

PROGRESS.

EDWARD S. CARTER, (.....) EDITORS. WALTER L. SAWYER, (.....)

SUBSCRIPTIONS, \$1 a year, in advance; 50 cents for six months; 25 cents for three months; free by carrier or mail. Papers will be stopped promptly at the expiration of time paid for.

ADVERTISING RATES will be given on application. The edition of PROGRESS is now so large that it is necessary to put the inside pages to press on Thursday, and no changes of advertisements will be received later than 10 a. m. of that day. Advertisers will forward their own interests by sending the copy as much earlier than this as possible.

News and opinions on any subject are always welcome, but all communications should be signed. Manuscripts unsuited to our purpose will be returned if stamps are sent.

The composition and presswork of this paper are done by union men.

EDWARD S. CARTER, Publisher. Office: No. 27 Canterbury St. (Telegraph Building)

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, DEC. 8.

CIRCULATION, 5,000.

The demand for files of "Progress" has so far reduced our supply of certain issues that we can no longer allow subscriptions to begin with No. 1.

A few files of the first six months' issues (May 5-Oct. 27, inclusive) may be obtained at this office for \$1 each.

THE CHRISTMAS FETTER.

Who will organize a Christmas-Reform association and go down to posterity as the destroyer of some of the most obnoxious humbugging that ever made life a burden?

Is there in St. John, New Brunswick or Canada a man who has the strength of mind to withhold gifts from people whom he doesn't care for? Is there a Canadian girl who is rich enough in the possession of her womanhood to refuse gifts that have no affection back of them?

We call for volunteers to exterminate the nuisance of "present-swapping"!

There are well-meaning but weak-minded people with whom a new acquaintance is a friend beloved, who are happy in making gifts to everybody. There are other persons, of the calculating sort, who also make many gifts—to those who are likely to return something of equal or greater value. Both the well-meaning person and the bargainer expect an equivalent; and the deplorable fact is that none of us has the courage to refuse to render this tribute to custom.

It is not an exaggeration to say that to many who have slender purses the holiday season has become a time of anxiety rather than rejoicing; a prelude to a long series of pinching economies, made necessary by compliance with the fashion of gift-giving. Non-compliance, thanks to the fashion, involves the suspicion of "meanness"—and that is not to be borne. Fashion, indeed, has decreed it all. It is time that this fashion changed.

Instead of being "a day of rest and gladness," a time sacred to the memory of the past, the joy of the present and the hope of the future, a season of welcome to friends and gifts between those who love each other, Christmas is degenerating into the great bargain day of the year. Our modern "observance" of it shames its origin. The festival was not instituted that people mutually indifferent might match book against picture and trade vase for slipper-case. In heaven's name, let us keep this one day at least free from the contact of shop and market-place!

EIGHT THOUSAND TRAMPS.

Montreal is troubled to account for the nuisance of tramps, as shown by its police returns. Ten years ago, in 1878, the number of persons seeking refuge at the station houses was 2454, of whom 1641 were males. In 1888, up to the 1st of December, the number has been 7855, of whom 6183 were males. The increase has been steady from year to year.

For the last three weeks the number seeking protection has averaged 30 daily. The figures for the full year, therefore, will be between 8000 and 9000.

Something is wrong. What is it? A Grit journal might trace a connection between the advent of the high tariff party in 1878 and the beginning of the increase of tramps. It is probably only a coincidence. Nobody except very gullible voters believed that a protective tariff would give work to all who needed it. The masses should be thankful if, while making the capitalists richer, protection does not make the people appreciably poorer. They should be thankful that wages are so good as they are and that the cost of living is no greater than it is.

But why do 8,000 people, without homes and without work, seek the undesirable shelter of a police station in the most prosperous city of Canada in one year? Why should the increase be over 40 per cent. in ten years, while in the same time the increase of population has been only 25 per cent?

No one can assert that these 8,000 are all idle vagabonds. The chances are that the greater proportion would be glad to have work, if they could get it.

Tariffs may bring capital, and capital means a certain amount of work. It means too much work for some and not enough for all. There should be bread for all who

seek to gain it honestly, but there never will be, in Canada or elsewhere, as things now are. There will always be tramps, who ought to be workers, and who would be workers if they could.

