## PROGRESS.

EDWARD S. CARTER, ..... EDITOR.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, FEB. 11.

THE EPIDEMIC OF SCANDALS.

It would almost seem that morality was at a very low ebb in the maritime provinces, judging from the number of scandals and sensations that have been forced upon the attention of the public within the last few weeks. In one instance a clergyman, with a high reputation for devotion to his calling, confesses to a series of indiscretions which can be accounted for only on the belief of an aberration of mind; in another, two preminent ministers are trying to prove each other guilty of flagrant immorality; in another, the wife of one of the best known men in this province is charged by a coroner's jury with having caused the death of an adopted daughter by cruel treatment; and finally, in Nova Scotia a woman is under arrest for having caused the death of her husband by poison. Perhaps the word "finally" is not strictly correct in this connexion, for public rumor has whispered of several other St. John scandals which have not yet found their way into the newspapers. All in all, there seems an epidemic of wrong doing in respectable society, and many good souls are naturally asking what the country is coming to, and if people are not a great deal worse than they used to be.

It cannot be said that they are. Take the average of the people and the years, the plane of morality is doubtless higher than it was fifty or a hundred years ago. We hear more about scandals now than did our ancestors, because the facilities for getting and publishing information are greater than they were in the olden time. Then, too, perhaps, we look for a higher level than was looked for by our forefathers, and we are quick to expose those who offend against the moral standard of these latter days. That so many startling stories should come to the front about the same time, argues nothing. There seems to be a periodicity in a good many kinds of happenings in this world. One big fire, railroad accident, shipwreck or crime, seems to bring others in its train, and so it may be that the preponderance of unpleasant scandals at this time may be followed by a long and greatly to be desired lull. It is probably better that all should come at once, rather than that they should be separated by intervals, and so act as a moral slow poison among the people. It is to be hoped that the climax has been reached for the present.

For the effect of social scandals is undoubtedly detrimental to the interests of society. The newspapers cannot well avoid giving publicity to much that has a tendency to lower the moral tone of the community. Matters, which, when discussed at all, should be treated only with the stern rebuke that such sins merit, become the subject of levity, and men are made worse rather than better by the bad examples which the offenders have set. Then, too, when the offender is one who has been looked up to as a good man or woman, his cr her lapse has the tendency to weaken the general faith in others, and religion, no less than morality, suffers because of the weakness or crime of those who have professed to be guided by its teachings. Every fall of those who have been known as christians gives the atheist and the rationa'ist a weapon with which to conquer those who are weak and wavering in the faith. The effect of scandals in respectable society is to work destruction in every direction.

There is a general impression that the newspapers welcome the advent of sensations and scandals and delight in being the purveyors of the details of such affairs. This is not true. The newspapers would far rather interest the public with other things of a more healthful tone, but they would be untrue to their mission did they suppress what the public demand should be known. Even as it is, they are forced into saying more than they would say by the keen competition one with the other to give their readers the latest and most prominent facts. This applies, of course, more par- a curled and beribboned Japanese member ticularly to the daily papers, but in a measure to Progress as well. On more than the centre Ootah herself, with her super- Sentinel.

hope that in some way the matter would not become public through the papers. The nature of G. HERBERT LEE's operations and their probable effect on various estates was known in this office weeks before the collapse, but out of consideration to others than the chief offender, all reference to it was withheld until the town rang with what it heard. So, too, in the L. G. STEVENS case, all the facts were known long before the public had a suspicion of them, but it could not then be forseen that the daily papers should give them such prominence as they have done. In other instances, where certain things were legitimate matters for publicity, PROGRESS has kept silence simply that it does not love a scandal because it is a scandal, and because, so far as possible it aims to speak in such a way as is most healthful in the interests of the public.

So would it be with the general run of newspapers were they free to do as they please. They do not seek scandals for the sake of scandals, but when matters of general notoriety are forced upon them they have no other course than to give the news. They would rather it were some other kind of news, but if the world is wicked they cannot cloak its wickedness. The truth must come out, and it is not the fault of the papers that it does so.

From every point of view a scandal is one of the most undesirable things that a community or a newspaper is called upon to discuss. But that so long as people create scandals they will by discussed is a truth that is painfully apparent to all.

