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CANNED PEACHES, Canned Apples, Canned Strawberries, Canned Raspberries, Canned Pears, Canned Pineapple (Sliced, Grated and Whole), Canned Corn, Canned Tomatoes, Canned Blueberries, Canned Peas (French and Canadian), Canned Salmon, Canned Lobster, N. B.—Above goods are all new stock and bought from the factories, and we can give you low price by or dozen.

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**AN ELEGANT LINE OF**  
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Just received a new and full supply, including

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**"ASTRA'S" TALKS WITH GIRLS.**

[Correspondents seeking information in this de-  
partment should address their queries to "Astra,"  
Progress, St. John.]

I feel sincerely sorry when I get a letter requesting a prompt answer to some query, just after my column has been closed for the week and delivered over to the printers, because I can well imagine the disappointment it causes when PROGRESS comes out on Saturday without the coveted answer. But I must once more remind my correspondents that it is impossible to answer questions the same week that they are asked, and, sometimes an answer will be delayed a week, just because the query was posted a little late and did not come to hand till Saturday morning. It sounds strange, I know, but still the rules of a newspaper office resemble the laws of the Medes and Persians inasmuch that there is no appeal from them.

NURSE.—I hope that my answer will not come too late to be of service to you, but it was impossible to answer it earlier. The training school of the Massachusetts general hospital in Boston is considered the very best in America. The nurses in this hospital never go out to charity cases. Their work is all within the walls of the institution, and the training is excellent, though the work is hard, all sorts of cases being taken as the name implies. The New York hospital I am a little uncertain about, as I think, it is rather difficult to get a place there, the applicants are so many. Roosevelt. I do not think has a training school, but I know the Bellevue training school is excellent, an excellent one. If you could possibly obtain an entrance into the Newport hospital, outside Boston, I would certainly recommend it, as it is in every respect a model, and the work is not so hard as that of the larger institutions; but I really think your chances would be best at the Massachusetts general. The address I have given is quite sufficient.

NORAH, Amherst.—You need not bewail your ignorance at all! How many society belles, I wonder, could give a lucid definition of the national policy, if asked suddenly to explain it? I am pretty certain most of them would respond it was the N. P. I am not a society belle by any means, but still I am inclined to doubt my own ability to give a very clear description of that great bulwark of our liberties, but I will try. The national policy was the name given to the policy adopted by Sir John A. Macdonald and his party when they came into power in 1878, because it had for its primary object the welfare of Canada as a nation; the building up of her industries, the fostering of her resources, and the protection of her manufacturers from foreign competition by a protective tariff levied on all foreign products, or rather on foreign products in which she was able to compete with other nations. Staples, such as tea, which of course she was unable to produce herself, were admitted free of duty. In short, the best possible description of the N. P. is, I think, that it is the policy which strives to consolidate the Canadians into a nation which shall be able to depend upon itself, and stand alone independent of all other powers. This is the national policy, as I understand it.

ROBIN, St. John.—I am glad my advice was so useful to you. Perhaps that peace-making may lead to still further results. (1) I am afraid I should be conceited enough to take the remark as a compliment, and I am sure that was the way he meant it. I daresay he thought he was making a very pretty speech, especially if you chance to have eyes which answer the description in the poem. Even if you have your doubts as to his meaning, I should not show it by treating him coolly, or taking any notice of such a trifle. I think it is always a mistake to keep up a series of small quarrels with our masculine friends. I am afraid we are all addicted to it, but quite between ourselves, nothing tires men out like small squabbles, and if they are in constant terror of getting into hot water without knowing what it is about; half the time, they are apt to let a girl severely alone. (2) Not necessarily, though I prefer that form myself. It would be quite correct to say, "This is my friend—," but in presenting a gentleman to a lady, "allow me to introduce," sounds better, as it contains a courteous suggestion of asking her permission to make the introduction. If I ever give that reception, you may place yourself upon the list of united guests without further notice. I am very fond of bright colors, and I see a maiden with a scarlet vest, I shall know that the wearer is "Robin"—Redbreast.