The social system seems to be capable of improvement. How the improvement can be made is a profitable subject for study.

THEIR NAME IS MUD.

Work has been going on in the streets of Portland for the last week or two.

Just as the first cold weather came, a gang of men was sent to repair the road leading to Mount Pleasant. The job was not a new one.

Long before, the de jure aldermen of Ward Four undertook to have the work done. The property owners in the vicinity had promised to give \$150 toward the repairs, and there was every prospect that there would be a decent thoroughfare at last.

This did not suit the de facto aldermen, and the work was stopped after it had made considerable progress. The property owners withdrew from their agreement to pay the money they had promised.

Nothing more was done until the frost came and the ground began to get as hard as rock. Since then, the soft weather has favored operations a little and the crew is still pottering away.

It is only pottering. The required work cannot be done this fall, and much that is done will have to be done over in the spring.

In the meantime, the main streets of Portland, where properly directed labor would be of some use, are wholly neglected. They are rivers of mud. In some places the horrible filth is more than ankle deep.

This is only a very small specimen brick—made of mud—of the way the streets of the city are managed.

And of more than the streets it may be said, "their name is Mud."

Mr. T. CLARKE WALLACE, M. P., chairman of the House of Commons committee on combines, tells the Toronto Budget that at the next session he intends to re-introduce his bill for "regulating" these newest developments of commercial acuteness. It will be a popular measure, without doubt, but there is room to question the essential justice of it. Business men who form combines do nothing more than to carry the prevailing principle of competition to its logical conclusion—the annihilation of opposing effort. But what about the principle, itself, Mr. WALLACE?

The Halifax Recorder quotes PROGRESS as a "Tory" paper. It is not. Neither is it a Grit paper. It has no politics, save that the public good is the highest law. Being hampered by no political ties and under no party whip, it is free to praise or blame the powers that be on the merits of questions alone. And it does so. It is a paper for the people, and it means to tell the truth, no matter "whose ox is gored."

Whether the engine should be taken apart or the electric light station pulled down, was the question that exercised the civic intellect of Portland, Wednesday. It was finally decided. We shall wait with considerable interest to see whether the great minds across the boundary send the smoke up through the chimney or the chimney through the smoke.

Opinions differ as to the general tone of President CLEVELAND'S message. Unsympathetic Republicans hear in it the wail of a lost soul. Sad-hearted Democrats feel that it is the voice of one crying in the wilderness. The truth seems to be that the president, like other defeated candidates, is not "striking the keynote" so much as he was.

The unfortunate gentleman who "bought" the bluff weir has learned a lesson. He should have remembered that city corporations have no souls.

Spirit-messages recently received from the late JOHN CALVIN authorize the statement that nothing of his remains in CALVIN church—except the name.

Everyone Should See Them.

Two black and whites and four oil colors, the season's work of Mr. John C. Miles, A. R. C. A., have been on exhibition in the windows of Messrs. Barnes Bros.' book store during the week. All these paintings, but especially the black and whites, exemplify in a marked degree the fine perception, the sympathetic appreciation and the power of expression which Mr. Miles brings to his work. They deserve the careful consideration of all lovers of art. To such persons, it may be added, no Christmas gift that could be chosen would give greater or more enduring pleasure than these.

Worth Seeing.

The Last Loaf (postponed last week on account of the illness of Mr. Mason) will be performed in Berryman's hall, Thursday evening. The success of the dress rehearsals of this drama is a guarantee that the piece will be creditably performed by the Finch Dramatic company.

See the Programme Elsewhere.

St. Jude's church association, Carleton, will give one of its popular concerts and tea parties, Tuesday evening. Musical and elocutionary talent is so well represented in St. Jude's that the occasion cannot fail to be a pleasant one.

Holiday Goods!

C. FLOOD & SONS, 31 and 33 KING STREET.

OUR ASSORTMENT OF ELEGANT GOODS SUITABLE FOR Christmas and New Year Presents

A.T.S. excels anything heretofore offered by us. A visit of inspection is solicited.



CHRISTMAS CARDS AND BOOKS.

