

A VERY SOLEMN MATTER.

SUCH IS THE PROVING OF A WILL IN SOLEMN FORM.

Another Plea for Salaries Instead of Fees for Probate Court Judges—A Measure Having This Reform in View to be Introduced by Our Executive.

In my former communication I attributed the erroneous judgment of the judge of probate in the Gramel will case to his being paid by fees, and have shown that had he decided the paper before him was a forgery he would have lost his "perquisits" as that would have been one of the very few cases where he could not have ordered the fees to be paid out of the estate.

Proving a will in solemn form is indeed a very solemn matter for a widow, children and others interested in the estate. The proceedings are commenced by a petition to the judge which contains the names, ages and places of residence of every one mentioned in the will, and every one interested in the estate as heirs, next of kin, &c. After the petition has been inspected by the judge he orders a citation to issue to all mentioned in it, and usually he adds that they must be served personally. It sometimes happens that the persons are scattered far and widely apart, the largest number being in Uncle Sam's Dominion, the place where you will find most of our expatriated New Brunswickers. On the return of the citation with a hundred affidavits of service, more or less, attached to it, the will is generally proved in the ordinary way, but this is only the beginning of the legal fun, as the court then adjourns again to allow the devisees and legatees to file counter allegations. These allegations are fearful and wonderfully made, and until quite lately were in the form and language of a past age, and the more modern ones differ from them in being more lengthy. One thing the lawyers fully understand; they have thirty cents a hundred words for drawing up allegations and ten cents a hundred words for each copy filed and each copy served. (I will here say that our New Brunswick "Probate Court Statute" and the "Acts" amending it make no provision for those allegations, and that they were pinned on to our Probate Court practice without any legal authority by legal gentlemen.) Stripping these allegations of their verbiage, and reducing them to ordinary English they say in substance that the testator was as old as the hills, as deaf as an adder, as blind as a bat and had no more discretion than a new born babe, that he was induced to make his will by some wicked designing person, that the will does not contain his intended disposal of his property, and that he never made a will. They are like the borrowed sugar pot that borrower declared was "cracked" when he got it, whole when he returned it and that he never had it." The counter allegations say in effect, that the testator was wise as Solomon, sharp as a weasel, spry as a cat, and firm as a rock, that no inducements were held out to him to make his will, and the persons to whom he left his property knew nothing about the contents of the will until it was read to them after their return from the funeral. In addition it will be stated that the testator was of sound and disposing mind.

The probate court has to take the allegations, sense or nonsense, just as they are, as no provision is made for testing them by demurrer or otherwise. After a number of adjournments made because it pays the legal gentlemen to have them, in nearly every case the will is declared proved, and the costs ordered to be paid out of the estate. All leave the court satisfied, the persons named in the will glad to escape, the persons who contested the will because they had their revenge in bleeding the estate, which they would as has been said, "rather see go to the devil," (I hope that don't mean lawyers,) than to those named in the will. The result always pleases the lawyers engaged in the contest, who are amply consoled for their labor, care and anxiety by the large part of the estate that goes to them, although they were not named in the will.

It is to be hoped that the measure to be introduced by our executive at the present session of our legislature to reform probate courts, and which contemplates the abolition of the system of paying judges by fees, will meet with the approbation of our local representatives. It is said that at the last session when a similar measure was introduced some of the lawyers in "the house" showed their cloven feet, and were able to lobby some of the lay members into opposition to it. It is to be hoped that the latter are now better disposed.

Dorchester, N. B. C. E. K.
February 11th. A. D. 1895.

OLD-TIME PROVINCIAL TRADE.

How it was Described by Mr. William Winterbotham.

The following extracts, which will be of interest to provincialists, are from the fourth volume of "An Historical, Geographical, Commercial and Philosophical View of the United States of America, and of the European Settlements in America and the West Indies, by W. Winterbotham," printed in New York in 1796, which was loaned to Progress by a St. John friend: "St. John's is the largest river in the province. It empties into the north side of the Bay of Fundy, and is navigable for vessels of fifty tons, sixty miles, and for

boats upwards of two hundred miles. This is a common route to Quebec. The banks of this river, enriched by the annual freshets, are excellent land. About thirty miles from the mouth of the river commences a fine level country, covered with large trees of timber of various kinds. Masts, from twenty to thirty inches in diameter, have been cut on this tract. The tide flows, in this river, eighty or ninety miles. It furnishes the inhabitants with salmon, bass and sturgeon. Near Fort Howe, the river suddenly narrows and occasions a fall at certain times of the tide, like that at London Bridge."

