

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

Manchester, Robertson & Allison's Popular Store**AND WHAT A VISITOR FOUND THERE.**

Acres of Floor Space Filled to Overflowing With Useful and Beautiful Articles—The More Noticeable Goods in the Different Departments—Everything First-Class and as Cheap as It Is Attractive and Excellent.

St. John has many business firms that must certainly feel proud of, and chief among the works of these surely ranks the grand dry goods establishment of Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison.

Having a visitor, a few days ago, I invited her to thoroughly examine the dry goods establishments, and especially Messrs. M. R. & A.'s, so that she should no longer feel veridant as the fields when her American cousins came to pay the annual visit. Then we were to ferret out the editor of the most extensively read newspaper and confide in him the result of our investigation for the benefit of others situated as we are. Of course, we had read much of the extensive improvements being made, but were scarcely prepared for the magnificence of it all. I was pleased at the pleasure evinced by my friend (whom we will call Mrs. Particular) when she saw the cash balls racing, elevator flying, people hurrying in and out of doors and alcoves in every direction and trying to gain standing room at the immense counters, where the gentlemanly and obliging clerks attended to their requirements in the most good-natured way possible.

We began our quest for information just as we entered the door, where a full assortment of collars and cuffs was to be seen. Mrs. P. admired the colored and bordered sets that are now so fashionable for morning and picnic wear, but I fancied the plain fine linen that are so beautifully laundered. These are to be had in all the latest styles, and are more becoming to some than the white or colored frillings that looked so soft and fluffy, lying in their different boxes.

Next came all sizes and shades in every imaginable sort of gloves, delicate evening tints in kid and silk, ranging from four-button lengths to the long ones for fastening at the shoulder with pretty stud. I was pleased to note some of the cool silk gloves for street wear had kid finger tips. They'll wear much longer than without them.

The fancy work might have occupied our attention the entire day, so great was the variety. No wonder our homes present such an attractive appearance, when such lovely, ornamental, as well as useful, articles are to be had so reasonably. I groaned inwardly when I thought of the stains and scratches on the sideboard and tables at home that might have been prevented if adorned with the pretty scarfs that would also have given them a much more dressy appearance. Oh, there were such quantities here that would go far to give the home a home look! Mantle draperies, ottomans, chair and sofa cushions, tidies, chair strips—in fact, everything one could possibly think of or require, with all the corresponding silks, yarns, ribbons, ornaments, etc.

The hosiery has surely reached fashion's climax. Of this we were first shown the most gorgeous in black and colored silks. Some Lisle had the entire leg and instep worked in bright silks. I liked the black and dark colors having white feet, but didn't invest in any, as Mrs. P. thought the cheaper and more substantial were better suited for the country. I've an idea that she selected white and grey cotton.

Next the hosiery was a goodly display of nets, veiling, and Hamburgs and fine embroideries, in all patterns, widths and prices, so there can be no excuse for our not having prettily trimmed skirts and undergarments, with these and the variety of laces at our demand. The Torchon and Valenciennes were really lovely, while the Thread and Honiton made me envious of those who could afford quantities of it—like our brides whose trousseaux present such an elegant and dainty appearance when this trimming is used. Then for those who have to consider their meagre income is the tucked and frilled linen and edgings that give a durable and nice finish.

The lace flouncing and box costumes, in black, white and numerous evening shades, with their ornaments and trimmings, were beyond anything we had ever fancied, and if I were a young girl I'd always keep two or three of these ready for an emergency. The all-over lace in black is rich and beautiful, and has the advantage of always being in fashion, either for street or evening costumes, and our old silk dresses come in handy for lining these laces, which range in prices to suit all purses. All kinds of gimps and fringes were seen at the end of this long counter, and directly opposite was the household linen, including napkins, damasks, towels, white cottons, sheetings, etc. Some lunch cloths and napkins of white satin finish, with delicate borders of gold, pink and other colors, were especially noticeable. We learned that we might have the sheets, pillow cases, table covers, etc., hemmed and ready for using, which I'm sure is a great accommodation. I had to smile when mentally comparing the pretty, warm yet light, comfortable and bed-spreads, with home-made quilts,

that had cost such an amount of patience and tedious work in patching, joining and quilting.

Among the flannels—besides the warm, grey, white, red, blue, etc., for winter clothing, were some strikingly pretty tennis stripes, that would also make up nicely for house dresses or morning gowns.

