

ST. JOHN N. B. SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 1895.

MAKING A MODEL COURT.

HOW STIPENDIARY FIELDING IS RUNNING MATTERS.

Other Halifax Affairs—The Bitterness Between Rival Firemen—Trying to Make a Moral City—A Compliment to the Music of the Orpheus Club.

HALIFAX June 14.—The cases decided in the city police court of Halifax are not so pretentious, or in one sense so important, as those disposed of in the higher courts of justice; but in another sense the police court is first as essential and important as any. Stipendiary Fielding is determined that the Halifax police court shall be everything that it should be—that as far as he can make it such, it shall be a model court.

The class of people who have business at the police court is generally made up of those who have some influence in ward politics. They have either helped or opposed the alderman who represents them in the city council and may do so again. They often think that because they voted for a certain alderman or were on his committee, that the city father should consider himself more or less bound to do their bidding in almost any direction. There are some people who in times past have tried thus to make their influence felt in the police court. They would not attempt it in the higher courts, but in the city police court they seemed to think they had a sort of jurisdiction, and they have been disposed to try the exercise of their real or imaginary powers.

But it cannot be successfully done. That such is a fact was demonstrated some days ago. A citizen had been summoned for a comparatively trifling offence—an infringement of some city ordinance. The party interested thought he had some influence in ward politics and his influence was put up in operation. Efforts to secure a conference with the stipendiary were made, and it was known what the topic of discussion was to be. This was tried by not merely one member of the city council, but by others occupying various stages of comparative importance in the city government. The stipendiary, of course, would have nothing whatever to do with those overtures, and sent a bombshell into certain quarters by a deliverance on the subject, in open court. Not only this, but previous to the trial, efforts were made to pull off the prosecution. It is safe to say that nothing of this kind will be again heard of in Halifax police court, at least it will not while Stipendiary Fielding occupies the bench. The lesson of non-interference with the court has been well inculcated and probably by this time has been thoroughly learned, both by aldermen, etc., and by private citizens.

Did Not Get the Pall. The nature of the bitterness of feeling that prevails between the Union Engine company, the volunteer firemen who were dismissed from the city's service, and the members of the Halifax fire department, the men who took their places as a fire corps, may be realized from a recent incident. A member of the U. E. C. who had served with it 20 years, left that body and joined the H. F. D. He died, and a request was made to the U. E. C. for the use of their pall for the funeral procession. It was refused, even death being insufficient to wipe out the sentiments of enmity.

This was the way a well known citizen spoke who heard of the refusal of the pall by Captain Joseph Murphy. But he was not aware of all the facts. The property of the Union Engine company is vested in a committee, who alone have the right to dispose of it in any way. The request for the pall was not made till Sunday, and Captain Murphy had not time to communicate with the committee. Hence he had, for his part, to refuse to allow the pall to go out of the U. E. C. quarters. There is a very bitter feeling between U. E. C. and H. F. D. but this pall affair cannot be said to show that the enmity would be continued over the open grave of a man who left the one body for the hated other.

Good for the Orpheus Club. The round number of five thousand people in Halifax heard Sousa's band. They were delighted. But one thing in connection with Sousa's appearance here delighted those who heard it equally well as listening to the grand music. It was Sousa's eulogy of the Orpheus club and the band's appreciation of the conductorship of C. H. Porter. Sousa stated openly that the Orpheus club, with its 150 voices, on the occasion of the band concerts, formed the best chorus by far that he had met since leaving Boston, where 500 singers had been massed together. Musicians are proverbially sensitive regarding their artistic reputations, and their status compared with others. The Orpheus club and their admirers in Halifax are therefore elated

that they should thus be given a front rank with the single exception of Boston. Mr. Porter's compliment came from Mr. Lawton, formerly of St. John, the baritone saxophone player, who stated that seldom did the band play under a conductor who at once obtained so thorough a control of instrumentalists and vocalists as did Mr. Porter in handling band and chorus at the Sousa concerts.

Bound to Have a Moral City.