From the description of "Nova-Scotia comprehending the province of New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia," these notes on "Indians, etc." are taken: "The Indians here are the Micmacks, and the tribes called the Marechites. The former is supposed to have about three hundred fighting men. The Marechites inhabit the river St. John, and around Passamaquoddy bay, are estimated at one hundred and forty fighting men; there are much superior in all respects to the Micmacks. The animals are the same as in the United States, though much less numerous."

All those interested in trade will read with interest the state of trade in these provinces in about the last of the eighteenth century, as viewed from an American standpoint: "The imports from Great Britain to this country consist chiefly of linen and woolen cloths, and other necessaries for wear, of fishing tackle, and rigging for ships. The amount of exports, at an average of three years before the new settlements, was about twenty six thousand five hundred pounds. The only articles obtained in exchange are, timber and the produce of the fishery, which, at a like average, amounted to thirty-eight thousand pounds. But from the late increase of inhabitants, it is supposed that they will now erect sawmills, and endeavor to supply the West India islands with lumber of every kind, as well as the produce of the fishery, which will be a profitable article to both countries. The whole population of Nova Scotia and the islands adjoining, is estimated at fifty thousand. The estimate it is supposed is considerably too large. Recent accounts of these settlements represent them as in a declining state, having great numbers of the houses built in the new towns inhabited, and considerably reduced in value."

The Ladies' Rate.
Duplicate whist is the rage among the ladies of Buffalo, and the Commercial of that city says that whist invitations now take this form: "Duplicate whist at 8; two tables; individual scores. Husbands may be ordered at 11." Which moves the cynical Rochester Express to remark: "The breezy frankness of this is delicious, and one can imagine Buffalo husbands rushing about in desperate haste each evening at 11. Doubtless they meet on the doorsteps of the houses where the symposia are held and chat and jest together over the charms and whims of their ladies, just as their own coachmen used to do in the simple and good old days when husbands and wife went to balls together, or played "hearts," each with the other for partner. But those evenings are long past. The ladies rule, and the only comfort that the docile but freezing Buffalo husbands have now is the remembrance that in those same old days ladies sometimes fell in love with coachmen, and so may yet smile with affection upon husbands!"

Photographing a Harem.
"The modern Turk has, in a quiet way, grown prodigiously fond of photography," said a lady who acts as the manageress of one of the greatest photographic establishments in London. "I was recently in the employment of a relation at Constantinople, and I had the honor of photographing some fifty of the wives and daughters of the present Sultan. These ladies are very ordinary ones indeed for the most part, to what your imagination might picture, and all of them are dressed in the latest Parisian fashions, that is, for photographic purposes at least. All the same, one or two of the Sultan's daughters are very beautiful girls and have been taught and educated by Miss Mumford and other English governesses. They show the most childish delight at being photographed. "I may say here that photography is acting as a social force in Turkey, for a young man who wishes to take to himself a wife need no longer trust absolutely to the report of his female friends alone, as he once had to do, for the photo of the lady is now shown to him. And the women, too, can now, without violating the strict Turkish law in such matters, send their photographs about in order to create an impression."

A Soothing Drink.
A Congo explorer was busy cleaning his weapons with vitriol. A negro chief sat by watching the process with eager curiosity, and while unobserved, stretched forth his hand, snatched up the bottle containing the corrosive liquid, and swallowed its contents at a single gulp. Our explorer jumped up, expecting to see the fellow die in frightful agonies. But his sable majesty merely rubbed his stomach with evident satisfaction and said: "What! you keep such nice things in your bag without offering them to your friend!"

An Overlooked Letter.
A letter which had been lying overlooked for thirty years in a shipping office in New York, and which had been sent for a gentleman who purposed crossing the Atlantic, was recently returned to the Dead Letter Office in London. It was there opened and forwarded to the sender, when it transpired that the gentleman to whom the letter was written had been dead a quarter of a century!

BETWEEN SEX AND SEX.

