## PROGRESS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1893.

# A MATTER OF CHANCE. and, strange to say, about the same time,

#### YET SOME COINCIDENCES ARE OF A STARTLING NATURE.

A Batch of Anecdotes Upon Which the Superstitious Might Place Weight--Things That Happen but Cannot Well be Accounted For.

A few years ago says a recent writer, a gentleman entered a well-known New York hotel. While glancing over the visitors' list he was surprised to find an entry corresponding in every particular with his own. Naturally, the fact aroused his curiosity; since he was aware no male relatives who were distinguished by the same christian and surname as himself.

wide circle of friends.

cidence,

tounded to hear their genial host had pass-

WAS IT GOOD TASTE?

Mr. Frith Critizes the Recent Action of

Some Well Meaning Citizens.

if any of them read the kindly and discrim-

minated by his phillipic. You say that

petitions were signed by hundreds of per-

sons of all creeds and faiths, who wanted

the good father to come back to St. John.

All very well. None could possibly have

wanted him back more than the undersigned,

A speedy introduction tollowed, which revealed the singular fact that both men had been named after Colonel Elmer Ellsworth. The coincidence happened to be reviewed in the press, and its publication elicited from the Rev. E. E. Reynolds, of Ludlow, Vermont, the information that he too had been named after Colonel Ellsworth, and, strange to say, born the same week with the others.

Not long since a Mr. A. H. Whitney, of Toronto, Canada-with his wife and a friend-put up one evening in Detroit, intending to resume his journey the following morning. That night the unfortunate gentleman expired in the extreme stages of consumption. He had been an invalid for three years, and was on his way to Mexico hoping to improve his health.

But the strangest part is to come. Early the following morning another Mr, and Mrs. A. H. Whitney arrived ; but this couple were apparently in good health, Mr. Whitney doing his own registering, They were shown to their room, and here, scarcely ten minutes later, the second lady became a widow, her husband having succumbed to an attack of heart disease.

The affair caused some consternation among the guests of the hotel, as its features, so singularly dramatic, appeared at once to the popular imagination. Both men had held good positions and were comfortably off; they were not related, nor had they met each other at any time.

An incident illustrating the popular maxim, "There is nothing new under the

grown beyond the scope of that board? dating from the commencing of his tenancy. The answer to this question would seem to For some years after this the house rebe in the affirmative.

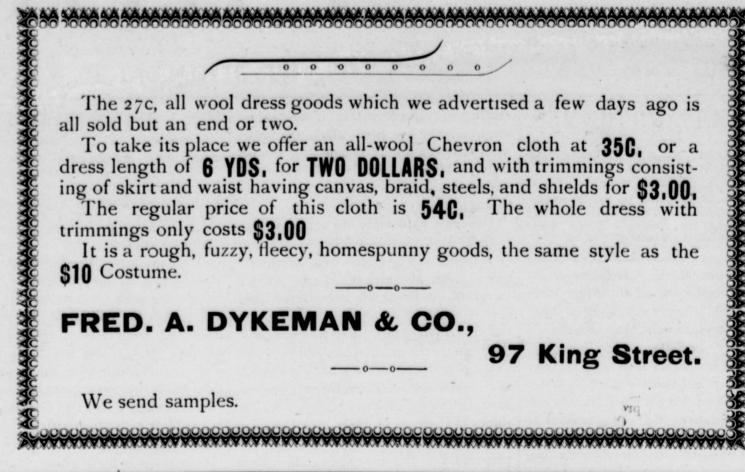
mained empty, until at length a gentleman, What is absolutely wanted is a revalualess credulous than the rest, agreed to take tion of all our real estate and personal proit upon a lease for seven years, with the option of renewing it upon the same reaperty and income from labor, of the ratesonable terms at the expiration of that payers of our enlarged city of St. John, unperiod. At first, its history served as the der the legislature of to-day, without fear or occasion for a grim joke, but gradually old favor of affection. Some property is now associations were forgotten and again it became the centre of attraction, vieing with valued too high, and some absurdly too its neighbours in extending a generous low. A proper administration of the ashospitality and in opening its doors to a sessment law of St. John would fairly equalize the burdens and reduce the rate Five years passed away, and when upon from one and one half of one per cent to the eve of the sixth someone jocosely re-

marked that this was presumably a day fatal to the master of the establishment, he say, about one and a quarter per cent, with probability of future reduction to the invited those friends who were acquainted vicinity of one per cent. with the story to picnic with him up the

river. The party returned home at night-fall, well satisfied with their entertainment. If this revaluation were intelligently done the wage earner, who is now assess-Nex morning, however, they were ased on \$400 income, would pay say, \$7 instead of \$8; and the wealthy citizen now ed away during the night. Death the docassessed on \$100,000, would pay say. tors attributed to heart disease. But, oc-\$1,252 instead of \$1,502. The proper adcurring as it did upon the very day which had proved so fatal years before to previous ministration of our assessment law would tenants, it struck many as a singular cointherefore seem to be one of the problems with which this Tax Reduction Association will have to grapple. Is it possible, that under the present management, any considerable number of our people escape TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS :-- In taxation altogether ?