PORTIA, Fredericton.—You need not have been so modest about writing, or rather not writing. A correspondence column is something like a street car, it is never so crowded that it has not room for one more; only sometimes the letters have to stand over for a week—that is all. But I daresay I can have two columns now if I need them, so you can ask whatever questions you like. (1) By no means! Only I do not think I would sit all the dances out in succession; that would look rather conspicuous. But there could be no harm at all in sitting out two, one after the other. (2) It is equally correct to say "Not at all," or to simply bow your head slightly and smile pleasantly in token of assent. (3) It is less formal, and much more friendly, to go at least part of the way with

him yourself. I never like to let anyone show themselves out; it has an inhospitable look to me, and if he knows the house very well, it would seem stiff to ring for the maid and keep him waiting till she comes. If he is an old friend, walk to the drawing room door with him at least, and ask him if he will mind finding his own way out. (4) Just say, "Thank you; I should like to go very much," and let him see that you are really pleased. Some girls have a way of accepting all attentions from gentlemen as their right, and to my mind nothing is more unladylike. Any courtesy should always be accepted in a courteous manner. (5) I believe "The Halifax Ladies' college is considered a most excellent institution, and I have heard it very highly spoken of, though I really do not know enough about it to advise you. (6) I think the young man in question should be very grateful for your kindly interest in him, but I am afraid the fact remains that a man hates to be reminded of any physical weakness, and cannot bear people to know that he is not strong. (7) Not at all silly! And they don't tire me half as much as if you asked me to hunt up something that I did not know much about. (8) No! not in the least right. I wonder why everyone seems to think that a woman who writes at all must have short hair. I suppose they think we have to keep it short lest some of our brains may escape through its growth. Mine is neither black nor short, though it is rather curly, but it is only brown. "Coquettish black eyes," too? What a fascinating picture you have drawn. The only remarkable thing about mine is its extreme blueness, and I am "midding," very middling indeed! Your writing is good, but I think it will be better when it is formed more. I shall be glad to hear from you again, but you must not ask too many questions or I may not be able to answer them all.

JACQUETTA, Fredericton.—I am very glad you like my column so much, and I don't wonder you are pleased with the double PROGRESS. Everyone else seems to be, too. (1) The lady should bid the gentleman good night, and add a few pleasant words of thanks for his kindness in escorting her safely home. If it is early in the evening—say nine o'clock—it would be quite correct to invite him to it, but if it is late, say good night promptly, and do not linger, as girls sometimes do, for a final chat on the doorstep, because that always looks to me as if you are loth to part from your escort, and liked to display him to the passers by. (2) Always say "Excuse me" to whoever you are with, when you leave them to take your place in a dance. (3) The best possible way to act is to be perfectly natural, and at the same time do your best to be pleasant to everyone you meet at the party; join in all the games and dances if possible, and look as if you were enjoying yourself; avoid monopolizing the attention of any one young man to the exclusion of other girls; always make a point of assisting the hostess to entertain her guests if it is in your power, either by playing for a dance or two, if you can, or talking for a little while to some of the people one always finds at a party, who do not dance. If you follow these hints you cannot help being a welcome guest always. (4) Seventeen is rather young, but not too young by any means. (5) The prettiest way to wear one's hair is the one that conforms most closely to the shape of the head. Piled up in loose looking coils just on the crown of the head is very becoming to most faces. (6) Almost anything would be pretty to trim your dress with except plush or velvet. What would you think of steel? I have not seen any of the new trimmings yet, so I cannot advise you very well. (7) Your questions are all right, only don't ask too many, or you may have to put up with very short answers. (8) Your writing is very plain and clear, in fact it is almost what is called a commercial hand, and looks like a man's writing, but that is a proof of individuality.

ASTRA.

**Something Worth Trying for: \$100.00 in Gold.**

This is what "THE LADIES' BAZAR" will give to the person sending them the largest number of sentences constructed from words contained in the quotation: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you do you even so to them." Every week during the contest they will give a "Handsome Family Sewing Machine" valued at \$50.00, to the person sending them the largest number of sentences that week. If preferred they will give the winner a Solid Gold Watch instead of the Sewing Machine. Special prizes for Boys & Girls. They do not offer impossibilities. The above will be carried out to the letter. Everyone competing will have an equal chance. No dictionary required in this competition. Send 10c. for sample copy of "THE LADIES' BAZAR" and full instructions. THE LADIES' BAZAR, 4 Adelaide Street East, Toronto.—A.

