

Communications.

OUR LITERATURE.

The train of ideas that, perhaps, till then has slumbered, has at last had the firebrand applied, and as it reaches the storehouse of mind, honour, and rectitude will disappear and their places be usurped by Chicanery and Self, he can now sit calmly down to see if fate has not thrown in his path an opportunity like his of whom he is an imitator, and if the chance occurs, he is added to the number whom another may denominate Clever Fellows.

All moral writers of the present day concur in these opinions and coincide in these remarks, when speaking of the establishments of cheap Theatres, as far as regards their pernicious tendency to degrade and lower the intellect, by introducing plays on the Stage, whose actors figure as notorious rather than illustrious.

Now, in this community, where we are far from associations of this nature, the same insidious poison is infused amongst us in a different manner, yet still the pill that is sugar coated is similar in its effects to the one that lacks the saccharine matter, the system feels the same effects from the dose that is disguised from the palate of the patient, as if it had been administered in its crude and natural state.

If cheap theatres are the nursery places of vice, (as we are led to believe) where the novice in human nature will gradually assimilate his morals as near as possible to the standard which is placed before him, bedecked with gaudy colors and golden tinsel, that may be introduced with pleasure, allied with those prominent features that appeal so forcibly to the passions of the lower orders, (those whom I designate as such are those amongst whom delicacy of feeling is accounted effeminacy, and whose highest pleasure is not exalted above the cock pit and pugilistic ring;) and I now ask if the exhibition on the public stage is demoralizing in its effect, from the simple reason that youth is too prone to emulate that which appeals to the passions rather than the more reliable organ of reason. May we not infer that the same incidents, worked up perhaps to a fascinating volume, has the like tendency to evil.

Upon branches of the same tree have they grown, then how can we venture to draw a distinction between the fruit. No doubt those works may be read by a person who is in the habit of reading authors of standing, with safety, for the plot, character and language is so often repulsive and coarse, as to surfeit and disgust any person of a literary taste.

But on the youthful mind it exerts a different influence; the reading of one such book on the intellect that is fast expanding, is worse than a course of readings of like description when the mind has acquired its full vigour and matured its judgment.

Another evil that must essentially spring from the perusal of such works, is the tendency to give a distaste for works from which they cannot derive that excessive stimulus that such works impart.

The freebooter's chronicles must be examined, the jail breakers marvelous escapes must be duly commented on, the forger's skill and the harlot's progress must be carefully noted, the murderer's gallant bearing on the gallows must be expatiated upon, or else the works will be cast aside as a humdrum affair. No matter how faithfully the human passions are portrayed, no matter how faithfully depicted the ordinary affairs of life, how keenly satirised the human failings and vices, if something is not produced of the Blood and Thunder School, the work is below mediocrity in the refined and elevated taste of the morbid novel reading class.

The organ of taste is morally diseased, and if the remedy is not taken in time the disease extends and impairs the remainder of his intellectual system. There is also another class of novels very popular in this community which are destined to lead to far worse results than the preceding one, and which I blush to own are written by an Englishman, I mean Reynolds, whose pen and talents are equally devoted to the service of Mammon and Satan. He shows vice in such gorgeous colours, that he insensibly leads the mind astray, he gilds scenes which would disgrace a brothel, in such beautiful and impassioned language, that before the reader is aware, the passions that were, perhaps, till then slumbering, are raised to the highest pitch, and burn with volcanic fury within, and wants but the opportunity to range amongst those flowery paths which are stamped and painted upon the imagination, (and which it is so easy for a talented and licentious writer to describe), and which the readers will find, perhaps too late, to be only a delusion and snare.

But some contend that people who are not in the habit of reading, may be struck by the glaring titles of these works, and be induced to commence, and in course of time be led to try works of more stability and moral worth. I acknowledge that in some cases such may be the result, but it is a dangerous experiment, and tending with a subject that may lead to serious mischief. Apply the same reason in this manner; give a youth of ardent passions and excitable character, a glass of any alcoholic drink daily for a given space of time, and then at the expiration of that term, ask him if he would not prefer tea before spirits; it strikes me tea would be the discarded fluid, although his reason may tell him his preference is injurious, his senses counterbalance the weight of reason by force of habit or custom. Pleasures, whether simple or sinful, are the natural fruit of excitement, and so long as novel readers seek for nothing more

in reading than excitement, so long will the class of novels that I have spoken of, be the volumes most eagerly sought after.

