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ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MAR. 17.

CHANCES FOR ALL READERS.

The competition for the prize offered by PROGRESS for the best original verses excited a great deal of interest last year, and as a result there were many meritorious compositions submitted, in addition to those to which prizes were awarded. Probably, too, many who did not succeed were led to a closer analysis of their work, and to be the better fitted for the attainment of success in the future. The amount offered as a prize in each competition was not large, though sufficient to be an incentive in most cases, and as only one out of a large number could win the reward each month, the many others outside of that one were each and all free to believe that the union. Absolute divorce, indeed, can be had there been another prize at the same time each of them must have been the win-

Interesting as was the verse competition however, the scope of it was necessarily limited. Only a certain proportion of people can even make decent rhyme, a still smaller number have any idea of rhythm, while of those who can produce smooth and deed can reystallize a thought into poetry. The circle of real competitors, those who had any chance of winning, was therefore very much contracted, and a determination was made that the next competition twenty years. should be one which reached a larger class

With this idea the prizes for letters and stories are now offered, as more fully explained in another column. It may seem to many that the writing of a short bright letter ona current topic is a very easy task, but it will be found less simple than it seems to be. It is true that many who cannot write even tolerable verse can write some kind of a letter, but to treat a topic fully clearly and briefly is a task in of one of the most positive laws of God, her lover with eyes moist with tears. Her which a great deal of skill, natural or acquired, is necessary. So, too, with a good short story of personal adventure Properly told, it represents more of a cern urrative may be either one of actual individual experience or wholly evolved from the imagination of the writer. The successful competitor will be the best story teller, even though he need not be the most finished writer.

There will be a fine chance for all classes of readers to try for one or the other of these prizes, and while nobody can lose anything by the effort, all will be benefitted by the lesson, in learning to express ideas briefly and with precision. The body-those who read, as well as those who write.

WHAT ABOUT THE JUDGESHIP

The story Progress told last week in regard to the retirement of Judge Palmer and the trouble for his position caused a elsewhere. It was generally conceded that Judge Palmer had made no mistake in handing in his resignation, and there was an equally current opinion that Mr. CHARLES N. SKINNER was not the most

Mr. Skinner's stock was not above par,

SKINNER and his friends. The name of Mr. EZEKIEL McLEOD, to this conclusion. came to the front as rapidly as that of Mr. Skinner went to the rear, while Mr. Van- to the criminal code of New York by WART, of Fredericton, was reported as making martial infidelity a crime in the posting to Ottawa, in order to press his contemplation of the law, and punishing own claims at headquarters. There was the offender by a fine of from one thousand ing will be wanting. The festivities will

parently he did not want it, as he authorized | five years. the statement that he would not accept it 'at the present time."

very recent change of programme, he is no nearer the bench than he was a year ago. some days ago, that no appointment would be made at present, for the reason that there was no need of one. There are enough judges on the bench now to do the work that is to be done for the next four and as the general elections are likely to the life of the nation. take place in July, the appointment would not make a by-election necessary in St. John. At the same time, probably, Sir JOHN ALLEN will be retired from the bench, and presumably the next in seniority will be his successor, though there are precedents for a different course. It is then probable that a judge will be selected from the liberal ranks, and that either Mr. BLAIR, Mr. WELDON or Mr. GREGORY will be the

This seems to have been the idea, and it may still be so, even though Mr. Mc LEOD will not accept a judgeship at a later date. If any change has been made in the plan it is a very recent one. At all events, the indications are that Mr. Skinner is not to be the man.

Judge PALMER made his valedictory address on Tuesday. It was a model in its way, and was to a large extent retrospec-It is not too much to say that "nothing in his judgeship became him like the taking leave of it."

THE CURSE OF DIVORCE.

Is it any wonder that the statistics show a decrease in the ratio of marriages in many parts of the United States? In New York state alone, there are said to be more than four hundred cases in the courts where absolute divorce is demanded by the husband or the wife, and yet New York is supposed to have a more strict divorce law than any other state in granted there only for the gravest cause.

