

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1897.

TO ABOLISH ROCKHEAD.

A MOVEMENT ON FOOT TO SAVE MUCH EXPENSE.

And Have the City Prison at Halifax in the Heart of the City—Six Thousand Can It be Claimed to be Saved to Taxpayers by This Arrangement.

HALIFAX, Jan. 21.—A pet scheme of one of the aldermen of Halifax is to do away with Rockhead, as the city prison of Halifax is called. His reason for this is that Rockhead is an expensive institution to maintain, and that the number of its inmates has greatly reduced, so that the city and county jail can answer the purpose for which it is intended as well as accommodate all the culprits that are sent for punishment from the police court. This alderman claims that the number of drunks imprisoned is less than ever before, and indeed they are becoming fewer. Saturday and Sunday together brought only two cases before his honor, though this may be accounted for partly by two reasons, scarcity of money and New Year's resolutions. Then the county jail has become almost depleted since imprisonment for debt was abolished, and speedy trials introduced. Thus it appears that it is quite practicable for this city to get along without Rockhead, which costs about \$8000 a year and is three miles from the City hall, and to fill up the empty corridors of the jail, five minutes walk from the city hall. It would be the easiest thing in the world by this change to save \$6,000 to overburdened taxpayers, and transform Rockhead from a prison into some more pleasant and more useful institution.

Dalhousie is Broad Minded.

HALIFAX, Jan. 21.—Bishop Courtney lectured to the students of Dalhousie college on Sunday afternoon. The Dalhousians are a cosmopolitan crowd, ecclesiastically speaking. They have had Archbishop O'Brien at their Y. M. C. A. meeting. Rev. Dyson Hogue, the evangelical has addressed them; Bishop Courtney, broad and liberal has added the flood of his eloquence to what they have heard. Ministers of other denominations, too, have occupied the platform at their Sunday afternoon Y. M. C. A. meeting. Dalhousie is largely presbyterian so far as its students go, but they can be depended on almost to a certainty, to turn out most generously and to greet more cordially a clerical speaker of some other religious body.

TROPIC LIGHT AND HEAT.

They Were the First Things That Impressed a Visitor to Jamaica.

The light and the heat are the two things that most impress one on first coming to this land. The light is the more impressive of the two; from sunrise to sunset it is omnipresent and constant; the very shadows are luminous, dark though they appear by contrast. I should say that latitude seventeen was about forty five million miles nearer the sun than latitude forty. Yet it is a tender, soft suffused light, not a fierce and hard one. The atmosphere is not so rarefied as that of our own west; one can read here by moonlight, but one cannot read fine print easily. The remote distances of the landscape are melted in an aerial haze instead of being defined with the relentless clearness of a steel engraving. Nevertheless, the light of the tropics is superlative; it seems to belong to a planet more recently evolved from the parental luminary than ours. So intense and persuasive is it, one would almost say irradiates the mind as well as the body; it appears to possess a spiritual quality. I had read of blazing tropic suns, of scorching, blistering tropic heats, but I find nothing of the sort. However great the ultimate effect may be, the manner is always gentle, sweet, subtle, soothing. Harbour street in Kingston never shows so savage a temperature as Broadway in New York. But for all that, it will not do to take undue liberties with this soft spoken climate. After walking a few miles along the white, undulating roads, or panting up a steep hillside, nothing could be more delicious than the touch of the northern breeze fanning you as you sit under the shadow of a broad-spreading silk cotton, nor could anything be more dangerous. You are being fanned by the wings of death. Evaporation is wonderfully rapid; you come in from exercise drenched with perspiration, and before you can make ready for a 'rub down' your skin is already

dry. In the north a slight chill may be followed by a slight cold, and that be the end of it; here your chill may turn out the end of everything for you. Moreover, the soil when dampened by rains probably exhales a miasma productive of what we call malarial fever; in Jamaica it occasionally develops in an appalling, ugly disease known as black vomit.

On the other hand, if you are rationally cautious, and let liquor of every kind alone you may walk or climb, or play tennis, or ride horseback all through the hottest parts of the cloudless day, and feel only the better for it at night; in fact, you must take plenty of exercise in order to be at your best. The way to get ill is to avoid exertion and perspiration, and sit at ease in the shade absorbing cooling drinks. Such people sometimes last two years. Those who pursue the alternative regimen are not surprised to find themselves alive and alert at ninety and upward. Of course it is more difficult to get ill on the higher levels than on the lower ones; but taking the island by long and large, it is one of the healthiest places on the globe.—Julian Hawthorne, in the Century.

FOODS IN MANY LANDS.

Nations Differ Widely in What They Like to Eat.

Tastes certainly differ vastly in the matter of foods with various nations, and so do appetites. An Italian, for instance, would be content with a piece of bread and grapes for a day's food, while an Esquimaux in the same time would demolish twenty pounds of flesh, and a Tartar perhaps even more. However, quality and not quantity is the matter of greater interest, and certainly here we have plenty of variety.

The nose of the moose deer is considered a great delicacy by the New Brunswickers, while the fins and tail of the shark are esteemed as specially nourishing and delicious by John Chipman. The Celestial has also a fine taste in unchained ducks and chickens, sea slugs, fish maws, birds' nests, and many other delicacies unknown in unenlightened Europe.