And yet with a knowledge of all this, and in direct opposition to that which is virtuous and good, men can be found who can so prostitute themselves as to publicly expose for sale those very volumes, breathing the grossest immorality and tending but to ruin the welfare of any community in which they exist. And who for the accursed love of lucre, will make a market of moral poison, and pander to a vitiated and depraved taste.

Dear "Progress."

You are anxious to know my reason for supposing that "Silver Lake" will ever be far away from human habitation, and enquire "why at no very distant day, it should be less frequented than the spot I have chosen for my habitation?" The reason is obvious; the forest has receded so slowly before the axe of the farmer, that taking our past history as a criterion by which to form an opinion, centuries will have to pass over us before the Lake will become ruralized. I should be glad to think with you, "that at no very distant day it will be frequented," and perhaps a settlement spring up round its borders, but the imagination will have to be largely taxed to come to such a conclusion.

The only hope I can give you, is in the Inter-colonial Railway, if the "Reporter" will allow us the northern route, in that case it would pass perhaps within a short distance of the Lake, and if you and I are alive and well at that period and I can find out "your local habitation and your name," I shall be most happy to give you a cordial invitation to "Silver Lake," to partake of a supper of "twigged trout."

ANON.

October 27, 1858.

News of the Week.

EUROPE.

Four Days Later News by the "Pacific."

A Telegram at the Merchants' Exchange on Friday last from St. Johns, N. L., announces the arrival at that port, morning of 21st inst., of the steamship Pacific from Galway. As this fine vessel left Galway on 14th inst., her passage is certainly a most extraordinary one for the season. Among the passengers in the Pacific are Lord and Lady Bury and suite who are to make the tour of British North America. The published statements as to the object of His Lordship's visit are contradictory—some asserting that it is of a political nature while others contend that Lady Bury, who is a daughter of Sir Allan McNab, is coming to Canada to pay a visit to her father, and that her husband accompanies her ladyship with no other object in view.

The Commercial news continues unimportant. Cotton market steady. Breadstuffs inactive, quotations nominal. Tea market quoted firm. Coffee also firm. The Corporation of Limerick have started a project for transatlantic line between France and America. The late Equinoctial gale occasioned considerable damage to shipping in the German Ocean, and several wrecks, with loss of life had occurred. The new Company for completing the steamship Great Eastern has been delayed by non-attendance of Directors of the old association to complete the necessary forms.

France has exempted from navigation duties, for another year, cargoes of corn, flour, rice, and vegetables. The German Bank at Frankfurt has again advanced the rate of discount to five per cent.

Four French ships-of-war, have arrived at Lisbon.

The Paris Presse has published the correspondence between the United States Minister and Nicaraguan foreign minister of that Republic, touching convention of M. F. Belly. The American minister declares that no arrangement of Nicaragua with Belly shall be recognized or assented to, in any thing that is contrary to just rights acquired by American citizens, and that the liberal policy resulting from the Transit Treaty of November last shall be constantly maintained. The Nicaraguan minister replies that his Government wishes only justice and its rights, desires friendly relations with the United States, but declares Transit treaties of no value, because the route was not opened at the stipulated period. M. Belly appealed to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty for protection, and Lord Malmesbury, in a letter to Belly, tells him the "stipulation of that Treaty in his opinion, apply to this scheme if carried out."

Liverpool Breadstuffs Market, Oct. 11.—The market for Breadstuffs continues quiet, and all articles are nominally unchanged.

From the East.—The Cholera is said to have carried off thirty thousand persons at Mecca. The Calcutta mail of Sept. 9th, reached Suez 3rd inst. The news is unimportant. Hong Kong dates are to Aug. 24th. Canton affairs are reported to be satisfactory. In punishing the late outrage at Namtow, Gen. van Straubenzie (British) with 700 men sacked and burned that place. Troubles at Ningpo continued. Trade at Hong Kong was dull.

Russia.—The nobility of the government of Yver, in Russia, who were among the first to form committees for the emancipation of the serfs, have lately sent an address to the Emperor, praying that the measure might not be carried into execution in that province. The Emperor did not receive the address favourably,

and said that measure should be executed notwithstanding any opposition of the nobility. "The emancipation," the Emperor is said to have replied, "will be carried into effect simultaneously throughout the whole of the empire, and I will not allow any part of my states to be deprived of the benefit of it." During his journey, the Emperor would not accept any vote on the part of the nobility in the governments where they have shown themselves hostile to the measure.