Here are some terribly suggestive figures of the lax views of the marriage tie taken by the laws of the various states. As these laws are the embodiment of the sentiment of the people, the question may to judge of their merit. well be asked, to what depth of moral degradation may not the nation drift if the proportion is continued for the next half harmonious verse a very small number in- century or so? The compilation gives this array of facts and figures.

> In this country the record from 1867 to 1886 inclusive, was 328,716 divorces. And they are increasing at an alarming rate. From 9,937 in 1867, the number rose to 25,535 in 1886, an increase of 157 in

The population of the United States only increasd 30 per cent. in the same period. From 1870 to 1880 | Every story or letter should be plainly the population increased 301 per cent, and the divorces 79.4 per cent. While in this country the number of divorces was 25,535 in 1886, there were only 475 in Great Britain, 6,211 in France and 6,078

last year, there were more than one hundred and fifty elopements in which one or the other of the parties was a married person. This means three hundred violators and probably nearly all of the elopements snowy chest heaved with emotion, and in a were tollowed by divorces.

for reflection as regards the future of the tain kind of skill than does a long story in people is the complacency with which such which a plot may be elaborated. In the matters are viewed by those who are conpresent competition the idea is that the sidered respectable people and certainly I feel I must do it! My very life depends met with anything but gratitude from any consider themselves such. The admittedly culpable man or woman is not ostracized from society, but after the first buzz of talk has subsided is received as usual, and very frequently is married again. In any case the knowledge that a man, at least, has been divorced is not apt to lead to a strict inquiry as to why he was divorced when he makes new acquaintances. Divorce is too common to provoke much curiosity, and when it is considered that its percentage of increase is more than contest is sure to be of interest to every- double the percentage of the increase of the population, it must be confessed that it is common indeed. It would seem to be rather difficult to have a large circle of acquaintances which did not include some who have passed through a divorce court. Just at present a spasm of virtue seems to have struck some of the good people of large amount of discussion in this city and New York, and they want to apply a partial remedy for this state of things. The clear and obvious course for those who base their faith on the Bible would seem to be to follow the teachings of that Bible on the question of divorce in general, fit and proper person to succeed in the and to accept Christ's law in preference to the law of the politicians. This would be altogether too radical a thing to attempt even among his supporters, Saturday night, from the standpoint of a people who want and the idea was prevalent that he was so the liberty to do as they please, regardless far behind that he should submit to be with- of God's law. So, apparently, until the drawn from the race to avoid a distance people are educated into sounder views, record. He has not been withdrawn how- all that can be done is to attempt to mitiever, and a good many wires have since gate the steadily increasing evil. Good been pulled in order to head off the men and women are getting frightened, threatened disaster to the hopes of Mr. and they are crying for something to be done. It is about time for them to come

What is now proposed is an amendment however, no doubt that if Mr. McLEOD to five thousand dollars, with an alternative begin at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

wanted the place he could have it. Ap- penalty of imprisonment for from one to

This idea is good as far as it goes, and if such a law were passed and enforced, This seemed to augur well for Mr. there would be a very different result in at SKINNER, but unless there has been a least one of the states. It is doubtful however, if one of the most notorious legislatures in America will pass such a law, and Progress had very definite information it is still more doubtful if it could, or would, be enforced when passed. Even if were, there are all the other states, which would have no such law.

It is of little use to attempt to trim off the rough edges of this gigantic evil which months, or until after the close of the ses- is cursing the United States, but perhaps sion at Ottawa. If Mr. McLEOD then de- it is the best that can be done, so long as sires a place on the bench he can have it, divorce is recognized as a social feature in

SOME MONEY IN IDEAS.

A Chance for the Readers of "Progress."

With a Tendency to Write, Two chances to earn prizes are offered o the readers of Progress in the interval between now and the first of May. They are prizes for which a large number will be able to compete, without any great exertion, and without the necessity of being endowed with such extraordinary genius as a poet is supposed to have.

The first of these prizes will be of five dollars in cash to be awarded to the writer of the best and brightest letter on any current topic. The test of merit will be the fullest expression of idea in the most comprehensive form, and the length of any letter must not exceed 300 words.

