

PROGRESS.

EDWARD S. CARTER, EDITOR

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Progress is a Sixteen Page Paper, published every Saturday, from its new quarters, 29 to 31 Canterbury street, St. John, N. B. Subscription price is Two Dollars per annum, in advance.

The Circulation of this paper is over 13,000 copies; is double that of any daily in the Maritime Provinces, and exceeds that of any weekly published in the same section.

Remittances should always be made by Post Office Order or Registered Letter. The former is preferred, and should be made payable in every case to EDWARD S. CARTER, Publisher.

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Opales Can be Purchased at every known news stand in New Brunswick, and in very many of the cities, towns and villages of Nova Scotia and Prince-Edward Island every Saturday, for Five Cents each.

SIXTEEN PAGES.

AVERAGE CIRCULATION 13,640

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUG. 7.

The two cleanest cities on the continent, according to the Review of Reviews, are Toronto and New York and they are both cleaned by direct labor. New York not only employs and thus directs all its street cleaning and garbage despatch forces, but it has an organized department with an adequate and properly adjusted equipment of horse carts, brooms, stables and stations and it pays its men \$2 a day and upwards for eight hours work. Perhaps had the contract system been employed New York would not have been the clean city it is today. It is by the system of direct labor, under model conditions of employment that this first worthy result of the kind in a large American city has been achieved. Toronto the other of these two exemplary cities has gone even further than New York in eliminating the contractor. In this enterprising city of our Dominion, with its 200,000 people, the Street Commissioner has, during the last seven years entirely revolutionized the care of the city streets. He has not only organized the execution of this work under a distinct department, but out of the margin thus saved from the annual appropriation for caring for the streets he has actually built and equipped a modest but complete set of workshops where the entire construction and repair work of the department is executed.

The seventh Triennial Session of the International Geological Congress will be held this year in St. Petersburg Russia, beginning August 29th and lasting eight days. It is probable that this congress will agree on the nomenclature of rocks, of which hereafter there will be a uniform system of names as applied to such matters the world over; thus avoiding all confusion heretofore existing in the different nations. The matters of color for the strata of rocks, on maps, will also be settled. An interesting feature of the congress will be the report of a committee under the patronage of Prince NAPOLEON BONAPARTE which will report on glaciers. Such delegates as have been accepted by the Russian government will be taken over the Empire, the Czar being host. The Russian Government has been very liberal in this instance, as it is going to great expense to entertain the delegates and make them acquainted with the physical features of Russia. This session will consider especially the completed geological map of Europe, which has been under the auspices of the congress by the aid of all its members and subjected to a fierce scrutiny and expression of opinion in its details. The progress of the geological research during the last three years will be considered and reported.

Russia is probably the only civilized country in the world where tramps are officially recognized and protected by the Government. This is especially the case with tramps of the important province of Pensa where they are organized in guilds and start out every spring to beg systematically through other parts of the empire. They do so well that on their return they are able to pass the winter in idleness with their wives and children and are favored by the authorities because they happen to be about the only inhabitants in the province who are able to pay their taxes in full. It is calculated that during their tours they are able to lay aside about \$30 a month.

In times gone by the moment a fugitive negro slave set foot upon English soil, or even on board an English man-of-war, the poor creature became ipso facto free. This seems to be no longer the case. For Sir CHARLES DILKE a few weeks ago drew attention to the fact in the House of Commons to the fact that slaves who escape

from Zanzibar or from Pemda to the slip of British mainland are, by orders of the British officials, handed over to their former masters for further bondage and punishment.

Another warning against the destruction of forests has recently come from the Island of Trinidad. The officers of the Royal Botanic Gardens there report that the rainfall has been steadily decreasing for thirty or more years, and that if the present rate of decrease should continue, that beautiful island would, within a measurable time become as barren as the Sahara. Destruction of forests is declared to be the decrease of rain.

Evidence has been recently produced that the Chinese were in Mexico 2,000 years ago and that they were in the South Sea Islands even before that. But ever since the Chinese tried to scare the Japanese off the battlefields by shaking rage at them and holding up ugly gods to frighten them, no one has had any solemn faith in stories of the antiquity of Chinese civilization.

A bolt of lightning descended the air shaft of a big apartment house in New York and caused a fire. This case illustrates how lightning tends to follow currents of air. To sit in a draft during a thunder storm is to invite the lightning. One peculiarity of an electric discharge is that the current is deflected by an air current, as may be shown experimentally.