The arrest of Miss Nellie McClintock and Mrs. Frankie Marshall, on the charge of keeping disorderly houses, and the fining of each of them \$50, shows that Chief of Police O'Sullivan is wide awake. He and inspector Banks looked in upon these two resorts recently with the result that the proprietors of both, pleaded guilty, and quietly submitted to the fine of \$50. The reason of their easy surrender was that they might thereby save from the disagreeable consequences of a subpoena a number of young men who were in on the occasion of the Chief's call, or at some other time during the past three months for anyone subpoenaed can be forced to tell what he remembers of visits he may have made as far back as three months from the date of summons. This reaches a half dozen houses of evil repute raided by Chief O'Sullivan within three months or more. For the benefit of certain people it may be stated that the police know every man who enters those places. A few strangers from abroad who find their way to the "fashionable" resorts on the upper streets may be unknown, but there is not a permanent resident of this city, who goes to those places whose name is not known, and who could not be served with a subpoena in case he was needed on the witness stand.

Enforcing a Law Under Difficulties.

Stipendiary Magistrate Fielding has decided that it is illegal for saloon keepers to obstruct a clear view of the interior of their places of "liquid refreshment" by a window screen or in any other way. The question came before him as a test case, and when his honor fined J. M. Power he practically in the same breath found 150 similar places in Halifax guilty of the same offence,—having screens. Hereafter, if the law is enforced, drinking at bars must be done in full view of everybody on the street. It does seem rather arbitrary that the law should shut a man may not take a drink shut out from the gaze of the curious, while he is allowed to do a thousand other things behind cover so to speak, that he quite properly would not like everybody to see. Refuge can be found at the hotel bars for the "no screen" law does not apply to them. The chances are the law will not be enforced, any more than is the law against drinking by the glass enforced. In the mean time an appeal will be made from stipendiary Fielding's decision.

DUE TO HYPNOTISM.

The Very Latest Theory as to the Cause of Sleepiness in Church.

I have a scientific explanation of the somnolence which overtakes people in church. I used to think that it was the dullness of the sermon which provoked the sleep of the congregation.

But it may not mean that the sermon is really dull. I have seen people sleep in church under all circumstances, and in the hearing of the most admirable preachers, preaching the most eloquent sermons. I saw a man sleep when Mr. Spurgeon preached. Mr. Moody has more than once called out to have a window opened to wake a somnolent member of his audience, Canon Knox-Little is accounted a preacher of more than usual earnestness and power, yet I remember once in Worcester seeing a minister, clad in surplice and stole, and seated in the chancel, go straight to sleep while the canon preached, disregarding the eyes of the congregation. And once when Mr. Gore delivered a sermon in that great abbey where he is now canon, people who sat in my neighborhood went to sleep in shoals.

No; my theory is that most times when the congregation sleep during the sermon they are simply hypnotized. For, consider the situation. Most of the conditions which the hypnotist desires are present. There is a dim and subdued light in the room; the atmosphere is somewhat close, the temperature is high; somewhere behind the speaker, in a position which compels the eyes of the congregation, is a jet of gas or a sharp gleam of electricity, into which they look as the sermon proceeds, and the preacher goes on and on, in a gentle and monotonous voice, and down and up like a mother's lullaby; and behold our eyelids are pressed down again to our will by soft, invisible fingers, and everything is deliciously vague and far away, and suddenly people stand up with an awakening sound about us, and the preacher is pronouncing the ascription at the end of his sermon, during whose wise and eloquent paragraphs we have humiliatedly slept. This is hypnotic sleep. And it is the fault, not only of the preacher, but of the whole construction of our ill-ventilated and absurdly lighted churches. —Pittsburg Dispatch. A.T.S.

IT IS A BIG INDUSTRY.

SMUGGLING SPIRITS FROM THE FRENCH ISLANDS.

The Business Said to Rival in its Extent the Fishing Operations—What Canadians Get and What the Revenue is Bound to Lose by the illicit Trade.