In this department our variety this season is large, and embraces all the leading publishers in CHRISTMAS CARDS and BOOKLETS, and our prices will be found low, as ALL THE STOCK MUST BE SOLD.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

As usual on our counters will be found all the new and interesting CHILDREN'S BOOKS of the season, in colors, etc., principal among which is the "BOYS' and GIRLS' OWN ANNUAL"; "ZIG-ZAGS" in the Antipodes; "THREE VASSAR GIRLS IN FRANCE"; "CHATTER-BOX"; "WIDE-AWAKE STORIES"; "PANSY"; "LITTLE MEN AND WOMEN"; "BABES OF THE YEAR"; "HISTORY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT"; in words of one syllable; "BABYLAND"; "THE NURSERY," and hundreds of other different books for children to select from. Our price on Children's Books has always been lower than elsewhere, and we still continue to give our usual HOLIDAY DISCOUNT.

ILLUSTRATED GIFT BOOKS.

We think you will find the choicest assortment of suitable GIFT BOOKS at our store for your convenience, and will mention a FEW OF THE LEADING ONES: "MILES STANDISH," illustrated by leading artists; "TENNYSON'S FAIRY LILLIAN," illustrated; "SEA VISTAS IN MANY CEIMES," illustrated by Susie Barstow Skelding; "BITS OF DISTANT LAND AND SEA," illustrated; "MODERN ART AND ARTISTS," by Millard Maquette, and others which it is impossible to enumerate.

STANDARD WORKS.

Dickens, 15 volumes, cloth, illustrated, \$8.70; Thackeray, 11 volumes, cloth, illustrated, \$8.50; Scott, 12 volumes, cloth, illustrated, \$8.70; Carlyle, Ruskin, Shakespeare, Washington Irving, at equally low prices. This lot is a special lot bought below regular rates, and must be cleared out. All the STANDARD POETS, in different bindings, including the Seal Russian Persian padded, that we sell at \$1.75; also, a complete assortment of BIBLES, PRAYER and HYMN BOOKS, published by the Oxford University Press.

OUR PRICES ARE LOWER THAN THE LOWEST ON BOOKS.

PEN AND PRESS.

W. H. Banks, an old St. John boy, has started a weekly paper called The Gold Hunter, at Caledonia, N. S. It deserves to strike a paudaleka.

The illustrated holiday edition of the Fredericton Farmer, issued this week, is creditable alike to the enterprising publisher and to the city. Its advertising patronage proves that the Celestial merchants know a good thing when they see it.

The Moncton Times continues to discuss the question, "Is Marriage a Failure." Considering that Thaddeus has tried the experiment twice, and that his mansion is decorated with a bouncing boy, there does not seem much room for discussion in his case.

The Boston Herald has been doing the kaleidoscope act with fair success during the last year, and now another change is rumored. John H. Holmes, journalist, is to retire from the management and Ed. A. Perry, newspaper man, is to take his place. The change will probably result in an improvement of the Herald. One thing is tolerably certain, Ned Perry will not put on as many "lugs" as Holmes. People who had business with the latter used to find his office as difficult of approach as the throne of an oriental potentate. When he consented to see a visitor he would come out of his room, shut the door behind him and have the conversation in the passage-way.

Christmas Cards, Booklets, from all leading manufacturers. 80 King Street, D. McArthur, wholesale and retail.

THE USUAL WAY.

This world is very funny, For no matter how much money Man is earning he will spend it and be hard up all the time. To his utmost he is straining To catch up without attaining, Till he makes his life a burden when it should be bliss sublime.

He who earns a thousand merely Thinks two thousand yearly Would be just about the figures to make happiness complete; But his income when it doubles Only multiplies his troubles, For his outgo then increasing makes his both ends worse to meet.

It is run in debt and borrow, Flush today and broke tomorrow, Financiering every way to postpone the day of doom; Spending money ere he makes it, And then wondering what takes it, Till he, giving up the riddle, looks for rest within the tomb.

Oh! this world is very funny To the average man whose money Doesn't quite pay for the dancing that he does before he should; And he kills himself by trying Just a little higher flying Than is suited for his pocket and his own eternal good. —Chicago Mail.

A HUNDRED YEARS TO COME.

The Poem Which Millions Have Read Without Knowing the Author's Name.