THAT IS HOW MR. DIXON TREATED THE SUBJECT.

The Work of Women—Do Young Women Take Situations and Oust Men, Simply for the Sake of Having Pocket Money and Being "Independent"?

I fully appreciate the kindly and courteous tone of "Astra's" strictures on my late article on the question of women's work. As I have possibly failed to make myself quite plain on the subject, the following statements will perhaps tend to clear matters.

1st. I treated the question on the broadest ground as between sex and sex, with a tacit allowance of course for exceptional cases.

2nd. What I condemn and deplore is the far too common practice of young girls taking situations and ousting men, not because forced to do so by the pressure of want, but simply for the sake of having a little pocket money and being "independent." There are hundreds of such cases especially in our western cities where the daughters of well-to-do people take situations and don't even pay their own board, and leave their mothers to slave away at home.

3rd. If the worst comes to the worst it is certainly better that women rather than men should be independent. It is better for me, as I said, to support my daughters rather than my sons in idleness.

4th. In many respects up to a certain point the movement has been a good one. What I fear and protest against is the competition of the sexes. God never intended it. And unless there be a division or re-division of territory it is bound to come. In a measure it has come already.

5th. Distinctively female employments are being abandoned by women.

6th. Why should women prefer to work for men rather than their own sex? If the house work (of which there is practically an unlimited supply) be so degrading whose fault is it—the master or mistress?

7th. On broad and general principles whether is a thorough practical knowledge of household work or of office work of more use to the average woman?

What percentage of the girls who (innocently) "underbid" and oust men are really obliged to seek for this kind of work.

The tone of your correspondent's letter is thoroughly reasonable and womanly. If all "woman righters" wrote and felt as she does little evil need be apprehended. I hope she is a representative but I fear she is a great distance "behind" the typical representative woman of today. Perhaps after all matters will right themselves. Let us hope so. But if things go on as they are and at the same rate, it is difficult to see how this can come about without some kind of social convulsion.

Halifax, N. S. R. F. DIXON.

AN ARTIST'S DODGE.

How He Found a Ready Market for His Paintings.

An impetuous and extravagant, but somewhat clever artist, who felt but few twinges of remorse at any unscrupulous method he employed to raise the wind, resorted to a successful though audacious trick, by means of which he disposed of an unusual number of pictures.

An important South Yorkshire town, with, as may be expected, a goodly tribe of purse-proud individuals of great importance in their own estimation, was the scene of his exploits.

About a dozen of these local persons were selected as suitable victims, and of these some atrocious portraits of a most unflattering description were soon produced.

Then, by promises of a liberal commission, our artist secured the co-operation of various dealers in second-hand furniture living in convenient proximity to the business houses or residences of the caricatured gentlemen, and the so-called likenesses were exhibited for sale in their shop windows.

The artist and his fellow-conspirators had not long to await developments, for the wrath and horror of the victimised individuals at seeing vile representations, in oils, of their own familiar countenances, offered for sale with cast-off clothing, old iron, and a medley of miscellaneous articles, are not even to be imagined.

In a very few days every picture had been hastily purchased by some indignant personage, eager to cut it in shreds, and the wicked trickster laughingly acknowledged that never before had works of his found such a ready market.

Good Man for Donnybrook Fair.

A Boston newspaper says: "There have been many men with curious heads, but no individual ever carried upon his shoulders such a peculiar cranium as that which adorns the body of "Billy" Wells. Where he is known they call him Hard-headed Wells, and almost from boyhood he is known to have a very tough skull. In Exhibition Hall nine times in one day Wells had large blocks of granite broken upon his skull by heavy sledge hammers handled by the strongest men to be found in the audience. The only protection to his skull is a blanket, which is used to keep the sharp edges of the stone from cutting the flesh. He is slight of build, and this tough cranium seems to be his great peculiarity."

Seeing and Hearing Plants Grow.

There are several ways of rendering the growth of plants both audible and visible, but the modus operandi in the "latest improved" experiments is as follows: In order to make the growth of a very vigorous plant visible, a fine platinum wire should be carefully attached to the growing part. The other end of this wire should be attached to a pencil pressing gently against a drum which is being driven by clock work. If the growth be uniform a straight line is marked on the paper, but

"Strongest and Best."—Dr. Andrew Wilson, F. R. S. E., Editor of "Health."