the biography of the late Bishop Med-In view of the Connelly embroglio, should not the Tax Reduction Association, ley, recently published, will be found, at take steps to ascertain whether the time has page 132, a brief reference to a lecture on not arrived, when it would be expedient "good taste" which His Lordship delivered and in the best interests of our ever open nearly forty years ago in St. John. The port of St. John, to have the building of our wharves and the dredging of harbor, etc., done under the immediate superfew of the listeners to that able lecture who may still survive will net forget its vision of a permanent board of harbor keen and scathing arraignment of the offencommissioners, under the terms and conders against the taste which is good; and ditions of our present dominion and provincial legislature regarding the matter. This would reduce our civic indebtedness inating article which appeared in your last of about three-quarters of a million of dolissue on the possible return of Father Davlars, and this one may fairly claim would enport to this city, it must have forcibly materially reduce the tax-bill sent out anstruck them that the class of offenders nnally to the rate payer by our worthy city chamberlain. Under a commission all the which the bishop denounced was not exteraffairs of the harbor administrator by the saw booms, would be paid through the Customs, so that the taxation, in this regard, would not affect the tax payers bill from the Chamberlain's office, even to the extent of one dollar.

The consolidation of our city debt of TIME IS AN about three million of dollars is another and yet a mere flagrant breach of good matter calling for action. St. John has assets fully the equivalent of her indebtedtaste could scarcely be conceived than these ness, and her bonds for all practical pur-poses would be equal to British consols, so sible. We think of time and petitioners, (thoughtlessly perhaps, and that a scheme to consolidate our city debt. gradually at say three and one half pe cent per annum, is quite teasible, and this matter it naturally taken hold of could be accomplished in the not distant future. To this idea of consolidation of our city debt, it is only fair to, as an excuse for the apparent apathy of our present and former civic authorities, that the eitizens who now hold our bonds do not look with favor upon any movement in the reduction of interest. This state of affairs should not be allowed to continue and a determined effort should now be made to consolidate our city debt at a rate not exceeding three and one balt per cent per annum. In conclusion, I would only further call attention to the fact that in view of the possibilities of epidemics, we should as speedily as possible have water mains extended to Loch Lomond; then we would have an abundant supply of as good water as there is in the world. RAY.



#### Hawker's Pearls,

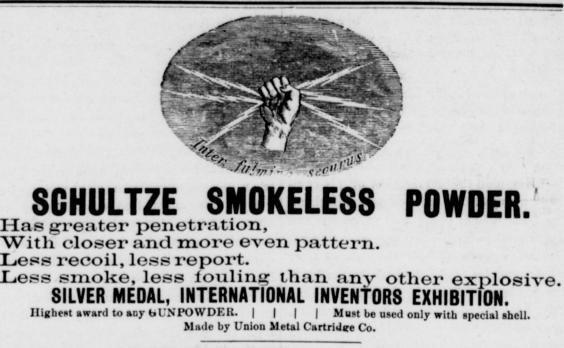
Chas, McGregor, 137 Charlotte street, says Hawker's Nerve and Stomach Tonic, Hawker's Catarrah Cure, and Hawker's Balsam of Tolu and Wild Cherry are sellin good form.

To the Hawker Medicine Company limited : Chas, McGregor, 137 Charlotte street never said anything of the kind. See PROGRESS of 16th inst. C. McG.

ST. JOHN. Sept. 20, '93 To the Hawker Meeicine Co :--

Sir: While your Mr. Chestnut was conversing with me in regard to the sale of your medicines. I did not think he was going to publish our conversation, or would have said nothing, as I am opposed to all patent medicines, but had I known Mr. Chestnut wanted something tor publication, I could have done much better for him. Yours, etc., Chas. McGregor.