In Polynesia raw sharks' flesh is much relished, and it is openly sold in the market of Havana. On the Gold coast the negroes rank shark among such highly esteemed delicacies as alligator and hippopotamus. We ourselves revel in turtle, and yet we decline to have anything to do with tortoise, though a very large amount of the soup in Italy and Sicily is made of the land tortoise boiled down to a strong essence. Land tortoises are also much appreciated in some of the West Indian Islands, and in North America the eggs of the close tortoise are reckoned a great delicacy. In both North and South America the flesh and eggs of the salt water terrapin are considered a luxury. Skillfully cooked, even the hideous, scaly iguana is rendered very palatable, for its flesh resembles chicken with the flavor of turtle. It stewed or curried it is as good as rabbit or chicken, and the soup made from it is excellent.

The eggs of reptiles are wonderfully good, and none are better than those of the iguana and the land tortoise. Crocodiles, lizards, and frogs are all eaten by various people, and the first is very often excellent food, resembling veal or pork, but some kinds have a fishy flavor that is exceedingly disagreeable. Alligator tastes somewhat like sucking pig, and at Manila is sold for good prices, while the Chinese greatly value the dried skin for making the gelatinous soups to which they are so partial.—Home Notes.

Measuring a Tree.

The boy in the following story, borrowed from Bright Jewels, is described as never saying anything remarkable, as eating oatmeal in large quantities, chasing the cat, slamming the door, and otherwise conducting himself after the manner of boys; with the exception that he asks few questions and does much thinking. If he does not understand a thing, he whistles, which is not a bad habit—on some occasions.

There was much whistling in our yard one summer. It seemed to be an all-summer performance. Near the end of the season, however, our boy announced the height of our tall maple to be thirty-three feet.

'Why, how do you know?' was the general question.

'Measured it.'

'How?'

'Foot-rule and yardstick.'

'You didn't climb that tall tree?' his mother asked, anxiously.

'No'm; I just found the length of the shadow, and measured that.'

'But the length of the shadow changes.'

'Yes'm, but twice a day the shadows are just as long as things themselves. I've been trying it all summer. I drove a stick into the ground, and when the shadow was just as long as the stick I knew that the shadow of the tree would be just as long as the tree, and that's thirty-three feet.'

'So that is what you have been whistling about all summer?'

'Did I whistle?' asked Tom.

• • OUR GREAT JANUARY SALE OF • •

Ladies' and Children's White Underwear

HUNDREDS of our Lady Patrons have been waiting for this opportunity, and to such we can assure the largest selection of garments has been prepared for their approval. The goods are now ready for inspection in the "LADIES' ROOM," Second Floor. All NEW and FRESH from the makers' hands.

The success of our annual sale of FINE UNDERWEAR in former seasons is well known. This sale—in the variety of styles, in the quality of materials, in the perfection of cut and fashioning, in the excellence of workmanship—exceeds any sale we have ever held.

Actual Facts Worth Remembering

VALUE, STYLE, CORRECTNESS OF SHAPE, QUALITY FOR PRICE, AND VARIETY OF DISPLAY, are not excelled in Canada.

Manchester Robertson & Allison, St. John

HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY.

Great Men Who Have Embraced Their Various Opportunities.

Seize ordinary opportunities and make them extraordinary. "The best men," says E. H. Chapin, "are not those who have waited for chances, but who have taken them, besieged the chance; conquered the chance; and made chance the servant." A story which is not new is well told by George Cary Eggleston.

A large company had been invited to a banquet at the mansion of Signor Falloir in France, and just before the hour the confectioner, who had been making a large ornament for the table, sent word that he had spoiled the piece.

'If you will let me try, I think I can make something that will do,' said a boy, who had been employed as a scullion.

'You!' exclaimed the head servant in astonishment; "and who are you?"

'I am Antonia Canova, the grandson of Pisano, the stone cutter,' replied the pale faced little fellow.

'And, pray, what can you do?' asked the majordomo.

'I can make you something that will do for the middle of the table, if you'll let me try.' The servant was at his wits end, so he told Antonio to go ahead and see what he could do. Calling for some butter, the scullion quickly molded a large, crouching lion.

Dinner was announced, and many of the most noted merchants, princes and noblemen of Venice were ushered into the dining room. Among them were skilled critics of art work. When their eyes fell upon the butter lion, the recognized it as a work of genius. They examined it long and carefully, and asked Signor Falloir what great sculptor had been persuaded to waste his skill upon a work in such a temporary material.

When the distinguished guests learned that the lion had been made in a short time by a scullion, the dinner was turned into a feast in his honor. The rich host declared that he would pay the boy's expenses under the best masters, and he kept his word; but Antonio was not spoiled by his good fortune. He remained at heart the same simple, earnest, faithful boy who had tried so hard to become a good stone-cutter in the shop of Pisano.

Some may not have heard how the boy Antonio took advantage of this first great opportunity; but all know of Canova, one of the greatest sculptors of all time.

A NOVELTY IN SAILS.