Fry's PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA.

90 PRIZE MEDALS AWARDED TO THE FIRM.

Purchasers should ask specially for Fry's Pure Concentrated Cocoa, to distinguish it from other varieties manufactured by the Firm.

RIPANS ONE GIVES RELIEF.

the very slightest increase is shown by inclined tracing. A slight modification of this arrangement renders the growth audible. In this experiment the drum must be covered with platinum foils of a certain width, and separated from each other by spaces about one-eighth of an inch. These strips of platinum should be made to complete the circuit of a galvanic battery, to which an electric bell is attached. In this case the bell is kept continually ringing while the plant is growing the height of the strips used, and is silent while the pointer is passing over the space between the strips of metal. The growing of corn may be heard direct by means of a microphone, and there are those who declare that they have heard it without any artificial assistance whatever.

A Healthy French Village.

The healthiest spot in the world is said to be Amnone, a French village containing forty people. Twenty eight of the inhabitants are over eighty years of age, and these have passed a century. There are no graves in the local cemetery, and the oldest inhabitant cannot remember seeing a funeral.

THE WOMEN AT HOME.

THEY sat down to dinner—husband, wife, and three young children, all hearty, happy, and well dressed. It was seven o'clock. The meal was just on time, as meals should be.

"Aren't you tired, my dear?" said the husband, kindly. "Perhaps I might say yes if I thought about it," answered the wife; "but I really don't feel tired."

And yet that woman had been on her feet, working herself, and superintending half a dozen servants, for twelve hours at least. She had a big house to look after, many callers to see and that lot of things to do which count but cannot be counted. Still, she was young, strong, and cheerful, and so didn't mind.

That is one thing and a good thing too. But the women who are entitled to credit are the ones who don't usually get it—women who do all she did, and do it under pressure—who are on time just the same and have to fight every inch of the way.

Here is one of this very sort. She says: "I kept up with my daily duties, but felt no pleasure in the work I had in hand." Why not? Because she was burdened with illness, as so many are, who deserve a better fortune.

"This—Mrs. Peckham, of 40, Dorset Street, London, says: "Off and on I have suffered for twenty years from biliousness and indigestion. At first I was attacked with sickness of the stomach, frequently expectorating a gaseous or watery fluid. I had no relish for food, and what I ate gave me pain and distress at the chest and sides. As time went on and these symptoms grew worse, I became weak and nervous, and lost much sleep. I kept on with my daily duties, but felt no pleasure in the work I had in hand. I tried first one medicine and then another, taking charcoal and all the other drugs recommended for bad digestion, but nothing gave me more than temporary relief."

"In this way I continued to suffer year after year, sometimes better and at other times worse. In the early part of this year my brother-in-law, of South Hackney, told me of a medicine called Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. I had also heard the Syrup highly spoken of by others, which induced me to try it. I procured a supply from Mr. Taylor, Chemist, Hanover Place, Regent's Park, and after having taken it for a week, felt great relief. Soon my food digested and the sickness and water-brash left me and I now feel better than I have felt for years. I am desirous that other sufferers may know the value of Mother Seigel's Syrup, and therefore give my full permission to the publication of this statement. (Signed) M. E. Peckham."

Somebody well says that it is not the way in which we meat great crises, but the way we bear the daily grind and labour of life that tells the story of courage and character. Yes, indeed. And what multitudes of faithful, patient wives and mothers do this under circumstances where one day is like ten. They carry their aches and pains without giving up until they are weighted beyond all further endurance, and are just obliged to give up. To all these there is no friend or benefactor in England, private or public, to compare with Mother Seigel, who suffered and toiled in the same way—doctors and drugs being useless—until she found a medicine to cure herself. Thank Mercy! she did find it at last. What a blessed work it has been doing in this island for the past ten or fifteen years is the sequel to the story, and hosts of women know it by heart. Yes, and more are learning it with every sun that rises, from every tongue that can talk.

Church's Alabastine For use with COLD WATER.

No Boiling or Hot Water Needed. 16 Beautiful Shades and White. Alabastine will stay in solution several hours and yet sets hard on the wall finally; this gives painters and others ample time to work the same before the setting process takes place.