Who wrote the verses, "A Hundred Years to Come"? They are old and familiar. They have gone the rounds of the papers of America uncredited to anyone. They are included in the Bryant collection, and there given as anonymous. Very recently they appeared in a St. John letter written to the country papers, evidently by one who knew the name of the author, but still leaving that name undisclosed.

Hiram Ladd Spencer was the writer of the letter, and when questioned by PROGRESS he stated that he was the author of the verses. They were written by him when he was a boy at school, at Brandon, Vt., and were sent without his knowledge to the Voice of Freedom, published in that town. From that obscure county paper, with a circulation of 500 copies, they have spread over the universe. Every once in a while they take a fresh start and go the rounds again. Here they are:

Where, where will be the birds that sing, A hundred years to come? The flowers that now in beauty spring, A hundred years to come? The rosy cheek, The lofty brow, The heart that beats So quickly now,

Where, where will be our hopes and fears, Joy's pleasant smiles and sorrow's tears, A hundred years to come? Who'll press for gold this crowded street, A hundred years to come? Who'll tread you idle with willing feet, A hundred years to come? Pale trembling age And fiery youth, And childhood with Its brow of truth:

The rich, the poor, on land and sea— Where will the mighty millions be, A hundred years to come? We all within our graves will sleep, A hundred years to come; No living soul for us will weep, A hundred years to come; And others then Our lands will till, And other men Our homes will fill, And other birds will sing as gay, And bright the sun shine as to-day, A hundred years to come.

Enthusiastic Over It. Miss Hunter, of whom PROGRESS spoke last Saturday as wishing to teach a class in elocution, seems to have arrived in the city about the right time. She has already quite a class and is willing to agree with Miss McGarry's statement that "St. John is quite enthusiastic over elocution." Miss Hunter is at 4 Wellington row.

Go and See Them for Yourself. J. & A. McMillan have a splendid lot of tile goods on hand. Space and time permit of nothing but calling the attention of their customers to them.

WHAT BARNES & MURRAY OFFER:

Table listing various goods and their prices: REVERSIBLE WOOL SHAWLS, FASHIONED FELT SKIRTS, GENTS' SILK HANDKERCHIEFS, etc.

FANCY GOODS IN LIMITED QUANTITIES. We pay the car fare. Ours is the third store from Union street.

17 CHARLOTTE STREET. NEW CROCKERY STORE.

C. MASTERS, 94 King Street, - - - St. John, N. B.

RECEIVING NEW GOODS DAILY. Now showing full lines of NEW DESSERT, BREAKFAST, TEA, TOILETTE and PORRIDGE SETS, ROSE JARS, FIGURES; also, a large assortment of Hanging and Stand Lamps.

Prices Low. C. MASTERS.

Astrachan Gloves, Kid Faced—all sizes.

Knitted Gloves, WITH SPLICED FINGER TIPS, ALL SIZES, IN PLAIN COLORS; also, FANCY MIXTURES.

CASHMERE GLOVES, All sizes.

4-Button Kid Gloves, 35c., 55c. and 75c. PER PAIR.

RIBBONS for Fancy Work; Satins, Pushes, Velveteens.

Bargains in Cashmere Hose.

KNITTED WOOL SHAWLS—newest designs and colorings; KNITTED JACKETS, with and without sleeves, in slender woman's, woman's and out-size woman's; COTTON, MERINO and LAMBSWOOL UNDERVESTS—all sizes and shades.

SEE OUR CORSETS AT ONCE. A FINE ASSORTMENT OF DRESS GOODS, newest colorings—very cheap. ULSTER AND JACKET CLOTHS.

CASH ONLY. WALTER SCOTT, 32 and 36 South side King Square.

Confectionery and Christmas Novelties, HUGH P. KERR'S. - - Branch Store, KING STREET.