About this time we were beginning to feel like intruders, but meeting Mr. Manchester he soon dispersed all such feeling, and, in his kind and genial way, suggested that a bright-looking boy should pilot us through the other departments; so, after taking a hurried memoranda of the innumerable nick-nacks displayed on the circular counter—such as buttons in every variety, clasps, ornaments, hair-pins and every other kind of pin, thimbles, etc.—we passed to another large room on the left which is devoted to the dress goods.

First came the pure, summery-looking lawns and muslins. Some of these, a perfect mass of rich embroidery, are in boxes of sufficient material and trimming for one costume. A figure accompanying each box gives one a good idea of making the dress, and is a great assistance to us country women. I noticed a number of these dresses, with their wide silk sashes, worn at Inch-Arran, last week, and thought them prettier than any others. Then there were the plain lawns, that make such serviceable dresses, and the more durable textures that are used for our fine under-clothing.

The ginghams and prints would quite satisfy every variety of taste, from the most sedate and quiet to the very gayest, and the Galateas are being manufactured in stripes and checks pretty enough for many ladies to make serviceable morning or working dresses.

On the opposite side, we found the fancy wool dress goods, sufficient in quantity, qualities, colors and all else to supply and gratify the whole town. Surely, anything in this line not found at this counter must now be vetoed. I had not a very good chance of seeing the different goods here, so great was the crowd of purchasers. All classes of women found their way to this room, from the laborer's to the banker's wife, and it was pleasant to see all receiving the same courteous treatment from the clerks. Some ladies were in raptures over the imported costumes in black and colors. One grey I noticed was beautifully braided with fine silk. Others less expensive, for walking, and travelling toilettes, were also very handsome. Rich-looking clothes for tailor-made dresses seemed to be attracting much attention, while the more brilliant hues and combinations also received a goodly share, and many approved of the more sober-looking materials in limitless designs and shades. Trimmings of every description, and all the other accessories were to be had for any of the dresses. While looking over the cashmeres and merinoes, I learned a new wrinkle. Observing a young woman folding different pieces over the back of her hand, and regarding them critically, my curiosity was of course aroused, and giving Mrs. P. a nudge to follow, I drew near enough to hear her explain to her companion that that was "the surest way of ascertaining if the colors were becoming or not. If they cast a becoming shade over the hand, then you need have no fear of the effect on the face."

After noting the novelties and the innumerable wrap materials, we took a look at the crapes, black dress and mourning goods. Of these there was an immense variety, both for summer and winter wear, and some of the goods suitable for second mourning were very elegant.

THE SECOND FLOOR.**An Hour Among the Silks, Plushes, Laces, Dress and Furnishing Goods, Etc.**

Then we took seats in the elevator and soared up to the second floor. The sensation was so pleasant that I wanted to go down and up again, but Mrs. P. gave me a vigorous poke and looked indignant—so we stepped out into a very elegant apartment, where the silks, velvets, plushes, etc., were to be found.

This room, as well as the wool dress department, belong to the new wing lately added. They are both grand rooms, and have the great advantage of being splendidly lighted. Indeed, this feature was noticed through the whole establishment. (I can fancy nothing more annoying than trying to match undecided shades in a gloomy or darkened room.) It would occupy a column, at least, to describe the silks alone. The rich corded, plain and satin-finish blacks were especially gorgeous, and the magnificent embossed velvets quite took our breath away, but we concluded it was waste of time to devote it to such grandeur. However, we couldn't resist an inspection of the novelties in evening silks and satins. I noticed two pretty girls selecting bridal dresses. I hope they decided on the pure white silk, with the white flowered velvet for the petticoat. One of the elegancies for evening was a rich surah of almost that blue-green hue of the water. The foulards, china silk, moire silks and satins for street costumes were as varied as the materials down stairs, and the thinner textures for trimmings and fancy work would bewilder one. The plushes were of every color, and in different widths and classes.

Mantle cloths for spring, summer and winter left nothing to be desired. Some

of these were already made up in the most approved styles, as also were ulsters and jaunty looking jackets and coats. A very nobby little coat was of light grey with fine brown check and trimmed with narrow silk braid. Others were gorgeously decorated with military trimmings. Judging from the variety of jerseys they must still hold an important place in *la mode*. I should think very slight ladies would greatly favor the tucked and shirred ones. I hope jerseys may never become extinct. Is there anything more delightfully comfortable than one of these easy clinging waists, after one has been agonizing in one's fashionable new silk!

Mrs. Particular was in her element among the soft warm shawls, and no wonder, for they were beautiful, from the delicately tinted and white Shetland to the heavier wool and elegant cashmere, silk and camels-hair. But I thought the weather more suggestive of the sunshades and umbrellas. The parasols could be had to correspond with most any costume, though the shaded silk hues and fancy lace continue in favor. The handles were beautiful. Each year brings newer and prettier designs.

