

CASUAL OBSERVATIONS.

Little Things of Interest with Crisp and Timely Comments. There is a good deal of style about the average St. John man, especially the younger fry who find time to promenade King street on fine afternoons. This was forcibly brought to mind the other day by the statement that one young swell appears in a different suit of clothes every time he leaves the house. This is vouched for by a friend of mine who lives next door, but whether the changes are due to the weather or a desire to astonish the people I do not know. That there is a good deal in the weather theory I know from personal experience. One can seldom tell in the morning whether to wear a mackintosh or a straw hat.

Talking about straw hats reminds me of an investment made a few weeks ago by a man whom I see every day. He bought a straw hat. It was late in the season and the stock he had to select from was not an extensive one, but notwithstanding this disadvantage, he seems so well pleased with his purchase that he wears it at every opportunity. During the last few weeks, however, opportunities have been scarce, but he has made the best of them. Fog could not discourage him, and sun showers were treated with contempt. He waited until they were over before appearing on the street.

One day last week the weather got the best of him. At noon the sun had thrown off all encumbrances and gave every evidence of having come to stay. The man with the straw hat made his appearance, and marched triumphantly to the office. An hour later the sun disappeared. The man with the straw hat had an engagement that afternoon, but when he started to fill it the rain was falling. He sat down to wait for the rain to stop. He made another attempt, but returned, and expressed the sentiment that "a fellow would look like an ass wearing a straw hat in a rainstorm like that." An hour afterward he thought of the engagement and went to the door. "It's coming down harder than ever," was the verdict, and he took the hat off and looked at it. The rain went on better every hour, and the man with the straw hat looked discouraged. At last the time came to close up the office, and the rain still came down in torrents. "How do you propose to get home?" someone asked. "I'll take the back alley for it," said the victim, as he turned up his coat collar. All of which goes to show that a man will endure rather than appear ridiculous.

It is a long walk to the Bay Shore on a warm day, and people with the necessary courage to undertake it, get all the enjoyment the cool breezes of the bay afford. Several days this week, the shore was black with people, all out on private picnics. But no matter how warm the weather, the number of people who go in bathing is remarkably small. There are always a few venturesome spirits splashing in the water, but the great majority seem content to look on, and let the sun do its prettiest. Why is it that St. John people shun the water? Is it modesty, or what? The Carletonians are more at home in it. All many of them have to do is to climb over the back yard fence and jump in; and on a warm day they turn out in force. There is more bathing done on Sand Point and on the shore near the railway than down on the great stretch of beach where the picnickers go. Nevertheless the number of bathers is increasing every year, and now that someone has "gone into the business" and furnishes suits and a place to don them, the popularity of the Bay shore for picnicking and bathing purposes will increase.

When picnicking comes into consideration Amherst deserves a word. The City Cornet band took a big excursion there Monday, and Amherst people did the rest. It was one of those picnics that you do not have to look for with a microscope. There was no mistaking the grounds. Seats at the long tables in the exhibition building were snapped up, so to speak, until long after the dinner hour, and everybody with a picnic appetite got a dinner made to fit. There was everything in plenty and an efficient committee to see that you got it. In the grounds there was every evidence of a picnic or a country fair; from "kill the coon" to the bowling alley, the merry-go-rounds, a bower for dancing, refreshment booths and two good bands. The youth and beauty of the Amherst R. C. congregation made themselves agreeable and lost no opportunities to add to the attractiveness of the occasion.

Although more or less chance entered into all the games, St. John had to furnish the only fakir of the occasion, a man with a wheel of fortune. It was a stylish affair in every respect, from the newly painted trotters to the riding costume of the operator, but the Amherst police did not seem to appreciate this fitness of things and made the operator move almost as frequently as the wheel.

I heard a good story the other day about a Kings county farmer whose stock of bright ideas is large enough to carry him through a more thickly populated part of the world. He has a number of hens and they are all good ones. He knows just what every hen is capable of and makes his calculations for market day accordingly. When there is any danger of his calculations falling short a few cents the Kings county man is distressed. One day not long ago he was making up his load for market, and discovered that his consignment of eggs was not coming out even. One egg was lacking to make a given number of dozens. He could not wait for the delinquent hen, nor did he think of losing eleven eggs; nor of trying to sell a short dozen. He thought of a way out of the difficulty in an instant. When the load was made up the delinquent hen was a part of it, and before he reached town he got the egg he longed for.