WOMAN IS NATURALLY HONEST. One of the New York papers points to the fact that during the last ten or fitteen years there has been an enormous increase in the number of women employed in positions of trust in mercantile establishments, and yet that dishonesty among them is a most exceptional thing. Because of the increase in the employment of females, the number of defalcations and betrayals of trust is visibly less than it formerly was, and even in the case of petty theits the offenders are almost always males. "There are," it is said, "temale cashiers, accountants, auditors, bookkeepers, entry clerks and cash girls. They are intelligent, accurate, alert, and almost without exception honest." So it is we score one for the reliability of the girls in positions of responsibility and

There is no reason why, all things being equal, woman should be any more honest than man. It is a painfully admitted fact that, in the abstract she has not so high a regard for truth. She has grades of veracity, and justifies herself for her course, but when it comes to the question of honesty as regards other people's money, she can be depended on nearly every time.

Without any wish to detract from the credit due to gentle woman in this respect, it is only fair to erring man to point out that something is due to the respective environments of the two sexes. A man who is a defaulter or embezzler usually becomes so because he has been going at a pace beyond his means. Under the conditions of modern society he can be " rapid" and hold his position in social circles, nor do his recreations affect his standing with his employers, so long as he attends to his work. He has a great deal of liverty to do as he pleases, while a woman has not a chance to imitate him and retain a respectable situation. Her tastes do not call for luxuries that cost large sums of money, she is not given to drinking, and does not speculate, or otherwise gamble. She can live on her salary, while a man of expensive tastes lives beyond the income that is allowed him. That is one way of looking at the matter.

Against this, however, it must be remembered that many women clerks are compelled to work for wages scarcely more than sufficient to provide them with the bare necessaries of life, and that the same characteristic of honesty is found among this class as among their sisters who are better paid. This gives force to the theory that woman is naturally honest to a greater degree than man. It is well that it should be so. The better the women of today are, the better will be the men of the future.

THEY HAD LITTLE TO DO.

New York had a society event, the other day, which was a little out of the usual course even for that big city of odd events and strange contrasts, where the wealthy are very rich and the poor are very wretched. It was not of a nature to affect any of the great social problems of the day, but it was of interest as showing how some of the New York elite find ways to employ their time. It was a dog party.

The little brute in honor of which the affair was given was a Japanese female poodle belong to one Mrs. EUGENE CLARKE, and only dogs of high social positions were invited. Invitations, elaborately got up and signed with the name of the dog, were issued and a number of society women and twenty of their dogs responded. MRS. CLARKE, the owner of the poodle, received the guests in full Japanese dress, while it is recorded that "fair young girls and matrons formed the reception committee, holding each in leash by a silver chain of Ootah's large and thriving family. In

one occasion it has held back facts in the cilious nose pointing skyward, a big rosette on either side of her collar, one of pink and one of blue; an air of high-born indifference and resignation in the amiable greeting with which she welcomed her guests, as if wishing it were all over."

The HILTONS, the ROSENFELDS, Mrs. Bronson Howard and other prominent members of the inner circle were present and talked of dogs. An elaborate collation was served to the animals on tables six inches high, with four dogs at each. At each plate was placed a Japanese napkin, a favor in the form of a Japanese music box and a Japanese bowl. Silly looking men in Japanese costume stood and looked on. Pretty women in beautiful gowns sat down on the floor with their pets, and watched them solicitously as they devoured unfamiliar goodies," says an account of the affair. It proceeds to say:

There were chicken and Japanese cakes, Japanese sweetmeats and ice cream for the dogs, and after the dogs had finished, not before, there was punch for the ladies and gentlemen.

A birthday cake, with lighted candles and surrounded with kisses, finished the feast, and the serv ing of a game pie containing presents for the doggies to take home as souvenirs, concluded the unique

Carriages were ordered, the dog darlings wrapped n costly blankets, went home to their dreams and indigestion, and Ootah danced a gavotte in her delight to think it was over. And the old woman with the basket on her arm, taking it all in from the pavement, said: "A dog party is it? Glory to God, but they must have little to do."

