

# SWEEPING ON!

After an experience of 21 years we find ourselves to-day in a position to offer to the Great Army of

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS

Better Bargains than ever. We emphasize the fact that we mean what we say, and that is, we are

## Headquarters For Bargains.

Be careful that you don't buy an article elsewhere and pay more for it. Twenty cents, fifty cents and one dollar savings are worth looking after.

## WHAT WILL YOU HAVE?

We will merely mention some of the Articles you can find in our Stock.

**GLOVES**—Black and Colored, Lined and Unlined, at \$1.00; regular price, \$1.25.

**HANDKERCHIEF DEPARTMENT**—We simply challenge any house in town to give you better for your money, from 5c. to 50c.

## HEALTH UNDERWEAR.

A large assortment for Children, Women and Men. The Hygiene and Magnet brands. Every article guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction.

**LINEN DEPARTMENT**—Table Scarfs, Tray Cloths, Bureau Scarfs, D'yoleys, Fine Towels, Table Covers and Napkins. We still keep up our reputation in Dress Goods: Ladies' Jackets in Cheviots, Covert and Beaver Cloths, all well made and marked down.

## Men's Reefers, :: Boys' Ulsters.

Too great stress cannot be placed on our Men's Reefers. The celebrated Rugby Waterproof, for Teamsters or any class of men who are obliged to be out doors in cold or stormy weather.

## FUR GOODS.

In this department we have exceeded any previous year's sale by all odds. We have still left Ladies' Seal and Astrachan Capes, Jackets, Caps and Muffs. Gents' Coon, Bear and Wombat Coats at great bargains.

## BOOTS AND SHOES.

Our whole Stock at Cost. Men's, Women's and Children's **SLIPPERS** at 25 cents, worth 50 cents.

**DRESS GOODS** in all Colors, Makes and Styles.

**CASHMERES** marked down from 65c. to 39c.

**SAMPLE DRESS LENGTHS**—Only a few left, in all-wool, marked down.

**SILK WAIST BARGAINS**—The balance of our Sample and Odd Waists in a variety of styles.

Now don't forget to call and see what we have got, for we can't positively enumerate our whole stock, only remember there are Bargains on all sides.

## SAUNDERS BROS.

### RANDOM REVERIES. Continued

#### CHURCHES—MINISTERS—PEOPLE.

For some time past, we have been in something of a quandary—asking ourselves, how it comes to pass, that with a well educated and efficiently trained clergymen, and enlightened layman, our church thermometers and church barometers too, seem both persistently going down, indicating decrease in our religious temperature, and predicting trouble in the future. The clergy have evidently, to a considerable extent, lost a great amount of the influence over their parishioners, at least in religious matters, which they formerly wielded; and, in many places, their congregations are drifting away from them. Even where this is not the case, hearers are becoming more and more indifferent, both to public teaching and private exhortation. There is thus a very decided change in the reciprocal attitude of Church and World, especially in respect of 'the dogmas and restraints of religion.' Formerly ministers spoke to their flocks with a stereotyped *ex cathedra* air, almost under an assumed garb of infallibility, which they dare not now parade and flaunt before individual or charge. Furthermore, they seem to have little or no hold on the affections of their people.

Whence has come the change? It is not because the clergy are less learned expounders and less apt illustrators of divine truth than formerly. It is not that they are less eloquent and less persuasive exhorters than before. It is not that both in public and in private life they are less forcible exemplars of godliness than the ministers of other days. Not at all. Indeed, we question much, if ever there was a period in the past history of the Christian Church that could have presented a more imposing array of really talented, highly educated and thoroughly trained clergymen than the present day, of men in a position to avail themselves of all the varied and extensive secular and theological educational resources of the latter half of the 19th century, of many of which their fathers knew little or nothing. There is, moreover, no lack of churches in the land, of public halls and school houses, at reasonable distances from our homes, where the gospel message may be heard. And we have in connection with our churches, Christian associations of almost every name, Christian Endeavor Societies, Epworth Leagues, S.S. Conventions, Temperance Organizations, *et hoc genus omne*, all working along the same or similar lines, all attending most scrupulously to routine, but doing very little mission work in haunts of social vice. Yet, with