Next to fishing, smuggling is the most considerable industry in the North Atlantic says a St. Pierre-Miquelon correspondent of the N. Y. Sun. No corner of the world offers better facilities for the business. Four separate and distinct territorial jurisdictions lie close together. These islands belong to France. The United States can be reached in sixty hours by schooner, Newfoundland is only twelve miles away, Cape Breton, in Canada, is within twenty hours' sail. The province of Quebec has a seaboard of 800 miles, and the littoral of the St. Lawrence to Wolf Bay on the north and Cape Rosier on the south shore 1,200 more. Nova Scotia, including Cape Breton, has a seaboard of 1,200 miles, New Brunswick not quite so much, Newfoundland one of 2,000 miles. Add Prince Edward Island, the Labrador of Canada, and the Labrador hatched to Newfoundland, Anticosti, the Magdalen Archipelago, and the numerous islands in the St. Lawrence up to the city of Quebec, and the smuggler has an aggregate of nearly 10,000 miles of coast line, scarcely inhabited or not inhabited at all, along which to prosecute his traffic. Nature has done even more for him. The warm gulf stream from the south meets the polar currents and produces fog which screens him and his vessel with an almost impenetrable veil.

The Miquelon Islands are subject to the tariff of France, with certain important modifications. French alcohol, spirits, and wines are free, except that they pay an octroi de mer, and goes to the local treasury, and a small tax de consommation. They are cheaper at St. Pierre than in France itself, because on being exported here they escape the heavy excise and other taxes levied in France. Tobacco from France and the West Indies is another cheap commodity. Foreign liquors—i. e., liquors from countries other than France—pay a light customs duty in addition to the local imports just mentioned, and are cheap in comparison with their price in the United States, Canada, or Newfoundland. Every spring five or six thousand fishermen come from France to the Banks and return in the fall. Liquor is essential to these fellows. Each man gets a pint or a pint and a half of fierce brandy per diem, with a quart or more of claret which has been well fortified with the French alcohol known as trois-six. When they came to St. Pierre to bait up or unload their catch to be dried, they drink, by way of change, enormous quantities of gin, absinthe, and vermouth Foreign liquors like Demerara rum and Scotch whiskey are consumed by the American, Canadian, and Newfoundland fishermen, who put in here for various purposes. A good deal of the French liquor is smuggled into Newfoundland and Canada; some occasionally reaches the United States. The officials of St. Pierre are in no way responsible; obviously they can do nothing to hinder a fishing or trading skipper from buying a few hundred barrels and running them into American or British jurisdiction. It is estimated that 50,000 gallons of French spirits and claret reach Canada every year without paying duty. The Newfoundland revenue also suffers. It is no trick to load a galloper with 100 barrels of trois-six in the morning and distribute it that night in Fortune Bay or Placentia.

While some liquor finds its way to the United States, the articles most readily handled are furs and drugs. Silver fox and other skins can be got cheap in Labrador, and sell \$75 or \$100 each at Boston. There is also a good profit with comparatively little risk of detection in smuggling drugs. There are two drug shops at St. Pierre, but they are not in the smuggling business. The drugs are carried from Montreal and Quebec and put on board American fishing vessels or Newfoundland and Cape Breton craft boats for American ports. It takes a bright custom officer properly to overhaul a vessel laden with barrelled fish. A leading fur house at Quebec was caught using mail bags to convey furs from Montreal to New York over the Delaware and Hudson Railroad. The smuggling of drugs by the land routes has been going on for years. The charge for smuggling a Chinaman from Canada is \$50. The bicycle is a great help to the land smugglers.

Another branch of trade consists of "beating the bond." A skipper at Halifax for instance, takes a quantity of whiskey or tobacco out of bond on the pretence that he is going to convey it to the Miquelon Islands. On getting outside Halifax he lands it at some quiet cove in Cape Breton or perhaps on the Gaspe coast, and on his return to Halifax cancels his bond by producing a certificate, purporting to be signed by the United States consular agent at St. Pierre, to the effect that the cargo was duly delivered to a consignee in this town. There is no British Consul here. Under the Canadian law, therefore, certificates of delivery have to be signed by the United States agent. Of course, in the case described the certificate is forged.

