

PROGRESS.

VOL. IV., NO. 177.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1891.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

NOBODY WANTED THEM.

THE EXPERIENCES OF ELEVEN RUSSIAN POLES IN ST. JOHN.

They Were Not Immigrants, Nor the Kind of Paupers Admitted to the Alms House—A Curious Case That the Poor Law Does Not Provide For.

Immigration agent Gardiner, the Alms house commissioners, the catholic clergy, and a number of people in different parts of the city have been at their wits end this week. And eleven Russian Poles who arrived here from Barbadoes were the cause of it all.

The catholic clergy did much for the strangers after they arrived here, and collected subscriptions for them, but to feed and look after eleven people who cannot understand a word one says is not an easy task.

One night this week some men in lower coat found the party huddled up in a board pile trying to go to sleep. It was a hard sight especially when there was a woman in the party.

Even Joe Mitchell, the news agent and general interpreter of the I. C. R. depot, had to acknowledge himself beaten. A great many people of all nationalities have arrived at the depot, and paralyzed officers Stevens and Collins with the most elaborate orations in languages that they never heard before.

They were not more than half a dozen English words in the vocabulary of the party, and for them to understand what anybody else was saying seemed as impossible as for anybody else to understand what they were talking about.

They were not immigrants, and the government would not have anything to do with them, so when Mr. Gardiner received word to this effect he led the party to the office of Mr. Samuel Schofield, the agent of the steamer that brought them here.

Mr. Schofield merely smiled. The strangers did not concern him in the least. As far as the law was concerned he was all right. If, however, it could be shown that the Poles had been brought here for the express purpose of imposing a burden on the city of St. John, it would have been quite different.

Nevertheless seeing eleven strangers wandering about the streets without food or shelter made a number of people uneasy. The almshouse commissioners held daily sessions, but as the law says they are only responsible for the poor of the city and county.

Things are quite different now from what they were when that law was made, said Chairman Knodell to PROGRESS the other day. "At that time there were not so many steamers and railroads coming in to St. John from all directions.

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to receive all the paupers they want to get rid of, why they will know where to send the next consignment. On the other hand, if we sent these people back the news would spread, and when other cities had such people to dispose of, they would know it would be no use to send them to St. John, because they would be returned to them by next steamer.

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RING UP THE CURTAIN.

EVERYTHING READY FOR THE OPENING OF THE OPERA HOUSE.

Choosing for Seats and How it Was Done—A Pretty House, a Good Company, and Everything Looking Favorable for a Great Success.

The opera house has been the busiest of busy places this week. Day and night an army of workmen have been rushing the interior forward to completion. There were no idlers about. Work was the only order of the day and night.

Of course the plaster walls will have to remain as they are for the present. They are not fit yet to paint or decorate. If such a thing were attempted the plaster would scale off more quickly than it was put on.

The boxes, which it was thought impossible to complete in time, will be ready by Monday night. It cannot be said that they are the best seats for seeing the stage, but they undoubtedly are if one wishes to see the audience, for they command views of the whole house.

Thursday evening the gallery was well seated and a large number of the orchestra chairs were in position. The superintendent of this job came from the manufactory where the chairs were made. His work will give the finishing touches to the house.

The business premises of the firm on Canterbury street are shown in the illustration on the ninth page—not fully shown, however, for the extreme length of the building makes it well nigh impossible to get a correct and satisfactory photograph.

A short note from Messrs. Edgecombe of Fredericton to PROGRESS states in answer to Mr. Anderson's letter that their carriages were not only awarded the first prizes by the judges but in addition they received congratulations from the governor general upon "the finest exhibit of vehicles that he ever saw."

The company arrived this week and have been hard at work rehearsing for Marble Hearts and The Magistrate. Only a few of the actors composing it are known in this city, but as the selection was made through a reliable agent who knew all the requirements, there is every reason to think that it will prove satisfactory.

The scenic artist and his assistants have lost no minutes, and yet they find that they have but little time to do all the work necessary for the opening. It is not expected that the permanent drop will be painted now, as it requires much time and care.

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divided into a prologue and four acts. Following is the cast of characters in both, and the scenes.

Cast of characters in the prologue: Gorgias, a rich citizen, Mr. Walter Granville Alcibiades, the general, Mr. Jerome Stevens Phidias, the sculptor, Mr. Edward Emery Diogenes, the cynic philosopher, Mr. E. D. Lyons Strabon, a slave, Mr. James Morris Thea, a slave, Miss Emma Fossett Aspasia, Miss Flora Clitheroe Lada, Miss Helen Brooks Mastayer Phryne, Miss Constance Compton Citizens, Slaves, etc.

Cast of characters in the drama: Vis. Chateauroux, a butterfly, Mr. T. J. Hawkins Ferdinand Volage, an editor, Mr. Vernon Ramsdell Raphael Duchatet, a sculptor, Mr. Edward Emery Mons Veaudore, a rich Parisian, Mr. Walter Granville Lord Merton, Mr. Nagle Barry Fred. deCourcy, a gentleman, Mr. E. Middleton John, a footman, Mr. E. F. Morris Bayette, a groom, Mr. Joseph Grelly Madeleine Marce, Miss Flora Clitheroe Clemetine, Miss Helen Brooks Mastayer Mariotte, Miss Constance Compton Fedora, Miss Behan Marie, a poor orphan, Miss Emma Fossett Madane Duchatet, Miss Fred. Hooker

Act 1.—Artists' retreat in the forest of Fontainebleau. Act 2.—A sculptor's studio in Paris. Act 3.—Drawing room in a villa in the Bois de Boulogne. Act 4.—The sculptor's studio, realization of the dream.