A Zulu youth cannot marry a girl until he has whipped all her brothers and given her father a fall in addition, if demanded. This makes a courtship more exciting than chocolate caramels and gumdrops. It is a strange custom and if it were in vogue in this country a girl who is an only child and a half-orphan on her father's side would be at a premium.

The system of pigeon post is establishing itself as a branch of the intelligence department of the British navy. In the naval manoeuvres in progress, carrier pigeons are despatched to cotes recently established at Portsmouth, Davenport and Sheerness at a cost of \$5,000.

It has been shown that out of one million of people, two hundred and twenty five women reached the age of one hundred years, while only eighty two men completed the century. Just why women manage to get the most out of existence is still an open question.

A burglar in one of the upper provinces was caught in a refrigerator the other night and nearly froze to death before his plight was discovered. Still a midnight prowler can hardly complain if he receives a cold reception occasionally.

The Boston Herald sentimentally remarks "what a door old moon! She has seen much spooning in her day. These are the evenings to sit out doors and court the breeze." Why spoil it by adding the last two superfluous words.

While crossing the road to borrow a paper from a neighbor a Pennsylvania man was run over by a wagon, and his doctor bill for repairs was \$15 and even then he didn't get the paper. The moral is plain enough for anybody.

Farm Laborers Excursion to Manitoba &c. The farm laborers excursion announced in these columns last week will be run by the Canadian Pacific Ry. on Tuesday Aug. 17th; Second class one way tickets will be sold to any point in the territory Winnipeg to Moosejaw, Estevan or Salt-coats inclusive at rate of \$14. With each ticket will be given a certificate to be filled out by some farmer in the territory named to show that holder has worked for him at least one month, it will then be honored by C. P. R. agent for a second class ticket home for the same amount \$14 if presented before Nov. 30th.

An Ignoble End When a certain bishop was about to make a visitation of his diocese, his wife said to him: "Now, Bishop, you know you mustn't eat any mince pie, for you know it never agrees with you."

"No, I won't," said the bishop, and for a while he withstood the temptation in various quarters. But at last he succumbed to an especially choice piece, and it was so good that he ate another. That night he was taken violently ill, and the physician who was summoned was greatly surprised to find how extremely nervous his patient was over his condition.

"Why Bishop, surely you are not afraid to die?"

"Oh, no," said the Bishop, "I am not afraid to die, but I am very much ashamed to die."—Christian Register.

The beard usually turns gray first, and should be colored to correspond with the color of the hair of the head. Buckingham's Dye colors a natural brown or black.

VERSES OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Among the Summer Leaves. Among the leaves the sweet winds play, Leaves of the elm and pine; Eeking to sleep the languid day, Where answering waters shine. The deep stream has a placid flow, Down to the diving sea; And the silent flocks all seem to know Mid summer claims the sea.

Among the leaves I hear a voice, Echoing from the dead; A voice from the land where saints rejoice, In the region overhead. I know by the beautiful love you gave, The sweetest the heart can gain; That only from glory beyond the grave Such sounds could be heard again.

Midsommer claims the lox and brings, The twilight you went away; Went where gliding on silvered wings, The beautiful sing and pray. The grace you bore from our home afar, In paradise fairer grows; Sweet as the light of a vestal star, In the darkness seeks its own.

Midsommer splendor leaves us fast, Flies like a golden dream; Over the silent sea at last, Where the gates of glory gleam. There comes never a weary night, Love's sorrowful tear is dried, That heavenly climate is ever light, And never a being died.

Sing on sweet soul while leaves are green, In that eden of a stately rose; Sing of the flowers and fields between, The mansions of immortal bliss. The vernal vale of immortal peace, The breath of the landscape fair; The gardens whose roses never cease, To bloom in that midsommer air.

CYPRUS GOLDBE. Roselands, July, 1897.

Mother Feeds the Chickens. A while before the sun has rose, 'N' father builds the kil len fire, Our big black rooster crows 'n' crows, 'Z' if his neck would never tire; 'N' we get up 'n' feed the stock 'N' water Fannie 'n' milk the cows, 'N' fix a state or broken lock; 'N' after breakfast father plows 'N' mother feeds the chickens.