Prussia.—The old King fights manfully with death and disease; it is a painful spectacle, but rendered still more so by his death clutch at the sceptre, and his unwillingness to part with money bags and the insignia of royalty. Dr. Frerriess, the celebrated physician in lunacy cases, who was called in by the court physicians to give his opinion on the state of the King, before the royal journey to Tegegnsee, has again been summoned to Berlin.

Great difficulty has hitherto been experienced in finding medical men willing to give a certificate that there is no hope of the King's ever recovering his faculties again to fit him to undertake the responsible duties of sovereignty, without which the Prince of Prussia was naturally disinclined to take the initiative and claim the Regency. The same difficulty is still in existence, for neither Dr. Ronberg, nor Professor Schoenlin, nor Dr. Grimm, can be prevailed upon to subscribe their names to such a document.

WEST INDIES.

Later from Havana.—Advices are to 10th inst. The loss of life by the recent explosion exceeded three hundred. The Prensa notices a remarkable incident as one of the results of the shock—no less than the restoration to reason of a lady who had entirely lost her mind six months since, from severe sickness. During the whole of that period she did not recognize any one—not even her parents. When the explosion took place, she was instantly thrown into violent paroxysms, which were considered an indication of speedy dissolution. The paroxysms gradually subsided, and her reason was entirely restored. Of the cargo of the *Haidoo* from Africa, 240 died on the passage to Havana, of starvation. The weather was cool and agreeable. The fever had almost entirely subsided. The unacclimated are advised not to visit Cuba just now. A concession has been granted to parties in Havana, authorizing them to introduce eighty thousand more Asiatics, free Colonists. A Havana correspondent says:—Let them but introduce a hundred thousand additional Asiatics, and then we shall see a war of races here in Cuba—the Asiatics and Negroes combined against the present dominant race!—*Halifax Journal*.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Murder in Halifax.—A marine of the name of Archibald Downey, of H. M. S. Indus, committed murder on the Common yesterday, about noon, under the following circumstances.—Three mariners, one of them the murderer, were seated by the pond near the Horticultural Gardens, in company with three colored women, drinking malt liquor, when a Mr. Adamore was passing along with his fowling piece. Mr. A. was importuned to join them, and while he was in the act of drinking, Downey seized his gun and fired the contents into the face of one of the women, the charge entering her mouth. The murderer promptly made off, but was soon caught by the Police and committed for trial. The name of the woman, who survived only a very brief time, we learn, is Mary Stevenson. The evidence given on the Coroner's Jury, held on the body of the colored woman, Stevenson, shot on the Common, was of a conflicting nature, and upon the whole so favourable to the prisoner that a verdict of accidental death was returned. No altercation between deceased and Downey had occurred previous to the discharge of the gun, and consequently no motive could be traced for the committal of the fatal act.—*Halifax Chronicle*.

Admiralty Circular.—It has been decided by the Lords of the Admiralty, that all officers, clerks, artificers, workmen, and others employed in the Royal Dockyards of the Realm, shall henceforth be superannuated on their attaining the age of 70 years, the new regulation to take effect on the 1st November, 1858. This decision of their Lordships will, of course, apply to the case of several of the old hands in Her Majesty's Dockyard in this city.

Another Fire at Dartmouth.—The alarm of fire at midnight on Saturday last was occasioned by the burning of the old Ferry House in the Dartmouth Cove, on the site formerly known as the Lower Ferry. One of the steamers came over to the city as soon as practicable, and embarked Nos. 1 and 2 Engines, with their Hose Carriages, and that of No. 6. On reaching the other side of the harbor, the building was found to be burned to the ground, and the boat returned without landing any of the apparatus or party on board. Much relief was experienced when it was found that the fire was not at the fine Factory in the immediate vicinity, owned by J. Y. Mott, Esq., as many persons on this side at first feared. The old Ferry House was a tumble down affair, utterly valueless, and being unoccupied, was probably set on fire by some mischievous person. The old house has a history, if it could be written. Not a few of the now old fellows in Halifax drank their first glass of milk punch on the premises; and scores of the grandmothers of today listened to the soft persuasive accents of love at the old Ferry, and were wooed and won beneath the spreading branches of the noble

trees which have during the past sixty years imparted so much beauty to the locality in question.