The other prize of Five Dollars will be for the best original story of personal adventure, based on actual occurrences or otherwise, in which the best narrative told in the clearest and briefest form consistent with the presentation of the event in a way to interest readers everywhere. The length of each story may be from 800 to 1,500 words, but it should not in any case exceed the latter limit. A short graphic story will have preference over one which is padded with needless description.

A selections of the best letters and stories for the respective competitions will be published in Progress from week to week, so that the public may be enabled

In every instance a nom de guerre must real name of the writer need not be sent, as the matter submitted will be judged purely on its merits. The writer should, however, send the real name and address in a separate sealed envelope, on the outside of which the nom de guerre is written. marked "story competition" or "letter competition," as the case may be.

The competition is open to all readers In New York city and Brooklyn alone, of Progress, some of whom will doubtless he heard from for the next issue,

A Shattered Idol.

The beautiful girl gazed into the face of choking voice she cried, "Henry, my darl-Undoubtedly the most serious matter ing forgive me if I cause you any pain." Remember always that I love you devotedly; but I am about to do something desperate! My soul yearns over the thought, and

The young man looked in agony upon the beautiful form of his beloved, and for an instant all speech forsook him. Then in terrified despair, he exclaimed in low intense tones "Oh Heavens! anything but this! Oh, Gertrude! light of my life, love of my soul, do nothing that in after years you may repent of. Be guided by pure dictates of reason. Listen to the voice of conscience, and of your own soul. But speak, my beloved, and tell me what is

The beautiful young girl answered not, but rising majestically from the velvet cushions, she glided swiftly across the room, and with bosom that still heaved convulsively, and with fingers that trembled with the unwonted excitement, seated herself at the piano, and in a melodious voice, only rendered more thrilling from its tone of suppressed emotion, struck the keynote and began to sing "After the Ball. SWAP.

PROGRESS wants two or three good pushing canvassing agents to work in the maritime provinces, collect and solicit subscriptions. Sufficient salary guaranteed to and it shines like a beacon light in the make it worth while applying for. Satisfactory commission on all business over a it is its very rarity which makes it so highly certain amount. Apply at once stating particulars, what canvassing experience possessed it in all its purity, and cover "a you have had, if any, also references, to

PUBLISHER PROGRESS,

St. John, N. B. First Picnic of the Season.

Father Collerette's picnic at West Quaco, on Easter Monday, will undoubtedly be the first of the season. It will differ from summer picnics because it will be held in Sweeney hall, but as regards music, meals and light refreshments noth-

WHAT IS TRUE CHARITY? The Question Discussed With Instances of What It Is Not.

I have an idea in my own mind that the charity which "begins at home" was not the kind St. Paul had in his mind when he declared that "Charity covereth a multitude of sins." Neither is the cold blooded, ostentatious charity which subscribes largly over its own signature to charitable institutions, or helps the "deserving poor" with small gitts of coin, and large gifts of

Charity scarcely consists either of a slice of very thick bread, sparsely covered with well scraped butter which does not reach around the edges very far, or cover the crust, which we give to the child who calls at the back door for cold pieces, or the butterless sandwich of inch thick bread | you will let me knowe as soon as you can with the gristly portions of yesterdays corned beef, cut in heavy slabs between, which we thrust grudgingly out to the polished but dilapidated tramp on the front doorstep. Nor is the benevolence which endows a certain institution with a large sum of money, on condition that its inmates wear a certain bideous uniform and invariably eat porridge for breakfast, exactly the kind of charity which should win for its owner a seat in the mansions of the plest; it seems too cold, and too far away for that though it may be of great practical use in this world, and make its possessor largely respected.

True charity flows, not so much from religion or a stern sense of duty as from the heart, and there are two other names by which it is known; one is love and the other sympathy. It is the sort of feeling which prompts one not to rest satisfied with the mere relief of a fellow creatures's most pressing necessities, but to call the child or the tramp in and question them. See if there is other help they need, whether a word of encouragement may not be quite as necessary to them as bread and butter, or even corned beef. Perhaps the chi'd is a really deserving object who is trying to keep a sick mother from starvation by egging, and the tramp may be hone tly anxious for a few days' work on your woodpile to earn himself a decent por of ently respectable to go out in sear more permanent and better paid work