The pancakes Wally wouldn't eat 'N' cornbread left on Marjorie's plate, A scrap of tea, a bit of meat, 'N' all the stuff what no one ate, She puts it in that worn-out tin, Tarows out some grain, 'n' pretty quick She bolters nearly 's loud 's she kin, 'N' shows 'em the nice 'n' good; 'N' when she feeds the chickens.

You'd ought to see old Top-Knot run, 'N' go fer berries to the patch; 'N' Plymouth Rock (the biggest one)— She lays a 'n'ormous monstrous egg; 'N' when she feeds the chickens.

A chicken to 'em's hard 's she kin, 'N' shows 'em the nice 'n' good; She gets it fer 'em out the tin, 'N' pecks the other chickens.

Old Gray, our cat, comes snoopin' round 'N' slyly peeks from hind the stoop; 'N' any meat's there, he is bound 'N' shan; go to the chicken coop. Now filled with an owner's pride, Wee Willie comes with wonderin' eyes, That look so brown 'n' bright 'n' wide; He loves to watch 'em 'n' he cries— 'N' Des see my baby tikkens!"

Will L. Davis, in Chicago Record

IN GAY NEW YORK.

Events That are Interesting Citizens of the Big City.

NEW YORK, Aug. 3, 1897.—Society is returning to the city by wholesale. The weather has been such that the summer resorts have proved failures and, for about the fiftieth time, New York city has been found to be the most comfortable place for summer residence. Yesterday I chanced to go along West 14th Street and, as I passed by "Macy's" all the evidences of wealth and refinement that distinguish the crowds that frequent that celebrated resort in the cooler seasons were to be observed there. A number of summer hotels have shut down and the rest are running at a losing figure. Indeed they all lost money all through July and cannot hope to make more than both ends meet by the end of the season.

The coal trouble stands where it did when I last wrote. Nothing has been done to bring Mr. De Armit down from his lofty pedestal, except the putting forward of a petition endorsed by the Labor League, for the pardon of the man who shot Mr. Frick who held De Armit's position so many years ago. Probably this was thought a good tissue to try to get the executive to show clemency, and it is certain that the petition has received a great many more signatures than it would have in less troublous times. Yesterday at Trenton a Canadian beat all the fastest cyclists of the United States. Eddie Bald, Nat. Butler and a host of other stars went down before him—or rather came out a good way behind him. Five thousand people looked on and were as much disgusted at the sight as was the English crowd when Ten Eyck wore the diamond skulls. There was not a cheer, though were "curses not loud but deep," as Stevens came in with a clear lead of at least a length over the celebrated cracks of the union. It was so entirely unexpected that it brought to one's mind involuntarily the spectacle of the sight seers of Boston who, in June 1813, went out in their boats and yachts to see the "Shannon," brought in a prize to the "Chesapeake." I understand Mr. Stevens has

been offered a very handsome arrangement to desert that "snow-bound colony" and to remove to New York.

Going from the region of sporting news to graver affairs, the row with Japan attracts our attention.

For a country whose newspapers attack England constantly for "grabbing" unprotected countries, it does seem as if it were rather peculiar, this attempt to take Hawaii, but all honor to the little empire over the sea which has raised a warning and has crossed this great republic in her path of glory. There can be no doubt, though the fact is strenuously denied by those in authority, that it was on account of Japan's attitude that the treaty between some two or three hundred American citizens, calling themselves "The Republic of Hawaii," and some seventy millions of American citizens calling themselves the "United States of America," was not ratified by congress before its adjournment. Japan is little—she could be packed into the State of New York—but she possesses a big navy,—big, that is compared with the half dozen ships that carry the Stars and Stripes. And although beautiful as ornaments, and fierce looking when anchored off Tombkin villi, nobody knows when the cruisers and battle ships of America will go down or go up and it won't do to send them all to Halifax for repairs, you know. The English papers tell the truth when they say that Japan could whip these United States at present and the government at Washington understand that right well. But according to Mr. Roosevelt, the assistant secretary of the navy there are to be added to the navy twice the number of vessels of every class and the government is going to cease being robbed by its "citizen-kings," and is going to provide itself with the necessary plant to enable it to manufacture its own armor-plating, and then will see what Japan, or Spain, or even that great robber England, will do. One might think that a dock large enough to accommodate one of the battle ships might have been mentioned on the programme as laid down by Mr. Roosevelt but perhaps he hadn't time. It is to be hoped that a thoroughly good job will be made of the Indiana at Halifax, because if anything should happen to her within a year after she leaves the dock, it will be put down to the malice of the Canadian and Britisher, by the independent Press of this great country. For my own part I cannot understand why the docks at Halifax or any other English port should admit an American vessel of war for repairs, but that is a point in the "comity of nations" with which I am not I suppose familiar.