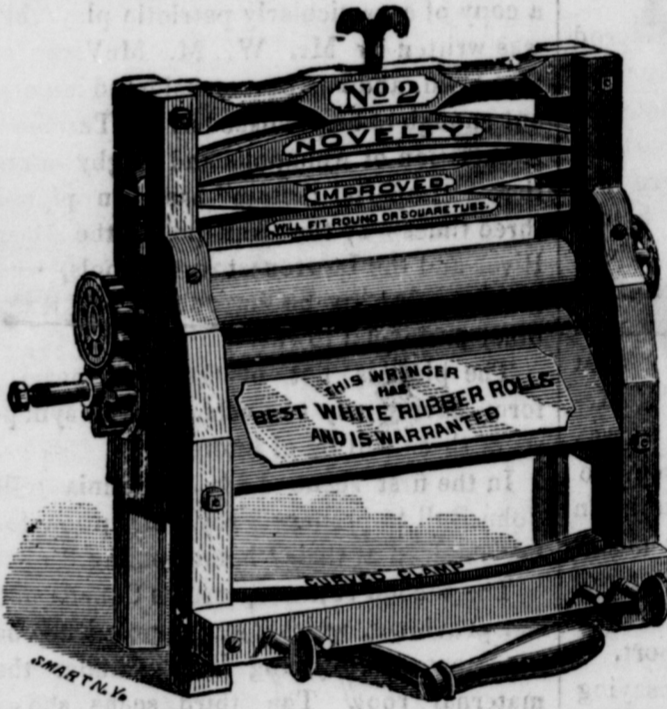
Saves Time, Saves Waste, and is superior to Kalsomines for Plain Tinting.

Also is adapted to Solid Wall Relief Work, Modelling, Combing, Stippling, Blending, etc.

NOTE.—Alabastine pleases Painters every time, as they see that with it they can do work that will enable them to reclaim their almost lost art from the wall paper manufacturers who have been making the painters buy and hang their chromos or printed imitations of real wall decorating.

W. H. THORNE & Co., Market Square.

A GOOD WRINGER IS A HOUSEHOLD NECESSITY.



THE Eureka The Novelty IN 4 Sizes.

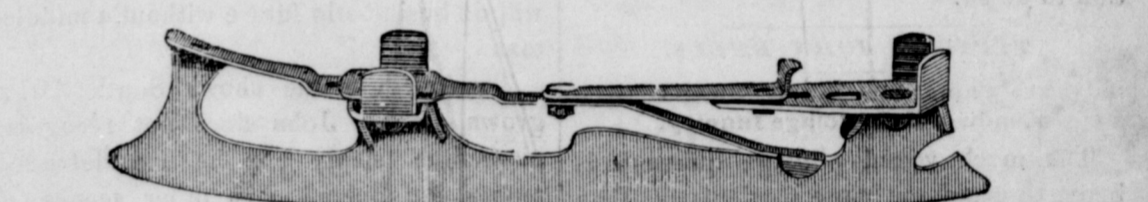
These Wringers have no equal. We guarantee the ROLLERS to be of the BEST QUALITY and will not loosen on the shaft.

SOLD ON MERIT ONLY, and our Prices will be found Right.

Emerson & Fisher

P. S. Washing Machines always on hand.

Skates. Skates.



Acme Pattern, The most and best self-fastening Skate Made. Long Reach Skates, Hockey Sticks, Hockey Pucks, Sleds and Framers, Sleigh Bells, &c. Send for Prices.

T. M'AVITY & SONS, - ST. JOHN, N. B.

FOR SALE.

1 SMITH Patent Water Purifier and Heater, for Prevention of Scale in Boilers.

CLAIMS: It will feed Water into Boiler at same temperature as steam in Boiler. It is an established fact that at 29 deg. Fahr., all mineral in water is precipitated.

By means of this device all these impurities are retained within the Purifier and can be blown out several times each day, allowing only pure water to enter the Boiler. Other advantages claimed are: That being placed at water level in Boiler, makes it the best surface blow-off known, relieves the boiler of scum and fatty matter, and prevents foaming under all circumstances. THIS DEVICE IS BRAND NEW.

WRITE FOR PRICE.

J. S. CURRIE,

57 WATER STREET, - - SAINT JOHN, N. B.