"Oh yes" you say, that sounds very well but when people have been imposed u, on as often as I have, they get over such r:mantic ideas and learn to regard every child who asks for "cold pieces" as a cunbe signed. In this special instance the ning little thief ready to pick up any trifle she can lay her hands on and the meek and lowly tramp as a savage burglar in dis-

Very true, I know and very natural that any one should be cautious, but how do you know their is so much probability of the child, or the tramp being cold blooded villians ready to turn and rend you in return for any kindness you have sbown them? Are you judging from your own experience, or from what some one else has told you, coupled with your own natural suspicion, and the terrible accounts one so often reads in American papers of the deeds committed by tramps in the far west, where they raid unprotected farm houses, and often murder the inmates, but we live in Canada where such outrages are almost unknown, and have little need to fear every stranger who comes to the door. Of course I can only speak from my own experience, and I am well aware that I am weak-minded and born to be imposed upon. but I can say with truth that I have never of the poor waifs to whom I have shown any little kindness. Perhaps they were undeserving, but still I never had enough to give them, to do any harm, and if they were not, I think they knew I was sorry for them, and gave what I had.

But the best charity does not consist in giving alone, even to the hungry poor, it is a very far reaching virtue, and should concern itself with many matters, being quite as ready to cast bread upon the this you would do? Speak, my darling, ere waters in a figurative as well as a literal sense. To "think no evil" but to try and see the good instead of the bad in human nature, and to impute good motives for many of the actions which it cannot quite understand. Charity means the gentle gitt of seeing the best, instead of the worst side of human nature, in helping the weak sister who has erred, and encouraging her to turn back to the path from which she has strayed, instead of driving her still away from it by hard words and cold looks. In short charity means mercy and kindness thoughtfulness for others, and forgetfulness of self; it is the broadest and best of all the virtues and the keynote to all others; it soothes the wounds of the heart as well as the body, it binds up the broken spirit, darkness of this selfish old world. But alas it is not very common! And perhaps prized, that the great apostle promised his followers, it should react upon those who multitude of sins." ASTRA.

Footsore Fagin's Latest Idea. When the cook opened the door to the

timid knock of the peripatetic without she found him meekly waiting. "Good morning," he said. "Have you an old Sunday school book about the house I could take?

The cook was knocked plumb speechless "A Sunday school book" she gasped. "Yes, miss," he replied. "What in name of goodness do you want

with that?" "You see, miss, it's this way" he said in explanation. "When I was a little boy home for several days with neuralgia.

and read that story of Jonah swallowing the whale I used to have some doubts about it. Here lately, though, I've got so holler myself that I kinder thought I'd like to read it over again and see if it wasn't a

good deal easier to believe. "What a dandy you are," exclaimed the cook, looking him over carefully. "Come in here by the fire and I'll fill you up to the neck."-Detroit Free Press.

Found It In His Mail.

A comic opera manager recently found this letter in his mail:

"Dere Sir-I wright to you to see if you could take me on the stage you do take girls to learn at the back i will try to lern quick i am verry good at lerning 1 can jump about like fun do have me on for i do love it it is so nice. I am 17 age a Irish girl will you seand for me to see what i am like i am a joly girl i will be verry glad if you will have me on at the back indeed if plese. Sallry no objick I am tired of upstairs work i am real joly and can lern quick i never did sinnging but i can holler like samm Jones and i can jump round prity smart."

Millinery Show Days.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 19th, 20th, and 21st of March, and following days, we will display our annual importation of Paris and London Millinery novelties. LE BON MARCHE, Halifax.

ADVOCATING A ROUND DRIVE. Suggestions of a Correspondent in Regard to

an Attractive Route. TO THE EDITOR OF PROGRESS .- As the season is

now opening in which we may look forward to the influx of summer visitors fleeing from the oppressive heat of southern cities, it seems to me to our advantage to seek as many ways as possible in which our city and its suburbs may be made attractive. There has always appeared to me the great need of a round drive-of say two or three hours duration.