The Truro Railway.—The Colonist learns that Messrs. Blackie and Johnston have given formal notice to the Railway Board, that their section of the Truro line, extending to the Shubenacadie, will be fully completed to open for traffic by the 1st of November.

The Dartmouth Marine Railway will be ready for business in a fortnight.

The Signal Staffs at the Citadel will be all at once again in a few weeks.—*Halifax Magazine*.

The Atlantic Telegraph Company have sold their lead mines in Newfoundland to parties for two hundred thousand dollars. Several cargoes of the metal have arrived, and are on their way to Boston. It averages 80 per cent, and is frequently cut out in pure lumps, being esteemed equal in richness to any in the world.—*Halifax Sun*.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Progress of the Railroad.—We are informed by practical persons along the line, who thoroughly understand what has been doing all summer, is being done now, and the amount of work to be completed, that, by ordinary exertions, the track can be opened all the way from the "nine mile station" to Groom's Bridge (except the bridge at Hammond River, which can be managed in a temporary way, if required) by Christmas Day. The public, no doubt, would be indulgent to this extent.—But if the works are not pushed more than they have been, as a general thing, the road will not be opened before sometime next summer. We consider, then, that the responsibility of having the road opened this winter for traffic, will devolve upon the Government; and if they do not assume this responsibility at the proper time, we shall have to remind them of an important neglect of duty. We believe, however, that they will exhibit the right spirit at the right time, and take this work into their own hands. We shall know better, however, in the course of a few weeks, and report accordingly. At all events, the country people should be able to make use of the railroad to bring their produce to town for Christmas.

P. S.—Since writing the above a friend informs us that he just now had an interview with Mr Crosby, the bridge contractor at Hammond River, and that gentleman says he has got the works so far forward that he can put up a temporary bridge, fit for the train to pass over, at three weeks' notice; he has the material and everything in readiness for that purpose; so that it shall not be said that he will be in the way of the opening of the road this season. Well done Crosby.—*News*.

Horrible Death.—On Friday night last Mr John Gilbreath, of Lyndfield, St. James, was burned to death. It appears that his barn had taken fire and he rushed into it for the purpose of saving his horse if possible, but while attempting to do this his own clothes took fire, and though he ran towards a brook but a few rods off for the purpose of extinguishing them, he fell in the effort, and was unable, from the tortures caused by his clothes, to rise, and he died before help from the neighbors could reach him. The barn was consumed with all its contents, including the horse and his hay and grain crops of several tons.—*St. Croix Herald*.

The Sackville Borderer says:—Mr Robinson from the United States, has lately opened a Stone Quarry at North Joggins, from which building stone of excellent quality is procured. About twenty men are already at work; and Mr R. intends employing 100 more next spring.

FRASER RIVER.

The Sea Bird and Wilson G. Hunt arrived at Victoria from Fraser River, but brought no news of special interest. The river still continued high, and the miners were still waiting for the waters to fall. Nothing has been heard of Gov. Douglas's proceedings.

The depression still continues in Victoria.—Merchandise is selling at very low prices.—Merchants can be seen in all the streets, in front of their stores, wearing very gloomy faces, and watching in vain for customers. There is nevertheless a considerable degree of confidence that the mines will prove ultimately rich, though many doubt whether they will be able to sustain themselves until the day of prosperity.

The steamer Sea Bird, which had been aground on a bar in Fraser River twelve miles below Fort Hope, since the 24th of June, was successfully launched on the 2nd inst., and arrived safely at Victoria. She will now run regularly between Victoria and Fort Langley.—She will connect with the Enterprize, under command of Capt. John Wright, which will run between Fort Hanglely and Fort Yale.

CANADA.

The Toronto Colonist says:—"The people of England, bad as they deem our politicians to be, would hardly believe that there are scores of the members who make a living out of the \$3 a day, which is the parliamentary allowance, that many of these sleep two in a bed in small garrets at \$3 a week, in order to make a profit of the business; and that in the case, at least of one half the Assembly, the e is neither the reading, the intelligence, nor the independence of the English mechanic. We say people of the mother country, little as they think of our public m n, would think any such picture as we have drawn a mere sketch of the imagination, and yet, as we all know to our cost, it is