A book came to Progress office this week for review. The man to whom it was given read a few pages of it and found himself somewhat at sea. He could not understand it, and, I think, says so in another part of the paper. But everything is made for some good purpose and the book in question is no exception to the rule. The Joy and Woe editor has found a use for

THE SPANISH CELEBRATION.

Its Promoters Can Show Much to Remind One of Columbus. The story of Columbus and the discovery of America, although known in a general way to everyone, has been told from innumerable points of view within the past year. In the United States it is the one thing of absorbing interest aside from the elections. Everyone who can will see the World's Fair, and everything that can possibly have any connection with Columbus is being brought to the front. But the interest is not confined to America. The

Columbus spent his time before and after the great voyage. The illustrations show the convent of La Robida, where Columbus prayed before sailing, and this is only one of the many places that a Spanish guide can show. The old Santa Maria side by side with some modern ships as the Newark and Chicago give only a faint idea of the changes since Columbus' time, but the fact that the steamships are representatives of the continent that he discovered is significant.

The Santa Maria was the vessel commanded by Columbus on the expedition. It was the largest of the three ships, having 90 feet keel and four masts, of which two were square rigged and two fitted with



countries of the old world will be represented at Chicago, but will not do all their celebrating at the windy city. In Spain the Columbus celebrations are now being carried on a vast scale. The Spaniards have a great advantage over Chicago in many respects. They can show

visitors many places of interest, where stern sails. It was decked from stem to stern, having besides a poop 26 feet in length, beneath which was the armament of heavy guns, with small pieces forward for throwing stones and grapes. It was provided with eight anchors and carried 66 seamen.

it. The work is remarkable for the number of words it contains of six syllables strung together with others of eight or nine. When business is rushing and anybody comes into the office to talk politics, the new book is produced and a passage read for the benefit of all concerned. One paragraph is usually sufficient to clear the office of all but those who are compelled to stay. I would recommend all newspaper men who have not received a copy of *Thoughts from a new System of Thought in the science of association, and a key to disclose the Ideal in the Real, it being the Substratum of all intelligence as based on the Tint, the Speckle and the One*, to get one immediately.

OF INTEREST TO MASONS.

Notes and News of the Fraternity in New Brunswick and Elsewhere. The 26th triennial convocation of the grand encampment of Knights Templars of the United States will be held at Boston in 1895.

The freemasons of Halifax are preparing for a big bazaar in that city in June next, to raise funds to reduce the debt on the temple and increase the fund for benevolent purposes. The masonic body all over Nova Scotia will be asked to aid and assist in the work.

The masonic lodges of St. John, would make a very much better appearance in their processions, if it was the business of anybody to give the brethren some elementary instructions on the principles of walking decently. The director of ceremonies should in all cases give his attention to the men in the lines, or alleged lines, and see that things are done decently and in order. The marching at funerals is always particularly bad, because not one man in five knows that while the left foot goes to the drum-beat in all ordinary marching it should not do so with the dead march in Saul. The right goes to the drum-beat when that is played, but the majority of the St. John brethren are either ignorant of this fact or obstinately ignore the advice of those who endeavor to correct their awkwardness.

There is another point which is worthy of consideration. The cemetery is three miles out of town and many people refrain from joining the ranks because of the inconvenience to which they are put by the long walk. An eminent member of the fraternity once sought to improve matters by having the procession go only as far as the Marsh bridge, from which place a sufficient delegation could take carriages for the remainder of the way. This proposition did not meet with favor at that time, but there was a good deal of common sense in the idea.

Among the features of the Knights Templars' convocation at Denver was a boys' parade, over a mile in length, and several of the divisions were "uniformed in exact imitation of the full regalia of a knight." The United States masons have gone to such an extent in hybridizing the historical Order of the Temple, that nothing in the way of parades need surprise anybody.

In the portrait of retiring grand master Gobin, in the group of prominent Knight Templars published in Progress last week, many St. John fraters see a marked resemblance to Rt. Em. Sir S. F. Matthews, past provincial prior. It may be added that when frater Matthews attended the triennial at Washington, in 1889, he was quite frequently mistaken for frater Gobin.

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