The Musquash road has been much praised, and is, indeed, all that its admirers claim for it; but the return by the same road does not afford that variety, which is always so charming in a drive for pleasure. One of the most delightful drives in the neighbor. hood of the city, might be constructed at a very small cost by connecting the foot of Calvert's lake with the Mispeck road, at a point about a mile or so to the east of Red Head. In this drive, the first five miles from the city limits at Kane's corner, would be in full view of the sea. Scarcely is the sea view left behind than the Calvert lake comes in sight. After driving round the lake, a delightful wood is entered, through which the road passes for about half a mile, emerging from the wood, the sea view bursts upon the sight; and you look upon shoes, a whole pair of socks, or perhaps an Partridge Island, the Manawagonish, and as far old coat which shall make him look st fiel- down the bay as the eye can search. Upon reaching the Mispeck road, the return home is level along the bay shore. This whole drive is about thirteen miles in length, affording in its course a variety of scenery in sea and lake, in hill and valley, in woodland and clear, to be equalled in few if any localities. During the past winter by the expenditure of a trifle this road was opened and made passable as a short cut from the Black River road to Red Head, thus proving that the route is practicable. If this matter were taken in hand by those interested in making our city attractive to strangers a very small contribution from each will complete this beautiful drive.

Could you not suggest, Mr. Editor, some way in which organized action could betaken in carrying out this most effective way of adding a charm to our city beautifying its surroundings. Perhaps the efforts of an organization who would take this matter in hand might be supplemented by a grant from the county council, or through the influence of our sitting members, who would be justified in treating it as a great public benefit.

BIT I FROM BUTLER'S JOURNAL

Concering Martin Himself.

At no time since we started the Journal have we een so hard up for money as at present. The sickness of our mother has prevented us from get ting out in the country to do any trading, which together with the expense incurred in hiring help has all reduced our pocket book, never very full, to any appreciable extent.

We have also an obligation hanging over our nead in connection with our father's last sickness which we feel it our duty to discharge at the

Our friends have all been very good; better than we could reasonably expect. A large number of our subscribers have been prompt in paying their bills when presented, but our outlay has been large considering our business, and we have generally paid in advance, and the revenue remaining after accounts were squared has been infinitessimally small, and in some cases none at all, and we have

Martin at Marysville.

I did not attempt to scale the barbed wire fence (the \$10 license imposed by the town authorities on pedlars,) but did a little skirmishing around the outskirts, where the lynx eyed officials could not

Forecast of the Legislature.

The N. B. Legislature will soon open for business wi h a flour sh of trumpets and all the tom foolery of a military guard and the discharge of cannon. What better are they than the poor workman, who goes with his dinner in a pail on his arm to earn an honest living and bring up a respectable family. There will be more lies told than would pave the streets of Hades, and what better will the country be for the assemblage. Not a whit.

Delicate Puff of the Undertaker. The mortality in Fredericton during the past winter has been very great, and judging from the frequency with which we have met the hearse of Mr. John G. Adams on the street he must have been

the busiest man in the city. Sunday in the Capital.

About as sad a sight as we have seen for some time was a well known resident of Regent street, lying on the sidewalk last Sunday in a state of beastly intoxication.

ST. GEORGE.

March 14 .- Mrs. Hugh Douglas entertained most pleasantly on Friday evening a party of friends at tea those present were Capt. and Mrs. Mahaney, Mrs. Cullip, Mr. and Mrs. Milner, Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Douglas, Mr. Gen. Johnston and Mr. Gideon Wetmore, (Deer Island).

Miss Mary McGratten is visiting Calais. Mrs. J. Clark returned from St. John last we Mr. Gideon Wetmore who has been spending a short time with relatives in town has returned to Deer Island.

The ladies of the Baptist sewing society intend holding an Easter sale and high tea on Wednesday

evening, March 28. Hon. A. H. and Mrs. Gillmor, Miss Vangie Kelman, James O'Brien, M. P. P., Mr. Percy Gillmor and Mr. J. Sutton Clark were passenger's on Tuesday's train for St. John. Hon. A. H. and Mrs. Gillmor en route or Ottawa. Miss Kelman and J mes C'Brien, M. P. P., for Fredericton, and Mr. Percy Gillmor for Halitax.

Miss Mary Macgowan has been confined to her

VERSES OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY.

