change being effected through the agency of drugs. We have the assurance of the poet, and the experience of actual life, that truth is stranger than fiction, so, perhaps, the Jekyll-Hyde theory may be admitted to the circle of the possibilities in the various hypotheses regarding the Whitechapel murders. Certainly, it is one of the most skilfully conceived excuses yet put forward for the failure of the London police to bring the offender to justice.