all these aids to devotion and christian work, churches seem to be losing ground, so far as we can see. True, we blot a good deal about our Foreign missions; but it has been again and again insisted, with what amount of justice we are not prepared to say, that many of them, at least, as far as expenditure of means and work and returns are concerned, will not stand a very close scrutiny. The fact remains and cannot be denied by an intelligent observer, that, at any rate, in the old christian lands, the church has of late years lost much of the hold, it formerly had on the world, whatever conquests it may have achieved in lands it has reclaimed during these years from pagan darkness. At home its influence over the masses seem on the decline, a fact emphasized by the weakening hold that clergymen have on the every day life of the people, and by the increasing tendency of men, nominally christian, to drift farther and farther away from standards of faith and practice, which the clergy are supposed to have established and to abide by. Now, where are we to look for the real cause of this decline, this drifting away from 'the grand old fundamentals.'

Comparing the present with the past, it is no solution of the difficulty to say, that very strict observances in one age have been followed by great relaxations in the next, that men emancipating themselves from very stringent beliefs and strictest practices, imposed by clerical or other authority, are apt to run into opposite extremes; for, although the reaction from old clerical influence, such as that of *Puritanism*, is still in some quarters under way, the spirit of *Puritanism* still affects popular thought. The state has now become, what many have deemed the church should be, a Power, to originate laws prohibiting the unlimited sale of intoxicating liquors and regulating the observance of the Sabbath by fine and imprisonment, according to ideas, originated in times, when the clergy were all powerful. Neither do we think that it is conscious and honest skepticism on the part of many that is undermining the influence of the clergy. There is no doubt much loose free thought in the shape of rationalism etc. abroad; but, after all, a great many semi-infidel opinions are now bruited and paraded by men from a penchant for singularity, a love of notoriety or the gratification of vanity—by men who like to show themselves off and talk religious 'shop,' and, in many cases, just to hear themselves talk—'I walked by myself, and talked to myself; and myself replied to me.' Neither has the world, the flesh or the devil anything more to do now with defeating clerical influence than formerly, since the lust of the eye and the pride of life are not a whit more seductive and powerful than they ever were.

### Pembroke Items.

It was quite good sledding here last Monday, but the rain has taken all the snow off.

Mrs George Phillips is very low with consumption.

School was not to be closed till the 15th of the month, but it closed on the 9th on account of Mr McIntyre's death.

Mr John Colter killed a pig which weighed 570 lbs.

Master William Kerrigan is going home to spend the holidays.

Two dear boys went home in a frosty den, who were they?

Who got stuck on the Brownlow grade?  
Who got left one night? Topsy.

### Pledges Kept.

The Toronto *Globe* says:—It is fair that the Liberals should be held to their ante-election pledges, but they should not be bound by the ante-election yarns of their opponents. One of these yarns was that Manitoba was to be coerced, another that Canada was to be annexed to the United States, a third that the tariff was to be smashed and business ruined by a fiscal revolution. The Liberals protested that they would not coerce Manitoba, that they had no hankering after annexation, that they would not deal recklessly with the tariff, and that business would not suffer. Every one of these pledges has been fulfilled. The Manitoba question is settled, and if everybody is not satisfied with the settlement, there is no possibility of coercion. We are no nearer to annexation than before; on the contrary, the next session of Parliament will witness the completion of a plan by which Great Britain will obtain a preference of twenty-five per cent in Canada. The tariff has not been smashed as the Tories predicted, but revised on the lines promised by the Liberals. Business is not ruined, but is more prosperous than it has been for many years. And every time a Tory election yarn is falsified the howl is raised that some Liberal pledge has been violated. The measure of tariff reform that has been granted may not satisfy some Liberals, but it is in the right direction, and it is to be remembered that a considerable further reduction will be effected when the twenty-five per cent preference comes into force. After that most people will agree that there should be a period of rest. We should certainly not favor tinkering with the tariff every year.

Militia changes:—Sixty-seventh battalion, No. 3 company—Lieut. Charles W. Dickinson is permitted to resign his commission. To be second lieutenant provisionally, Ernest Stanley Kirkpatrick, vice Dickinson, retired. No. 9 company—Lieut. George R. Smith is permitted to resign his commission and retain the rank of lieutenant on retirement. To be second lieutenant provisionally, Sergeant Anson Aubrey Henry Margison, vice Smith, retired.