**Taking Medicine by Electricity.**

A noted physician of Paris claims to have succeeded, by a novel application of electrolysis and electro-synthesis, analogous to the electro-deposition of metals, in conveying by the electric current to diseased internal organs of the human body the constituents of the drugs necessary for their recovery. A commission of the French Academy of Science, one of which is the learned Dr. Charcot, has been appointed to ascertain the value of the results, and to extend the investigation.—Philadelphia Record.

Why not have long selected Cane in your Chairs. Lasts longer, cheaper. Duval, 242 Union Street.

## CANADIAN AND LITERARY NOTES.

Arthur Weir, the author of two volumes of verse, "Fleurs De Lys" and the "Romance of Sir Richard," and one of the most noteworthy of our younger poets, was born in the commercial metropolis of Canada, June 17, 1864, of Scottish parentage; his father having been born in Brechin in 1823 and his mother being, to quote the son, "a Canadian of Irish descent, and—though I don't trouble to inquire—of pretty good stock I believe." The poet received his rudimentary education at the city high school, and afterward entered McGill university; from which he graduated in 1886 with the Lansdowne medal in the advanced course of practical chemistry. "No one else," he says, has yet [in 1888] taken the advanced course which, one might say, by stretching a point was inaugurated for my benefit."

He had considerable fertility of resource, and the art to win the prizes: obtaining in his second year the Bursland exhibition of \$100 and a goodly share of other school laurels and bonanzas. In experimental physics and theoretical chemistry, his pet science, he made his brightest scores, but to mathematics, as benefits the poet, he did not commit himself with a like ardor.

He began to write so early he can scarce remember when he made his first attempt, though his first verses in manuscript are dated 1879; but earlier songs may be found in the memories of old schoolmates. At college he kept up his verse making, and was editor of the *University Gazette*, contributing much to its pages in verse and prose.

His college life ended, he commenced journalism on the *Star* staff; where, finding himself kindly treated and well adapted to the work, he remained for some time. It would seem more suitable that he should have had to do with the paper's literary department; but in point of fact, he was financial and commercial editor. More than a year since Mr. Weir went to Detroit, where he continued for some months, but he has returned to Montreal, and taken from among the fair daughters of his native city, a man and a poet's choice.

Though Montreal has been his home, and most of his life has been spent there, he has given himself some liberty to roam on poetical pilgrimages about the fair Dominion, whose scenic glories and whose charming legends he loves to sing in musical verse. "I have knocked around Lower Canada 'considerable,' as the Yankees say, and have once been to Cape Breton, among the miners of Cow Bay and Sydney." In summer vacations he has skirted the Maine coast, sailed down the lower St. Lawrence, and regaled himself amid the delightful region of the Chatauguay, all the while nourishing the feelings of romance and ripening his poetic material. His poem "At Chatauguay" is an idyl of his earlier youth, and it has the charm which youthful dreams and enthusiasms can impart.

It needs scarcely to be mentioned that Mr. Weir is a warm-hearted and brotherly member of the writing guild, and that because of this he draws after him troops of friends; among them are the most familiar names of Roberts, Lighthall, Laclede, Geo. Murray, John Reade, LeMoine, Mrs. Curzon, Mary Morgan, and others. He is a loving lingerer over the poetic page, feeling the combined charm of Tennyson, Browning, Longfellow and Swinburne; but most he is held by Browning. He says: "Under the guidance of Prof. Roberts and others I am awaking to the beauties of Shelley and Keats."

Among his shorter pieces there are none that for sweet simplicity and directness of appeal to the heart, can excel this:

**A Child's Kiss.**

Sweet is the maiden's kiss that tells  
The secret of her heart;  
Holy the wife's—yet in them dwells  
Of earthliness a part;  
While in a little child's warm kiss  
Is naught but heaven above,  
So sweet it is, so pure it is,  
So full of faith and love.

'Tis like a violet in May  
That knows no fear nor harm,  
But cheers the wanderer on his way,  
With its unconscious charm.

'Tis like a bird that carols free,  
And thinks not of reward,  
But gives the world its melody  
Because it is a bird.

Sladen's *Younger American Poets* will soon be furnished from Cassell & Co., New York, and Griffith, Freeman & Co., England and Australia. In its contents are named among Canadians, Reade, Carman, Roberts, Lampman, Campbell, Scott, Dane, Machar, Eaton, Mulvaney, Duvar. We know not if this completes the list, but suppose there may be others. Murray and Martin are not included by reason of age.