But the big smuggler regards the traffic



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between St. Pierre and Maine or Massachusetts, between St. Pierre and Newfoundland, and between Newfoundland and the United States, which I have just sketched, as a mere side show. Where he operates and makes money hand over fist is between Boston and St. Pierre and St. Pierre and Canada, the article being American corn whiskey from Illinois or Minnesota. The business done on this route has reached immense proportions and yields immense profits.

The way it is done is this: Schooners sail from Boston with corn spirit, overproof, in bond, for St. Pierre. Outside St. Pierre they transfer the stuff to Canadian vessels, which carry it up the Gulf and distribute it among smaller craft that run it ashore. There is not and never was a bonding system at St. Pierre; if a cargo is loaded or transhipped within the harbor or the roadstead between Dog Island and Cap a l'Aigle from one vessel to another, it has to pay duty. This rule is rigidly enforced by the French customs department. The vessels from Boston or Baltimore have full swing on the open sea beyond Dog Island and Galantry to tranship their cargo or do anything else they like with it.

But how they contrive to satisfy the United States law is a mystery. The shipper at Boston, or, to go further back, at St. Paul, Omaha, or Peoria, gives a bond to the United States government that the goods shall be landed or delivered out of the jurisdiction of the United States. This bond is cancelled on the production of a certificate from the foreign consignee that he has received the goods, and another from the United States consular officer that the consignee's statements, sworn to before him, are "to his knowledge true or deserving of faith and credit." The master of the vessel has also to make a declaration. But when, as is done here, the cargo of spirit is not landed at all, but transferred to a Canadian vessel outside the harbor, perhaps on the Banks, it is somewhat difficult to see how proper consular certificates are obtained. The United States agent is George Steer, a Newfoundland. He can hardly have personal knowledge of what takes place miles away from his office. Possibly certificates are forged as in the previous case referred to. Mr. Steer declares that he is complied with the United States law and is answerable to no one except the State Department.

IS A REGULAR CANNIBAL.

The Fish That Attacks Everything Which Comes in its Way.

There is a fish which is the tyrant and terror of the rivers of British Guiana. It is by no means a large fish, but such is its voracity and the strength of its jaws that it is dreaded even by alligators and boatmen. It will bite a piece out of a horse's leg when the horse is passing through the water, and nip off the toes of an alligator. A traveller once saw a man who had his thumb bitten off while paddling a canoe, though his hand was not in the water. Bathers are often bitten, and women washing clothes in the river have suffered the loss of fingers and toes. The Indians, who make this fish the principle article of food, call it the pirali. Among naturalists it is known as the black saw-billed salmon, but its common and appropriate name is the cannibal fish. A German traveller, who frequently met with the cannibal fish in his travels in South America, thus describes it: Their jaws are so strong, that they are able to bite off a man's finger or toe. They attack fish ten times their own weight, and devour all but the head. They begin, at the caudal fin, and the fish being thus left without the principal organ of motion, is devoured with ease, several going to participate of the meal.

The ducks and geese are equally exposed to the attacks of the pirali, and those which the settlers keep near the banks of the rivers are generally deprived of the lower part of their feet. It is strange sight to see them walking on mere stumps. There were two ducks which had been tamed by the Indians, and brought from the large ponds in the interior. Unacquainted with the danger which the ravenous pirali offered them, their instincts directed them to their favorite element, and one of them paid for its first visit with the loss of its toes, and the other was similarly injured in its future visits. They now became cautious, and it was remarkable to observe how studiously they kept in shore, and never trusted themselves beyond their depth.