Ay, true enough, they must have little to do, and yet in that great city where hundreds of their less fortunate sisters are suffering during a hard winter for the ordinary comforts of life, there is more than enough of work which they might do instead of trying to kill time by dog parties. If modern society were half as useful as it is silly in its ways, how different the world might be.

Rev. SIDNEY WELTON has been investigated this week by a council of delegates from churches in the Southern Baptist Association. The recommendation is that his church withdraw its fellowship from him, but it is pointed out that the church is not bound to act on this counsel. Mr. WEL-TON is reported as saying that he does not care for the decision of the council, which may be interpreted to mean that he will continue to preach it his congregation will have been a veritable lamb in the midst of wolves in the graveyard insurance cases, but only one man on the jury-a member of his congregation-appears to have been of that opinion. This fact, added to the decision of a council of the brethren of his own faith, might suggest to some men in his position that a prompt retirement from the ministry would be a graceful act, under the

The legislature of Massachusetts has deeided to abolish the annual fast day in that state, and has done wisely. When the day was established by the rigidly orthodox forefathers, it was observed in the spirit of fasting and prayer. In these times it has degenerated into a festival out of which the public try to get as much amusement as a holiday can supply. The services in the churches are more than offset by the recreations elsewhere. A tast day that depends for its existence on the will and pleasure of a body of politicians has not much hold upon the moral sense of the people.

Such bodies as the tribunals which have been investigating the CURRIE-CRISP affair and the case of Rev. SIDNEY WELTON have an undoubted right to exclude the press and the public from their sessions. The wisdom of doing so is another question. It is in the interests of public morality that such cases should be thoroughly and fairly investigated, and no doubt they will be, but the public is always suspicious of secret tribunals. Besides, the newspapers are bound to have reports in some shape or other, and it would be better that they should be as near the truth as possible.

One Mr. IVEN WIREN, a Danish newspaper man, is trying to get around the world in eighteen months without using any money. Level head. The average newspaper man who does not start on such a tour until he has money enough to pay his way is likely to get left.

In view of the fact that the charge against Mrs. Stevens is before the proper tribunals, the letter signed "A Mother" is withheld, though its sentiments are in accord with the popular opinion on the subject. The case is a sad one, at best, and it is not strange that it excites a wide and deep in-

JOYS AND WOES OF OTHER PLACES.

Some Men Would Have Drunk Whiskey. Mr. R. W. Stephens lost a horse on the 21st inst. He had been working hard and drank considerable cold water .- Shelburne Budget.

Surprise in a Scott Act Town. On Sunday morning thieves broke into Mr. Frank Tyrrell's store room near the bridge and stole a quantity of liquor .- St. Stephen cor. Beacon.

Test of the True Musician

As a proof that the people of Lunenburg in general are musicians, there have been no less than five organ and piano agents in town during the past fortnight, and a large business has been done .-Lunenburg Argus.

Matrimonial Boom at Debec John Chittick wooed and won Miss Lucy Harris of this village; Rev. Thomas Pierce tied the nuptial knot. John stole a march on the boys, but he was caught by the girls; he thought he was sly, but he could not get by the girl who sells rice, and if we mistake not his boots testified to that fact .- Carleton

POEMS WRITTEN FOR "PROGRESS."

Montgomerie's Maid.

A single strain,-I turned to see Who bore that trilling voice; Of all the chances to a bard This was Apolo's choice !

In love's green lodge I met her first-The springtide wilderness; Like star come down and turned a maid, Such was her loveliness.

My Una of the Scottish wild,-My Highland Mary, stood, And shed an angel light athwart Her sylvan neighborhood.

Not buxom warm, like Bonnie Jean, Yet purely-bright was she; She held my heart's keen passion-fire In awful chastity. She was all grace and shapeliness;

Her milk-white feet were bare;

A glimmering aureole seemed to rest

Upon her shining hair. One golden lock is all I hold;-And yet, she once was mine! Yes, I have clasped with trembling arms

A creature half divine Pity, and trust, and gentieness Were in her soft blue eyes.

Communed of paradise. O Sabbath, sacred more than all The holy gifted span That light the tearful heritage

That, misted with celestial dew

Of toil-encumbered man! That day I never can forget When last I met her here! Sweeter the singing birds, the blooms That decked the opening year.