Soon we meandered into another room, containing an unlimited assortment of curtains, window poles, furniture coverings and all other accessories for upholstery. Of course the white curtains were shown us first, as being in season. The applique and fine lace were the nicest among these. Then there were the striped and fancy lace, and pretty scrim for bedrooms, and the numerous colored lace and other elegant curtains that are now being used quite as much as the white. The wide plush and heavy curtains for portieres were beautiful. I wish I could give the correct terms for these different materials, but the few I do remember I wouldn't care to spell. However, every kind, and a few more, one ever heard of was there; some very elegant and gorgeous, some rich but quiet in tone, others neat and inexpensive, leaving no excuse for shabby or unfinished looking windows.

Mrs. P. wanted some easy chairs covered. I was afraid she would select hair cloth, but she decided on a really elegant piece of rep, though it didn't strike us as particularly beautiful after looking at the magnificent silk rep with embossed satin designs, Roman satins and rich brocades. The cretonnes were lovely; some could scarcely be distinguished from velvet.

I can't imagine how we got turned round, but in some way we found ourselves in the mysterious ladies' room. We were given comfortable chairs in a small ante-room that we might rest before looking around. While seated here—where I had a good view of the outer room—I could not but think of an article I'd been reading in *The Epoch* on "The Rudeness of Women," especially where it referred to the rudeness of the lady customer to the lady clerk. Now I could not imagine any woman attempting, or having any desire, to act rudely to any of the young women in this department, at least. Their bright genial manner and willingness to oblige and please would alone serve as a great protection against any rudeness, while a recipe for their ladylike and womanly ways would be about as profitable a purchase as some of their customers might make.

In this apartment was to be seen baby linen, underwear, corsets and millinery. Of course, we began at the baby linen, where we selected an extensive wardrobe for the youngest member of Mrs. P.'s family. The christening robe was just the daintiest and prettiest thing imaginable. The cute little shirts of finest wool, with the narrow little ribbons run through the edgings, tiny linen shirts, warm foot-blankets, morning and night robes, were all beautifully finished. Carriage cloaks, elaborately worked, warm knit shoes, stockings and little berlin jackets, in white, blue and pink, would make the ugliest babe look lovable. Then came the shorter skirts and wee dresses, and fluffy little hoods in lace and wool, bibs, aprons and the most diminutive mits. Nursery baskets, swinging cribs, little quilts and pillows; in fact, everything calculated to lighten the work and suggest ideas to mother and nurse were there.

Underwear for ladies and misses—Oh! what a comfort to be able to procure all these without the tiresome work of "making up"! Gossamer vests of different textures to suit our variable weather, merino and thicker ones for the colder-blooded, perfectly fitting and neatly-trimmed corset covers, also combination corset covers and undershirts, fine white skirts and night robes, that would cost days of hard toil and perhaps a headache, if made at home. Some were extensively trimmed, others plainer, but what took my fancy was the neatness of the work. We so often see undergarments that have a very pretty effect at a distance—which, on closer inspection, would appear rather untidy, if not slovenly. The infinite variety and assortment of bustles and skirt-improvers, would suggest that they were not likely to become unfashionable for some time yet. They occupied almost as much space as the corsets, which lined one end of the room—corsets of every size, color, description and price. Of course, the better class, and consequently more expensive corsets, were mostly in white, but there were also some very nicely-finished and neatly-shaped pairs at remarkably low prices.

The millinery, oh! the millinery, would

delight the heart of any woman. Many of the bonnets were entirely floral; some so very realistic-looking that one could almost imagine the blossoms were growing. Straw hats in all the latest and most unique styles, shapes and colors were piled on the large shelves and strewn over tables and counters; also buckram and net-shapes, with a very repletion of flowers, grasses, fruits, feathers, tips, pon-pons, ornaments, grapes, ribbons, etc. We wanted to have a look at the magnificent imported hats and trimmed bonnets hanging in the showcase, but hunger bade us hurry on, and this was our last day, so we took a flying trip north, where we discovered the carpet department.