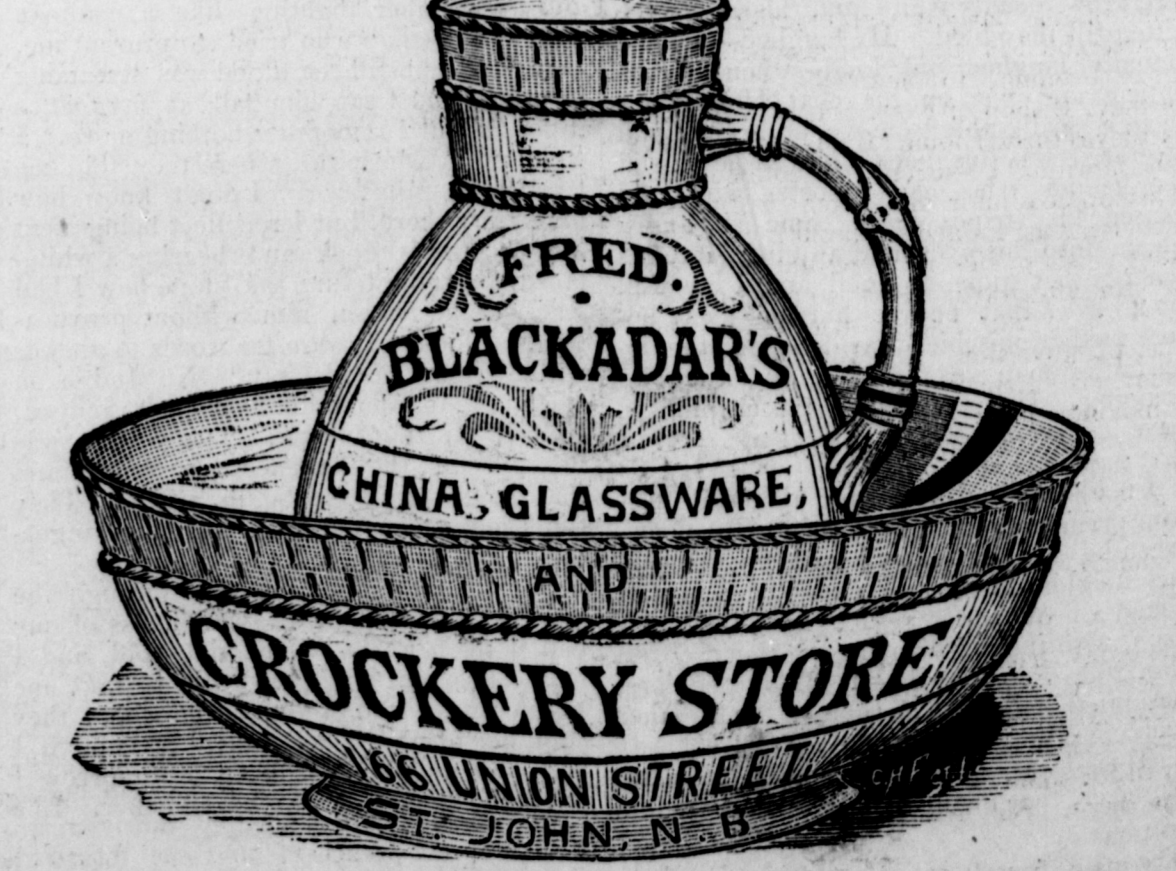
BARLEY SUGAR WHISTLES, VICTORIA CAKE, SPINNING TOPS, ALMOND BAR, BANJOES, MARSHMELLOES, SINGING CANARIES, WATCHES, CORNUCOPIES, NECKLACES, WEDDING CAKE ORNAMENTS, BUTTERFLY BASKETS, CHOCOLATE DROPS, in fancy boxes, BIRDS and ANIMALS, TABLETS.

TRY OUR SUPERIOR JAMS AND JELLIES. And don't fail to get a LITTLE PIG for the Xmas tree; also, a 5lb. box of our XMAS MIXTURE for \$1.00. SOMETHING NICE.

Money Made by Buying your DRY GOODS —AT— KEDEY & CO'S., 77 King Street.

BARGAINS NEXT WEEK IN DRESS GOODS, CLOTH SUITINGS, ULSTER CLOTHS and TWEEDS; a full line in Men's and Boys' SHIRTS and DRAWERS, CARDIGAN JACKETS; LADIES' VESTS, FLANNELS, BLANKETS and WOOL GOODS.

At prices that will make you buy. Call and see.



NEW PATTERNS IN CHEAP TEA AND DINNER SETS.