They are caught with hook and line, and their greediness is so great that no art is necessary to conceal the bait. The pirali will dart at it the instant it is thrown in the water, and seize it with eagerness, but it frequently happens that with its sharp teeth it bites the line, and escapes with the hook in its mouth. We, therefore, surrounded the line where it was fixed to the hook, the length of two or three inches, with tin or lead. Some precaution is necessary, even after the fish has

agents ashore. Thick fogs and dark nights suit him best. He may Cache what remains of the cargo at Sault au Cohon, let us say, on the North shore of the St. Lawrence, at that point thirty miles wide, and arrange for its delivery by smaller vessels near Bic, Trois, Pistoles, Kimoussi, etc., on the south shore; or he may transfer it at once to small craft and leave them to dispose of it while he returns to the neighborhood of the Miquelon Islands for another load. False heads are put on the American barrels as soon as they are landed, to hide the marking, which differs from the Canadian marking, provided they are destined for inland stores and hotels; otherwise the contents are put into vats, reduced, and bottled.

Agents keep track of the sales and see that the market is not glutted. If too much is landed it is cached till the local stores require it. A numerous family on the Isle of Orleans, opposite Quebec, has been engaged in the industry for a quarter of a century. Mr. Cameron, a special officer, got wind of one of their caches on Isle aux Noix some time ago, and taking half a battery of artillery on a steamer landed unexpectedly and captured it. Until recently captured cargoes were sold by the Government with the excise duty forming part of the price, and the informer got a third. But the smuggler who had too many barrels on hand used to inform on himself, his third yielding him a good profit. This was known as "selling to the Queen."

Orleans, Dominion Government has just increased the excise and customs duty on whiskey, and the smuggling, which had declined owing to the hard times, is likely to be brisker than ever. The Controller of Customs at Ottawa, Mr. Clark Wallace, is not to blame for the present magnitude of the trade and the immunity enjoyed by the chief operators. He has done all he could, but is powerless in the face of the French Canadian influence behind the smugglers. The officials at St. Pierre do their duty in seeing that no facilities are given to the smugglers on these islands. The loss of the Canadian revenue and to the Canadian distillers in the last twenty years runs up into millions. Newfoundland loses more than she can afford, and one way and another the loss to the United States Treasury must be considerable.

THE PHONOGRAPHIC DOG.

It Worked all Right until It Attempted to Bark a Little.

A certain Mr. Brown bequeathed an annuity to the person whom his dog would follow on the day of the funeral. His nephew, Mr. Smart, who had an inkling of the matter, attended the reading of the will with a piece of liver in his coat-tail pocket. The dog came to him at once, and the annuity also, which was to revert to a Dog's Home on the death of the animal.

When some years had passed, the secretary of the Dog's Home called, and found the dog decreed, but still alive. That year it died, and Smart's wife, in despair at the idea of losing the annuity, persuaded him to have it stuffed. By means of some cleverly constructed machinery placed inside the dog was made to go through some very life-like movements, and when the secretary called next year he was disappointed to find the dog apparently still alive. On remarking that it did not bark he was told that it had a cold just then.

Then Smart procured a phonograph, and before placing it in the stuffed animal, called in a neighbor's dog and made it bark into the machine by means of calling out: "Rats, rats!"

When next year the secretary paid his annual visit, Smart made the dog come to him, stroked it, and turned on the phonograph. "Rats, rats! Bow-wow!" came from the dog, to the confusion and dismay of its owner.

been litted out of the water, or it will inflict in its struggles serious wounds; the angler has, therefore, a small bludgeon ready, wherewith its skull is broken.

This fish is not a bit like salmon in general appearance. He is of a lead color, and has six teeth on each side of the upper, and a seven on each side of the lower jaw. These teeth are triangular, serrated and very sharp; they some what resemble the teeth of the shark.

A NOTABLE EXCEPTION.

A Strong Feeling in Favor of a Canadian Product in the State of New York.

SYRACUSE, N. Y. June 10.—In spite of a strong sentiment prevailing throughout this state that nothing good can come out of Canada, a feeling is beginning to grow that there are certain notable exceptions and among them is classed the new specific remedy for all diseases of the kidneys and all complaints arising from a derangement of those organs, known as Dodd's Kidney Pills. The medicine has received a thorough test and is being prescribed not only by druggists but by physicians, whose well-known reluctance to admit any virtue in a proprietary medicine makes their testimony to its merits still more remarkable.

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