T'was in the merrie month of May; The birk tree's tender green And clustered hawthorn's scented flowers Along the Ayr were seen.

The laverock darted up on high, Scattering his fiery notes; And Merle and mairs shook the songs, From their enamored throats.

Aud love was in the scented sod And in the warm blue skies; And love was in the liquid light Of Highland Mary's eyes.

Where soft the murmuring waters run We lived the lee-lang days; Blissful the hours; but swiftly sped The winged joys away. Our happiest and our last they were;

She vanished from my yearning gaze And evermore was gone! O face of perfect love! O eyes That looked so kind on me

The eve came stealing on:

O robber Death! how can I yield My noblest hope to thee? Thou art forever with the spring, Thy day is ever fair; But lonely rings our limpid Faile

That runs to meet the Ayr. Lonely my walks by dale and brae, And 'neath the greenwood tree; Thy grave is in the dingy town

And near the moaning sea. † But thou, O my leaf-haunting star! Art set within my soul; Wilt thou not hold the poet's heart In thy divine control?

Though he may fall, and sorrow sore To see the wound and stain. Thy memory, like thy living smile, Shall make him whole again.

Who fed thee with His own pure love Hath filled my fiery heart, And sent me out among His birds

To catch their singing art; For he who loves thee cannot die-His lightest word is fame; And singing worlds shall weep to hear His Highland Mary's name.

ARTHUR J. LOCKHART. \* The traditional account of Highland Mary pre

sent her to us as a maiden of uncommon purity and beauty. Mrs. Begg, Burns' sister, said that she had "a bonnie face and form, complexion of unusual fairness, soft blue eyes, a profusion of shining hair which fell to her knees, a slender and petite figure, which made her seem younger than twenty sum mers, a bright smile and pleasing manners, which won the old lady's heart." The "old lady" was Burns' mother. Hugh Miller speaks of her as beautiful, slyph-like, exquisitely moulded, statuelike in symmetry and marble-like whiteness."

† She was buried in the burial-plot of her Unc in the West Kirkyard at Greenlock, within a stone' throw of the Clyde. A wall separates the grave from Crawford street, and the smoke and dust of

Canadian Skies.

The beauties of Italia's land The clearness of her sky, Have oft been praised in poet's song Or gratified the eye.

The glories of some foreign soil The grandeur there displayed, The tragic tales recounted o'er Have oft our hearts dismayed.

The poet has with rapturous pen Described the land of love, The land of music and of song,

With brightest sky above. Where music floats upon the breeze, Where muses brave their haunts, and where

The truest love is found. Where cupid's dart strikes deeper still,

Where lovers in their sylvan bowers Mark not the flight of time. But I will sing of sky as clear, Of scenes more lively still,

Of waters from the ocean lake, So tiny rippling rill. We may not have traditions old Or ruins in decay,

We have not reached the height arts Which other lands display. But we can match Italian sky, With sky as clear again, And we can boast as bright a sun, As ever shone on Spain

And we have lakes of beauty too Where gondola may sail, With scenes of stirring grandeur, or The peaceful quiet vale

And we have streams that leap down cliffs, And tumble o'er and o'er, From the murmuring brook of the mountain side.

To Niagara's awful roar. And we have nymphs with eyes as bright And sylvan bowers as gay, And lovers who can woo as well

And love as true as they. There may be some who wish to see A brighter sun arise, But I am e'er content to dwell Beneath "Canadian skies."

BOOKS AND REVIEWS.

"The Mother's Nursery Guide" is a welcome visitor in every household where there is a baby, and the February number is no exception to the rule. Dr. M. M. Vinton's article on "Baby's First Month," is an excellent guide for any young mother, filled as it is with practical advice as to the best methods of starting the youthful king, or queen right, on the perilous and slippery path we must all tread. It is replete with valuable suggestions as to feeding, bathing and sleeping. Dr. W. B. Canfield has an equally important article on "Fevers," especially in children, their cause and treatment, which will be most useful to all parents of young children. "Supplementary School Work in the Home," "The Development of a Child's "Language," 'The Kindergarten - at - Home Stories," "The Mother's Parliament," medical answers to various questions, and other interesting topics. Babyhood Publishing Co., 5 Beekman St., New York; \$2 a year.