**AN EARNEST CRY AND PRAYER.**

To Each and Every Maker of Civil Law in the New Lands and the Old.

HONORED SIR:—There is one phase of the great question of public morality that we should not allow to be forgotten. While children are in our homes, and their welfare is a matter of concern to us, we cannot be indifferent to the wholesale corruption of their minds by the agency of impure literature. There are many who justly cry out against intoxicating drinks, and who justly inveigh against all ministers

**GETTING READY FOR SPRING.**

WE have a number of the above Sleighs on hand which we want to sell before the snow goes. The "COMFORT SPRING SLEIGH" has been the most popular Sleigh of the winter—hundreds have been sold all over the province—the demand in fact was so great that it was impossible at the height of the season to keep pace with it. Only a few left. Send for a Catalogue and for information about prices. We are always glad to give it.

**JOHN EDGECOMBE & SONS,**  
MANUFACTURERS OF FINE CARRIAGES, SLEIGHS, AND HEARSES,  
**FREDERICTON.**

to domestic impurity; but while of these we are ever the most willing ally, we choose just now to put some emphasis upon a no less audacious and crying evil. Is it not as important that the childhood of our land should remain uncontaminated in their imaginations, as that in the organs and passions of their bodies they should be undepraved? For where does all this evil first begin, but in the seduced imagination? which is to all the springs of life and action but as the fountain to the rill. There is the beginning of the moral and intellectual man; and if that throne-room of the soul is a den of vermin, blush to admit that its virtue is to keep the cracks stopped up, and the doors and windows shut.

"The Author's Earnest Cry and Prayer" is against the indecent and demoralizing literature. We are not prepared to say to what an extent it has been allowed prevalence in Canada, but some statistics in the United States may well summon the serious and judicious to pause and consider, nay, more, to cry aloud, and act with vigor. It is indeed true, as alleged by the postmaster general of the republic, in an official document, that "a million dollars in postal revenue have been lost each year by reason of favor to certain publishers," who issue cheap fiction—the polluted trash, the blood-chilling depictions of villainy, the French seductions of immoral pens, that with justice and truth we cry out against? Is it true, as alleged, that ten millions of pounds of this stuff are carried annually in the mails from New York alone, and in all probability half as much more from other American cities? Ask against whom is this diabolic ammunition directed? Have you a son or a daughter? Is it true that the proportion of really helpful books so carried is not above one in a hundred? That a very serious impediment to cheaper letter postage is this indulgence to evil on the part of legislation? We know that these makers of evil things can furnish subsidies,—out of the ruin and poverty of their fellows they can well afford to; but, respected sir, you are not a seeker after a subsidy. Is it true, as alleged, that the books of Zola, and other authors forbidden to decency, and universally held as deleterious to youth, are sold freely in all our newspapers, and carried in the mails at one cent the pound; while the scriptures, educational books, and works scientific, historical and miscellaneous, bound and unbound, cost in the mails 8 cents the pound? Is this a virtuous discrimination, and worthy of a great people, with some knowledge of god and evil?

My dear sir, we can pass some of our pleasantries by and by, and talk in terms of a serene philosophy; but we are in earnest about some things, and here we stop and give challenge. What, as a maker of our country's laws, do you think about this matter, and what will you do about it? "If thou be one whose heart the holy forms Of young imagination have kept pure." O be not indifferent about this evil! And if you have been singed by such a fire, and have in some measure escaped, you cannot be indifferent. In the name of childhood, of God, of humanity, in the name of social honor and purity, resolve, aim to make this evil less pervasive, less potent. Will you not plead for the public right in this matter, and be for more social and individual purity, a rock, like Peter in the place where you stand, and where the providence of God, and the suffrages of the people have placed you.

PASTOR FELIX.

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Dr. J. S. JOHNSON & Co.—It is sixty years ago that I learned of this now celebrated remedy for the common ills of life—JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT; for more than forty years I have used it in my family. I say (unasked by you) I regard it as one of the best and safest family remedies that can be found, used internal or external, in all cases it is claimed to relieve or cure. O. H. INGALLS, Deacon Second Baptist Church, Bangor, Me.

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Every Traveler should have a bottle of it in his satchel.

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