Object where one wishes to get to earning as soon as pos-



# W. H. THORNE & CO., MARKET SQUARE, St. JOHN. THE ROYAL DIAMOND. King of Wood Cook Stoves.

sun," is recorded in the annals of a wellthe many manuscripts submitted to them within the course of a few weeks, three were found to be identical in plot and action; though, as might be expected, differing slightly in treatment. They had each been written by an author of repute, without any attempt whatever at collaboration.

Not frequently coincidences are as startling as they are unlooked for, but that which happened to a gentleman wherse two ity, or wanton neglect of duty ? Was no sons were attending their respective colleges at Oxford and Cambridge, is so singular as to merit a few words in its favour.

The elder, a young gentleman of expensive ways and habits, found it necessary to write home for a remittance, He had lost money over some betting transaction and was sorely in need of £20. How to obtain this sum without any inconvenient questions being asked puzzled him. His father, he was aware, held very pronounced opinions upon the sin of gambling, and was not likely to help him it he knew what purpose his money would be put. He therefore taxed his ingenuity for an excuse that would be both reasonable and likely to open his parent's purse to the amount he required.

The idea of writing up expenses for college fees, books, stationery, aud his share in the outlay connected with one or two clubs to which he belonged, presented itself, as the most feasible excuse to be found for so sudden a call upon the paternal resources, and, moreover, one which possessed the merit of figuring under the head of "necessities." A plausible letter was drawn up and despatched, and its result awaited with some amount of anxiety.

Now, it happened the young gentleman at Cambridge was likewise in need of a little pecuniary assistance, since his expenses in living had been rather higher more naturally than to his father? At the stand no "nonsense," it became expedient to draft out a summary of expenses sufficient to cover the sum he needed. This was soon accomplished, and the letter despatched forthwith.

Next morning their father's astonishment

When all the rubes and hayseeds have skipped impress even the most incredulous among OIL expenditure of St. John now about equals us, occurred recently in an old-fashoned away from town; Many a man will be busted, people will tear their our provincial expenditure. riverside villa. As often happens, the house, FIRE TEST - S FRAZEE'S BUSINESS COLLEGE, 119 Hollis evening. Best place to learn Bookkeeping, Busin-ess, etc., also Stenography and Typewriting. Send for our circular. J. C. P. FRAZEB, Principal. tf OHN TERIALO hair, though admirable in every respect, was The Association having entered upon He de Park will be dead and buried after the Fair. unable to compete with the many villas and this important work, the question now is, family mansions---with their "modern For Every Day. RELIANCE RELIANCE What next? conveniences"—which had sprung up mush-room-like around it. Nor was this all. Write for Quotations. Sweet Cream and all the fruits in season, Mr. W. W. Turnbull, in one of his able CYLINDER BOARDING, A FEW PERMANENT or commodated with large and pleasant rooms, in that very centrally located house, 78 Sidney street.-MBS. MCINNIS. May2 Ginger Ale and Mineral Waters, Choice S. OIL: 8 ST OHN NB Rumour had it-and for once she did not letters, clearly demonstrated the fact of Samples Furnished Butter, Cheese and tresh Eggs, Canned Meats, Vegetables and soups at 32 Charerr-that a singular fatality connected the the lax administration of our city assessupon application. fate of the last tenant with that of his prelotte St. from J. S. ARMSTRONG and BRO. ment law, inter-alia, pointing out that fully decessor. Each had met with a painful **RESIDENCE** at Rothesay for sale or to rent for the Summer months. That pleasantly situated house knewn as the Titus prop erty about one and a half miles from Rothesay Sta tion and within two minutes walk of the Kennebe casis. Rent reasonable. Apply to H. G. Fenety Barrister-at-Law, Pugsley Building. 24-6-tf \$8,000,000 of fairly taxable property, un-Grocers. and fatal accident about the completion of IMPERIAL OIL CO., Ltd. der the assessment law of 1887, is permitted their fifth year of residence. "Progress" in Boston. The story went that several years ago to go scot free. No doubt the members of PROGRESS is for sale in Boston at the the (then) occupant, a lady, had accidently Kings Chapel News Stand, corner of School H. A. DRURY, Manager. our Board of Assessors try to do as well as fallen into the river and been drowned. our Board of Assessors try to do as well as Kings Chapel News St The second occupier met with a like mishap, they can; but, have the duties of that office and Tremont streets.

with the best intentions) were guilty of. For to what was he invited to return? Not mereknown London publishing house. Among | ly, I presume, to the honorary chaplaincies of the St. George's Society and the 62nd Fusiliers; not to the rectorate of a city church about to become vacant; but, it must be supposed, to the incumbency of a church already in charge of a priest appointed by the bishop. Was no regard to had to the feelings aud tenure be of Dr. Williams who could only

be removed from the Mission church tor such cause as heresy, immoralrespect due to the trustees of the church, in whose hands solely, if the Cure had been vacant, would reside the nomination of a

priest? Nay, was no consideration to be had of the fine and honorable feeling of Father Davenport himself, which could not but be wounded to the quick at such an application to him under the circumstances Fancy a petition to Canon Knox-Little to come and take the rectorship of Trinity church----Archdeacon Brigstocke being still in possession !!!