A notable feature of "The Book Buyer," for February, is the publication of six pages from as many "mental albums," filled out by such well known authors as Eugene Field, Robert Grant, Octave Thanet, Richard Harding Davis and Hjalmer Hjorth Boyesen.

The opening article is a description of the life and work of the poet, William Watson, whose name was at one time mentioned in connection with the succession to the laureateship, and gives an insight into the literary life of an English poet, whose works are less well known than they should

be on this side of the water. About Authors is a pleasant chat in regard to the best known people in the literary world, and is embellished with a fine picture of the residence of Rudyard Kipling, and a facsimile page of the manuscript of one of Tennyson's "Idyls of the King." "Biography and History" is fully up to the usual mark, and "A Play," and "Two Volumes of Poems," gives a sketch of Sir Edwin Arnold's new play "Adzuma, or the Japanese Wife," a charming story of the Japanese Griselda, the ideal wite of feudal Japanese times. The poems are a new edition of William Winter's poems, under the title of . "The Wanderers," and Miss Edna Dean Proctor's "Song of the Ancient people." "Novels and Short Stories," 'Literary, Social and Scientific," "New Books" and " The Literary Querist" conclude the number.

The publishers of "The National Magamonth, the two magazines have been merged into one, under the name of the older periodical, "The Magazine of American History," which begins with the February number. General James Grant Wilson, editor of Appleton's Cyclopædia of American Biography, will be the editor of this publication, which will be enlarged more than thirty pages, while the price will be reduced from \$5 to \$4 per annum. The historical prize competition inaugurated by "The National Magazine," and offering \$2,000 in fourteen prizes, is continued by the new magazine, and the conditions unchanged. Particulars can be obtained by sending a stamp to the "Magazine of National History," 132 Nassau Street, New York City. A sketch of the late editress, Mrs. Lamb, accompanied by an admirable portrait of her, as a frontispiece; and the articles "A North Carolina Monastery" and "An Incident in the Life of Webster," which were arranged by Mrs. Lamb for the present number, will have a special interest for the public. "La Tour and Acadia" deals with one of the most interesting incidents in the history of Nova Scotia, and also of Massachussets. Other interesting articles are, Professor Weeks' sketch of John Archdale, the Quaker Governor of North Carolina in 1794; a paper by the editor on Bayard Taylor, the poet-traveller; a Columbian Ode for the celebration of 1792, by John Pintard, founder of the New York Historical Society; and various other papers which should be of great interest to American readers.

"Donahoe's Magazine" for February gives good evidence of the intention of the present management to give it a high place among the leading periodicals of the country. It makes a fine appearance typographically, while [the illustrations are in keeping with the general character of the number. Among the more prominent contributors are "Joe" Howard, who gives reminiscences of "Catholic Prelates I Have Known;" Jas. W. Clarke, the well known journalist, who compares the English and American public school systems; and Rev. Fr. Currier, the Redemptorist, who has a very timely paper on Monsignor Satolli, the Papal Delegate. A very interesting article on "Catholic New York" is furnished by Dr. Richard H. Clarke, while John W O'Keete's paper on Catholic Actresses is enriched by a number of portraits, including those of Mary Anderson, Mlle. Rhea and Modjeska. A brief sketch of the character of Cardinal Gibbons, by W. H. Tammen, is accompanied by a fine portrait of that eminent prelate. There are many other features of interest, including the women and girls' department. Donahoe's Magazine Co., Boston; \$2 a year.

The copyright on the first edition of Donald G. Mitchell's "Reveries of a Bachelor," having expired, the publishers, Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons, announce for immediate issue in uniform style, two new, complete author's editions, of the "Reveries" and "Dream Lite." Parts of the "Reveries" are still protected by copyright, and the copyright on "Dream Life" will not expire until 1894, but the publishers desire to anticipate the publication of unauthorized editions, by issuing these books in cheap and attractive editions.