How to Increase a Balloon's Effectiveness Over Fifty Per Cent.

This manipulation of the sail area, in sails of yachts especially, marks a very great improvement in the old system of balloon and straight-cloth sails. This sail of Mr. W. S. Simpson has, at the first view, the appearance of a sail divided into a series of equal squares, like a draught board, every other square containing a hole in the centre about one-tenth the size of the square, and the intermediate squares loose pieces of canvas tacked at the corners to the sails containing the holes. Now, the effect of the wind or the surface of this arrangement is this: the wind strikes the sail at any point of the sailing in the ordinary manner, but escapes through the holes, but is met by the loose squares of canvas tacked on the other side, which are at once distended by the wind. The sail is exactly the same construction on both sides, except that the holes in the

FOUNTAIN SYRINGES—2 quart, in wood box, with 4 pipes (including vaginal irrigator) \$1.00 Postpaid to any part of Canada \$1.10. C. K. SNOW, Druggist, St. John, N. B.

sail are always covered with a square of canvas on the reverse side, the same side as the square containing the hole on the other.

A yacht, for instance, running before the wind with this sail arrangement, will have every other square bellied out with the breeze, and thus the ordinary flat surface will be increased in area by fifty per cent.

Such an invention as this certainly heralds a new era in yacht or ice boat racing, for a yacht thus rigged becomes one-half more powerful in its speed powers than before, as the improvements in balloon sails have certainly reached a limit, which, if extended, might end in disaster. The extra power of such sails that must arise from increasing the sail area by one-half is certainly the most important feature of this invention, and would, in the case of a racing yacht entered for a race under the ordinary sail measurements, make it at once a superior boat against any other in the race of the same sail measurements entered under the present sail area rules.

Friendly Mocking-Bird.

Who would not live in Florida, to have a dooryard neighbor such as is described in the following paragraph from the Savannah News?

A mocking bird serves as a night-watchman at the residence of R. F. Bettes at Tampa, Florida, and notifies the family of the coming of dawn every morning by pecking on the window-pane. Often when the doors are left ajar the bird comes inside and perches on the chairs and about the room.

It will allow the family to come very close, and shows marked attention to Mrs. Bettes and her little daughter. When they start out for a visit it follows them some distance, and then returns to the yard. When they return it appears very glad and will fly all about them, and gives evidence of its joys in other ways.

The children feed it, and when the family meal is to be served, it the window is not raised it makes its presence known by pecking on the window. During the day it gets into a neighboring bush or tree and sings for hours at a time.

As You Take It.

'All little girls,' said the caller, 'should have some kind of light work for their leisure hours. Of course you do something in that way, Susie?'

'Nix.'

'That's especially nice. So few children knit nowadays.'—Detroit Free Press.

GENERAL LEE'S REBUKE.

In Which a Good Old Saying is Truthfully Illustrated.

'The bravest are the tenderest,' and they are also the most magnanimous. An anecdote, told by the Washington Times of Gen. R. E. Lee, shows how great in mind and elevated in soul was this distinguished soldier.

General Lee, in October, 1865, accepted the presidency of Washington College at Lexington, Va., at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars a year. He had been previously offered the position of president of the National Express Company, organized by capitalists in New York, at a salary of fifty thousand dollars a year and although very poor in purse, he decided, as he always did decide, to follow what he deemed the line of his duty, and devote the remainder of his life to the education of youth.

He wielded his vast influence in the South to soften the asperities that ever spring from civil war, and to promote among its people a spirit of national fraternity.

In the period of political feeling, engendered by party strife under the reconstruction act of Congress, several professors in his college, while in a large company of ladies and gentlemen, denounced the government of the United States in his presence, and he reproved their harsh strictures by reciting the following lines written by the Persian poet Hafiz:

Learn from your Orient shah to love thy foe,
And store with pearls the hand that brings thee woe,
Free, like you rock, from base vindictive pride,
Brimble with gems the wrist that rends thy side.

After reciting these beautiful lines in a clear voice and with deep feeling, General Lee added: 'Ought not we, who professed to be governed by the principles of Christianity, to rise at least to the standard of this Mohammedan poet, and learn to forgive our enemies?'

A Useful Telephone.

The two Roumanian cities, Gala'z and Braila, on the Danube, have been connected by telephone, which is, like the telegraph in that country, an institution of the state. Before its opening the ordinance of the government for its use was published in The Official Gazette, the principal part of which is as follows: 'A person who wants to have intercourse with another by telephone is bound to notify that person beforehand by letter, telegraph or otherwise.'

Sarsaparilla Sense.

Any sarsaparilla is sarsaparilla. True. So any tea is tea. So any flour is flour. But grades differ. You want the best. It's so with sarsaparilla. There are grades. You want the best. If you understood sarsaparilla as well as you do tea and flour it would be easy to determine. But you don't. How should you?

When you are going to buy a commodity whose value you don't know, you pick out an old established house to trade with, and trust their experience and reputation. Do so when buying sarsaparilla.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla has been on the market fifty years. Your grandfather used Ayer's. It is a reputable medicine. There are many sarsaparillas. But only one Ayer's. IT CURES.