"SUCCESS" IS THEIR MOTTO. A Great and Growing Business—Messrs. W. C. Pitfield & Co.

A very generous and familiar firm takes a page of PROGRESS advertising space in this issue. It stands out with the prominence that the announcement of such a business house should have. Advertising like this does much more than benefit the merchant—it gives those who are not in his line of business, who do not purchase dry goods to sell again, a better idea of what representative concerns of the city are doing.

The active partner, Mr. Pitfield, is one of those citizens who takes a keen interest in any public affair such as the exhibition. The story of how he aided the association in its hour of need has been told before, but this year he is as active as ever, taking his share of the committee work and the responsibility.

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HERE ON HIS VACATION.

RUT HE IS NOT ENJOYING HIMSELF BY ANY MEANS.

A New Yorker who is afraid of being Put in the Provincial Insane Asylum—How His Wife Has Been Making Things Unpleasant for Him and Everybody Else.

Three or four weeks ago a lady and gentleman arrived here from New York and engaged rooms at a Union street boarding house. There was nothing about them to attract more than the usual amount of attention given to strangers, but before their visit terminated everybody in the house knew they were there.

They moved to another boarding house, but were only there a couple of days when they began to attract attention. The woman seemed to be the cause of all the trouble, while her husband seems to have made friends everywhere he went.

This was very annoying, to the people in the house, and when spoken to the woman grew abusive, so much so in fact that another change of residence was absolutely necessary, and the woman left.

From all that can be learned he acted wisely, but he is far from being a happy man. He is a New Yorker and holds a responsible position with Bradstreets in that city, but over-work has had its effect upon him, and he is not in the best of health.

His wife also thought that good medical attention could be secured here, and soon after their arrival, suggested that they visit Dr. Steeves at the asylum. They went over to Lancaster and saw the doctor. But from all accounts the woman saw more of him than her husband. All he did was to speak a few words with the doctor and pay him \$5.

His wife then had several hours' consultation with the head of the provincial lunatic asylum. She now holds a certificate to admit her husband into the institution, and is making life very unpleasant for him. A few days after leaving the boarding house she returned and was so abusive that she was ordered out by the proprietress.

His employers in New York seem to be very much interested in his welfare, and he is constantly receiving letters telling him to fully regain his health before returning to work, and showing in many ways that he is a valuable man in Bradstreet's office.

The maritime province agent of the house, who has his office in Halifax, is in this city enquiring after him, but he is evidently getting all his information from the man's wife.

On seeing her he demanded the certificate for his admission to the asylum. The woman refused to let him see it, and after some exciting conversation, walked off with the Halifax man and left him.

The couple have aroused the interest of all with whom they have come in contact, but there is a mystery about them that has caused considerable speculation. It is hard to say what object the woman has in view, or why she wants her husband admitted to the asylum, but from all that can be learned it is an easy matter to get one's friends into that institution.

Now is the Time. Many people who have been writing, inquiring about the Webster dictionary that goes with PROGRESS for \$3.75, will probably be in town during exhibition week and will have an excellent opportunity to call at this office and see the book themselves. It will be a pleasure to show it.

PREPARING FOR A LIVELY WEEK.

Amusements At the Exhibition Buildings and Up Town.

There is some hustling going on at the exhibition these days. As usual a great many exhibitors leave everything until the "last minute," and then there is a rush to get ready in time for the opening.

There will be more special attractions at the exhibition this year than has been secured for anything of the kind ever held in the provinces. Besides the usual display of goods and machinery, there will be amusements of all kinds, and the best things in the way of freaks and curiosities that could possibly be secured.

The outdoor amusements are also on a grand scale this year. It is some time since there has been a balloon ascension in St. John, and parachute drops will be a novelty of the greatest kind here. Then the fireworks are said to be on a much grander scale even than those of last year, which delighted thousands of people.

But all the attractions will not be in the vicinity of the exhibition buildings, although there will probably be enough going on down there all the time to keep visitors busy. Uptown the attractions will be numerous. A first-class dramatic company at the new opera house, a novelty company at St. Andrew's rink, and garden concerts at the Palace, to say nothing of the fakers who will be here on time, even if they have not got posters out to announce their coming.

There is considerable amusement to be found in the vicinity of a fakir provided you keep your wallet in your pocket, and let other people take advantage of all the "bargains."

Will Not Burn Lehigh Coal.

When tenders were asked for supplying the government buildings in this city with coal, Honey Brook Lehigh was the kind specified. It is said that the firm that received the contract got it without much trouble, and now their inability to supply the kind of coal wanted is causing very little uneasiness. In former years the government officials have been very particular in regard to having coal contracts carried out to the letter, and the same can be said this fall, as far as the officials are concerned, but the men who run things at Ottawa seem to have different ideas.

Great Horse Racing.

The chances are that the people will see some great horse racing here exhibition week. The entries published in the daily papers yesterday show that over fifty have been made and by the best horses in the maritime provinces. Progress would print them if space permitted. The purses are large and horsemen are looking forward to some of the keenest contests that have taken place for years. Edgardo will trot against time again and it may be that the track record will be lowered.

Portrait of Father Davenport.

In the next issue of PROGRESS there will be a splendid half tone portrait of Father Davenport whose last Sunday in St. John will be September 27, instead of September 20 as PROGRESS said last Saturday. That information was correct enough then but another Sunday was arranged for this week. The portrait will be accompanied by a sketch by a well known writer whose acquaintance with the work of the church and its rector permits him to speak with correctness.

The Text of the Curate.

A curate in a local church was recently married. He had sufficient conscience and nerve to follow the good old English custom of having the banns published in the church where he assisted. The morning of "the third time of asking," he was to preach, and the rector had barely concluded the banns when the curate arose in the pulpit and gave out his text, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."