The story of the "Atlantic Telegraph," by Dr. Henry M. Field, is to be reissued by the Scribners' in a revised edition from new plates. The recent death of Cyrus | ed of small objects. Therefore, to put a W. Field recalls attention to the great enterprise with which his name must always his room with his own hand, and carries the be associated, the story of the great keys in his own keeping.

achievement written by the chief actor's brother, is complete, authentic and full of

"The Campaign of Waterloo," by John C. Hopes, published by the Scribners' on January 20th has already passed into a second edition.

A new volume will shortly be added to the popular series of "Famous Women of the French Court," published by the Scribners'. It will be the third and last volume on the career of the charming Duchess de Berry, and will be entitled "The Duchess of Berry and the Revolution of July, 1830."

The forthcoming volumn in the "Great Edweators" series will be on Froebel and the kindergarten movement in education. It is written by H. Courthope Bowen, lecturer at the University of Cambridge, and gives a full account of the life and work of Froebel, and the growth and developement of the kindergarten movement from its origin. It will be published immediately by the Scribners'.

Among the attractions in the March number of "Donahoe's Magazine" will be an illustrated article on Catholicism in the Maritime Provinces, by John Boden, formerly of St. John and now on the staff of the N. Y. Press.

Official Tyranny in Quebec.

Things seem to have come to a pretty pass in Quebec city. The chief of police advertises in the Chronicle that he "has received instructions to put in force the bylaw prohibiting the purchase or sale of any produce or provisions intended for the public markets of the city, in or upon any street, public place, yard, house or building or any other place whatever in the city. Anyone infringing the above by-law will be liable to a fine of forty dollars." As the sweeping phrase of "any other place whatever" includes markets and all other available quarters, it seems evident that the citizens of the ancient capital will be forced to go outside the city limits to do their marketing. And this is in Canada, in the nineteenth century.

Change in an Old Halifax Firm.

It is understood that a change will take place in the old and well known wholesale zine." having purchased the "Magazine of drv goods firm of T. & E. Kenny, Halifax, American History," which was edited by before very long. It is the intention of T. is said that all the employes of the firm have received notices to the effect that their services will not be required after six months have elapsed. Mr. T. E. Kenny has many outside interests to take up his attention-shipping, banking, etc, to say nothing of his duties as M. P. for Halifax county. He will devote his attention entirely to these upon his retiring from the dry goods business. It is generally understood that Edward G. Kenny, eldest son of T. E. Kenny, M. P., will carry on the business upon the retirement of his father.

Words Failed Them.

It is said that at a late meeting of the parishioners of the Rev. Sydney Welton's church, two of the lady members became very much excited in a discussion in regard to Mr. Welton. The argument waxed warmer after the meeting was over and by the time they reached Scott's corner, words gave out and they decided to settle the question by more torcible arguments. Friends separated the ladies after some trouble but the dispute remained unsettled.

Should be Stopped.

The practice of hoodlums, in gangs of dozen or more, hiding along the road beyond the Marsh Bridge and pelting sleighing parties with snow and ice, should be promptly stopped. On Thursday evening a lady in a sleigh got a severe blow on the face from a missle thrown by these young rascals, who were hidden in a hollow just beyond Kierstead & White's store.

Her Majesty at Work. While she is staying at Balmoral the Queen does her official work in a very large sitting-room, seated at a huge writing table plentifully littered with papers, letters and telegrams, and adorned with several family photographs. On her Majesty's right hand stands another table loaded with despatch-boxes, and on yet another there is a large silver salver, on which she places documents as she has done with them. When this is full, it is carried off to Sir Henry Ponsonby, who arranges its contents and packs them up for despatch. One of the most prominent objects in the room is a large easel bearing an excellent portrait of the Prince Consort. A book-table, loaded with books, stands close by her Majesty's favorite easy-chair.

As She Is Wrote. They write delightful English in Japan. Here are a tew examples. On a bottle of claret: "Weak man who is not so hard of his stomach takes notice of his health ever

must use this wine usually. In a dentist's circular: "Our tooth is an mportant organ for human life and countenance, as you know; therefore, when it is attacked by disease or injury, artificial

tooth is also very useful. An article of municipal law: "Any up the safe package."

An ingenious explanation is given of the Pope's habit of rattling his keys wherever he goes. It is said that English and American tourists have been in the habit of purchasing articles which he may have handled at high prices as relics, and that his apartments in the Vatican were denud-