This consisted of two rooms, the first devoted to the Wilton and Brussels and others that looked like velvet and plush—but the names of which I've forgotten. My! how I'd love to possess one of the palatial residences round St. John and vicinity, just to glory in furnishing the floors with these exquisite carpets and rugs; for you know the carpeting really is the main feature in house furnishing and a bright new carpet in spring takes away much of the distastefulness and misery of house cleaning. (I do hope the men won't forget this fact.) The second room contained the wool and tapestry, oilcloths, Kensington and linen squares, rugs and mats. Well, what can I say about these, any more than that they were prettier than I ever imagined they could be; but one would surely get confused in selecting from so great an assortment, each piece seemingly prettier or more suitable than the previous one. The squares were in different sizes and are excellent things for covering a worn carpet or the chilly dining-room oilcloth. The wool rugs in black, white, crimson and green were equally pretty. Some of them were quite as large as any of the rugs to match or correspond with the carpets.

But it was now 6 o'clock, so we were compelled to bring our afternoon to a close, hoping to have a longer time to devote to the winter investigation, when I hope to find a restaurant in full working order, so that Mrs. Particular may have no cause for attributing her attack of indigestion to a very hastily eaten lunch.

Since writing this I've learned the cause of Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison's great success in obtaining and retaining their admirable clerks: they treat them with a kindly consideration that goes far to make their work seem a very pleasant duty.

FRECKLES.

Sir Leonard Tilley's Health.

"I have not seen Sir Leonard Tilley looking or apparently feeling better than he does at the present time," said a gentleman to *PROGRESS*. "I met him a few evenings ago, at Mayor Hazen's, in Fredericton, at a dinner party, and he was the life of it. Several of us were prostrated by heat during the day, but Sir Leonard did not appear to mind the excitement, heat or fatigue, and in the evening he was as fresh and vigorous as in the earlier part of the day. Indeed, after such a day as Monday was in the capital, I felt like spending a good portion of the morning in bed, but Sir Leonard was up before 6 and in St. John between 9 and 10 o'clock."

Fair Play for the Boys.

The *Farmer* says: Two young men from St. John hired a valuable horse from Mr. Edwards, of the Queen, Monday afternoon, and drove it till it dropped helpless on Brunswick street, opposite Mr. Lugin's. The poor animal lived in great agony till midnight, when it died. Overheating was the cause of death.

Fair play for the boys. They had the horse out about half an hour and the worst that can be said of them is that they gave the spirited mare free rein. *PROGRESS* regrets Mr. Edwards' loss, but knowing something of the circumstances, does not blame the St. John boys to the extent implied in the above paragraph.

Good Men to Deal With.

Ability and enterprise are as sure to command success in the stove business as they have in the case of *PROGRESS* itself. Four years ago, Messrs. Coles & Parsons started in trade with little capital except their energy, integrity and thorough knowledge of the business. Since that time they have built and stocked one of the most complete and convenient stove stores in Canada and have twice enlarged it to meet the demands of their growing trade. They handle the best makes of stoves, do first-class work in repairing and other lines and use their customers as they want to be used themselves—that's the secret of it.

He Merits Her.

"Accepted!" This word of eight letters, contained in a telegram from Halifax, a day or two ago, caused considerable amusement to those who were in the secret. To get an authorized explanation of the brief message would necessitate a journey to Halifax and an interview with the charming daughter of a gentleman prominent in civic affairs.

In the Hotel Corridors.

Proprietor Jones of the Dufferin is getting his share of summer travel at present. From July to the end of the summer season, he can count his guests by scores, and they are a happy and contented company, enjoying life in the heart, yet quiet part, of the city, and seeing all that is to be seen. The Dufferin has an advantage this year. It looks upon the square, and the guests can remain in their rooms and night after

night listen to the sweetest music of St. John bands. Some improvements are being made to this excellent hostelry, and when they are completed, *PROGRESS* will tell its readers all about them.

The Belmont ought to and does get a large proportion of the transient trade of the travelling public. Situated but a few yards from the New Brunswick and Intercolonial railway depot, a traveller need not be afraid of missing his train because he is distant from the station, and, what is of importance to many people, coach hire is saved, for the Belmont transports baggage free.

W. A. Lang announces the opening of his King street saloon in *PROGRESS*. The apartments he has secured are inviting and airy, as well as convenient. Mr. Lang is well known as an excellent caterer, and people who patronize him will find that he sustains his reputation.

Smoke "Old Chum" Cut Tobacco.
"Old Chum Cut" Tobacco, 10c. package.
"Old Chum" Cut Tobacco.
Equal to imported 15c. package.

The "Sardine" Trust May Fail.