That Unstained Ermine. Ha! there's a vacancy, The Judge in Equity Ill health cites as a plea And so hath gotten. At last hath gotten

Permission to resign; So now he may confine His talents to that line Of trade, called cotton, Good, home-made cotton.

Tho' 'tis a heavy cross We'll bravely bear the loss, Of this judicial Joss. Like patient sinners, Yet hopeful sinners; For on this tract of earth

Which gave "His Honor" birth, By Jove there is no dearth Of legal skinners, Suave, clever skinners. And hence, two candidates

Are anxious that the fates Or Sir John and his mates Should make them fixtures, Tho' moving fixtures Upon the bench, whence each, Like the ex-judge, can teach,

Trade principles, and preach Great moral strictures, Mind, moral strictures. If C. N. gets the start 'Tis obvious, vanwart To move extremely smart

Must then determine.

Soon must determine.

Or William's orange sheen, Or any tint will lean To clutch the ermine, The unstained ermine.

For Charije to the green,

If there's a wild scrub-race To see who'll fill the place With equitable grace And legal genius, Keen, subtle genius

But from the one who'll be Judge in iniquity, Or so called equity, May Heaven screen us, Defend and screen us. St. John, March, 1894.

The New Moon

A gem suspended in the West, The crescent new, the Turkish crest, Demands from all admiring gaze, And for our God a song of praise For all His works, beneath, above, Kept by His power, His goodness, love.

As that bright gem grows and expands, Lighting the night in many lands, Spread out beneath the soft lit sky. The landscape bright, the placid lake Where paths abound, which lovers take, The moon and drifting clouds, as seen, With tree and shrub and grasses green Reflected in the mirrored stream, A picture show like fairy dream.

And where the snowy mantles rest, On bill and plain and mountain crest, And ice has bound with solid chain The flowing stream, the pond and lake, Till spring, bright spring shall come again. And by many rains their fetters break, What sparkling beauty is revealed By the pale moon's enchanting light, A while by drifting cloud concealed,

Emerging brilliant to the sight. A brighter gem beyond the sky, Invisible to mortal eye Sheds forth the beauteous light of grace, The spirit pure and holy peace. O spotless Lamb, dear Saviour blest, Who bore the cross, the Christian crest, Shine thou in every contrite heart And faith and hope and love impart.

A Dream at Nazareth.

FERG.

I entered Joseph's shop; and there stood Christ; A lad of seventeen with auburn bair Falling in graceful folds about his neck, While at the bench he worked with ardent will His form was lithe and nimble, and each stroke Of mallet or of plane might well provoke The admiration of a well trained eye. O, how I watched him; as he moved about! Afraid to speak, as I might be in doubt If it were He whose name I knew so well. I waited, to approach that I might ask If it were He to whom God gave the task Of teaching all mankind the way of truth; But then I shrank from asking such a youth A question of so grave import as this.

He paused: I then advanced to where he stood, And as he cast his eyes of liquid brown Full into mine, I never shall forget That keenness and that mellowness divine, Which gave to them a lustre all their own. O blessed thought! I knew at once 'twas He!

"You think it strange that I should handle tools; But is not this the discipline that brings One into sympathetic touch with those Who have to bear life's daily goads and strings ?' Pearls do not deck the crest of any wave But lie deep down in ocean depth serene; Nor will they come to light unless brought forth By him who knows their preciousness, I ween. REV. NORMAN LA MARSH. From "Lux Caristi," an unpublished poem.

A Child's Hope. "A better day is coming"-Thus sang a weary child, Whose fevered brain could not restrain Thoughts which seemed running wild; And while with breath grown weaker She faltering sang her song, Of girded night and holy might, In conflict with the wrong Prophetic seemed her singing To watchers who were nigh "The welcome dawn will hasten on Tis coming by and by."

Sad is it when the reason Seems to have lost control, But may not they whose thoughts thus Have peace within the soul? This thought, at least, gives comfort, That memory should recall And that she sang it all: For now that she is hidden Within the spirit veil, We know the days lived to God's praise Have peace which cannot fail. Though like the night our sorrow, We raise no hopeless cry. Oar loved one gone will watch that dawn More we come by and by

We'll try to live more truly Each added waiting day, "Till from beaven's height, the morning light Shall drive the gloom away."