It has so happened that Doctor Wilhearing of what was desirliams, ed by so many, and knowing the peculiar circumstances which made Father Davenport's return to the Mission church desirable' has most graciously and promptly offered to retire ; but this ex post facto concession of the priest in charge affords not the slightest justification of the shocking bad taste of the petitioners. Let us hope that they may make reparation it Father Davenport returns, by contributing freely to the expenses of the church. It is well known that Saint John Baptist is an absolutely free and unappropriated church at present entirely without endowment and wholly dependant on the offerings of the worshippers thereat. Affording as it does, ornate and attractive services, its expenses in proportion to its size, are far greater than those of any other church in the city; and yet hundreds continually resort to it and make use of it, whose "offerings" do not exceed one eent, at any one service. than usual. To whom then should he apply To the really poor it is ever gladly open as free as air ; but they can hardly be welcome same time, being aware the latter would to God or man who are able to pay and neglect or refuse to do so.

H. W. FRITH.

### POINTS ON CIVIC AFFAIRS. Suggestions of Steps to be Taken for the

## Reduction of Taxes.

TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS :--well, judge for yourself. Here is a speci-AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS. Printing and general finishing for amateurs. Developers, Toning and fixing solutions for sale. LUGRIN PHOTO STUDIO, 38 Charlotte St., St. John, UGHT may be better imagined than described. have not the honor of being a member of men verse :-The two letters were practically identical, "the Tax Reduction Association," yet I A little maiden climbed an old man's knee: word for word. Each contained the re-¥9 tf have watched with increasing interest its Begged for a story, do uncle please A COTTAGE in centre of Rothesay, seven minutes' walk from station; new-ly papered and painted; suitable for large or small family. Rent moderate. Apply D. RUSSELL, Haw-ker Medicine Co., 104 Prince Wm. street. 13-5 quest for "a small remittance" of £50, demovement. It has now paved the way for Tell of Chicago, that wondrous town, With its tall buildings, they're world renowned. scribing how the expenses had been incurthe reduction of the membership of our Soon the great World's Fair will be at its height red and tallying in every particular, even city council from 27 to 16 members, and to the figures as they totalled up, as though, indeed, the two had penned one Prices of all things will go out of sight. secured the election of all these gentlemen They'l charge for everything but the air, on one and the same day, with an apparent But just watch the difference after the Fair. **VISITORS** to the World's Fair at Chicago requiring rooms only, will find ample accommodation and within a block of the street cars going to the Fair grounds. For full par-ticulars address Rooms 737 63rd court, Englewood, Chicago, Ill. For references apply at PROGRESS Office. 20-5-tf. letter and in their hurry forgotten to modify After the Fair is over just watch the rents com SPECIAL its composition to suit each other's style. annual saving of \$1,100. This, however, One of those strange fatalities, which BLACK is but a drop in the bucket. The civic down.

MORE POINTS ABOUT THE FAIR.

Including the Choice Song that is Heard Everywhere One Goes.

In addition to the bright and readable letter which a well known St. John man contributes to PROGRES this week, in regard to the World's Fair, the following additional pointers from the same source will be of interest. He says:

The attendance is constantly growing. The first week I was there it ran over the 1,000,000 mark. and one day 243,951 people paid to see the big show.

The conduct of the multitude on the grounds is wonderfully orderly and respectable. I did not see a single disturbance of any kind.

The date for closing is set for October 31st, but there is talk of continuing it longer, if the weather does not get too cold. Now, however, is the best time to see it. Take a run out and you will never regret it.

Ot all the types at the Fair the Dahomeyites are probably the lowest and most degraded in the scale of civilization.

The only song one heard was "After the Fair." It greeted you everywhere-on the streets, in the buildings, down the midway-there was no escaping it. The phonograph and the graphophone ground it off at you, the bands played it, it was hummed by the dudesque youth, and the swell boy whistled it. The music is the same as "After the Ball", the words are---



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ducts.