There is a deadlock between the sardine fishermen of the islands and the factory men at Eastport. The latter have formed a ring to pay no more than \$5 a hoghead for herring, whereas formerly the price has ranged from \$2 to \$60. The fishermen refuse to accept these terms and will not seine the weirs, greatly to the embarrassment of the factories. The odds are strongly in favor of the fishermen if they have backbone enough to hold the strike, and it is believed they will do so as they have been very prosperous for a few years and are "well fixed."

McAlpine's Directory.

McAlpine's Directory for 1888-89 has been received by *PROGRESS*. It is the only one St. John has, and will, of course, be purchased by every one who needs such a book, but many absurd and laughable errors render the book less valuable than it might be. Mr. McAlpine, no doubt, aimed at correctness, but in some of the numerous possible ways the errors have made themselves conspicuous.

**Lunch and Fancy Baskets,
Express Wagons, Wheelbarrows,
Fishing Poles, Hooks, Lines,
Accordeons, Concertinas,
School Bags, Slates, Pencils, Books, Ink, Mucilage, Blank and Memo. Books
Dolls, Toys, Balls, Bats, Etc., Etc., at
WATSON & CO.'S, Cor. Charlotte and Union Streets.
Branch Store Corner Charlotte and Princess Streets.**

McCafferty & Daly

**New Dress Goods,
In Plain, Striped and Plaid, Single and Double Widths, Newest
Colors and Combinations.
Ladies' 4 Button Kid Gloves, from 55c. per pair.
Taylor's Patent Folding Bustles. The most Stylish and Comfortable Bustle in the market.
Our Stock of Lace Curtains, in White and Cream, is very extensive and the Best Value in the City.**

**McCAFFERTY & DALY,
King Street.**

**How to Become a Base Ball Player,
By John Montgomery Ward,
(One of the New York B. B. Club.)
FOR SALE BY
D. J. JENNINGS 171 Union Street.**

**ST. PAUL'S
Grand Bazaar
TAKES PLACE
JULY 17th and 18th,
Afternoon and Evening.**

**A GREAT ATTRACTION!
Will be FOUR BOOTHS representing the four
Seasons.
The proceeds will be devoted to aid the Sunday
School of St. Paul's.
Admission and other particulars announced Next
Week.**

**PICNIC.
Brussels Street Baptist Sunday-School,
On the beautiful Grounds of Captain
W. H. WATTERS,
Tuesday, July 17th.**

Full supply Refreshments and Ice Cream.
Prizes for Sports and Games.

The Committee of Management will Spare no pains in making this the Picnic of the Season.
Steamer MAY QUEEN will leave INDIANTOWN at 9.30 A. M. and 2 P. M.; Returning at 7 P. M.
TICKETS: Adults 40c.; Children 25c.

**THE NEW
People's Encyclopedia
of Universal Knowledge,
With numerous appendixes invaluable for reference in all departments of industrial life, &c., &c.,
By W. H. DEPUY, A. M., LL. D.,
Illustrated with more than 2,000 engravings and 115 colored maps and charts, &c., complete in 4 vols.
Please Call and Examine.
J. & M. McMILLAN,
Publishers and Booksellers,
Prince William Street, St. John, N. B.**

**PICNIC.
Centenary Church Sunday School
Will go to
Watters' Landing,
Eleven miles up the Saint John River, on
TUESDAY, the 10th instant,
on the beautiful steamer "May Queen," which will leave the Indian town wharf at 9.30 a. m. and 2 p. m., returning will leave Watters' Landing 4.30 and 6.30 p. m.
Refreshments will be provided on the grounds.
Tickets can be bought at Thorne Bros., King St.; Hutchings & Co., Germain Street and Clarke, Kerr & Thorne's, Prince Wm. Street.
Adults, 40 Cts. Children, 25 Cts.
*Should Tuesday prove unfavorable then the Picnic will be held Friday, the 13th instant.**

**BASE BALL.
HOW TO BECOME A PLAYER,
—WITH THE—
Origin, History & Explanation of the Game
By JOHN MONTGOMERY WARD.
Price 25 cents, at
MORTON L. HARRISON'S,
99 King Street.**

**Oysters and Fish.
IN STORE:
10 Bbls. P. E. I. Oysters;
2 " Providence River do.;
HALIBUT, HADDOCK, CODFISH, SALMON,
SHAD, MACKEREL, etc., etc.
J. ALLAN TURNER,
25 North side Queen Square**

**Dispensing of Prescriptions.
Special Attention is Given to
this very important branch.
Medicines of Standardized Strength used.
By this means reliable articles will be supplied, and in each case compounded by a competent person.
Prices low.
WM. B. McVEY,
Dispensing Chemist, 188 Union Street.**