The people of this country must be kept from thinking too much about their navy and its weaknesses and failures, so there is talk of sending troops to Cuba and annexing that Island. There could be troops got, no doubt, but since there are more Spanish troops in the island than the whole standing army of the United States numbers, and a formidable fleet of Spanish warships surrounding its coasts, one can only say that talk is cheap and hurts, nobody. Meanwhile there is to be a demand made on Spain for indemnity or rather compensation, for the life of Dr. Ruiz, a Cuban patriot who showed his good sense by deserting his native isle and seeking the warm bosom of the American Republic and there becoming an American citizen-king, and then showed his want of good sense by hastening over to Cuba and armed, as he supposed, with the powers of the Great Republic going to work aiding the insurgents. Taken red handed he was imprisoned by the Spaniards and put to death by them, they strange to relate, wholly failing to appreciate any reasoning where by a citizen of the great glorious country should be allowed to run about the island of Cuba raising or assisting to raise a rebellion. Now it is to be hoped that Spain will have enough respect for her own honor and dignity to refuse to pay a cent or entertain the claim. If she makes the proper answer, we will have war, the papers say, and American troops will instantly take possession of Cuba. It is safer to talk of war with Spain than it is to hint at such a possibility with Japan for the latter might take us at our word.

The assessment of taxes in the borough of Brooklyn has just been completed, and it increases the valuation in personal property alone to an amount exceeding four million and a quarter dollars. A very good joke is told on Justice Keogh in this connection. At a trial last fall he was presiding and took occasion to remark the obvious under-valuation of property and in some cases the total failure of the assessors to assess any personal estate. This year the assessors repaired their error, having the scathing denunciation of the learned Judge in their minds, and among other alterations raised the assessment on Justice Keogh from \$22,700 to \$96,000 of real



estate and \$40,392 of personal property. Public curiosity as to what the judge will do is very rife, but public opinion says that the action of the assessors is right.

An almost miraculous escape from death was experienced on Sunday by a carload of passengers on one of the trolley lines in New Jersey. By some means the car jumped the track and without abating its speed went along beside the rails until it left the roadbed and went down with increasing velocity a steep descent that terminated in a precipice of over one hundred feet. The car was crowded and the company of passengers kept their seats, showing only by their white, set faces and the nervous way their hands clutched the backs of the seats ahead of them, how fear had mastered them. The motorman stuck to his post with all his weight thrown on the brake. Finally when the car was only about six feet from the brink of the precipice, the brake yielded and began to work and the motorman succeeded in stopping the car on the very edge of the gulf. The shock of the sudden stop threw the passengers about in every direction and one woman had both of her ankles sprained, and her husband had his arm broken. If the car had not been stopped just where it was it would have rolled down amid jagged rocks and huge boulders, that would, in all probability, have proved the death of every inmate of the car.

It is well worth while to see the passengers arriving from Europe this week and to note what they said and did about the new tariff when called on by the customs officers. To observe the look of horror when told that there was so much duty on their personal belongings, or on some rare bit of old lace or jewellery which they could have brought in without the imposition of a single cent, but one short week before, and to listen to the various tones, at first baseeching, then defiant, then business-like, were most amusing. Mr. Elbridge Gerry had a suit of furniture, of Louis XV. style, brought over from Paris. He had it entered in the customs on Saturday the twenty fourth day of July before five o'clock in the afternoon, the hour when the new tariff came in. He expected to pay the duty on it which was imposed on all furniture of that style by the preceding law—but he did not remove it until Monday, or rather he did not attempt to remove it. On the Monday he was informed that there was about half its value to pay in duty. The officers insisted that the furniture was liable to the new duty inasmuch as the old duty was imposed on furniture of a date anterior to A. D. 1700, and as Louis XV was not born till A. D. 1710, this furniture could not come under it. It was as good as a play to see the faces and hear the loud talk as Mr. Gerry tried to convince the officers that a few years did not make any difference in the style of certain furniture, but the officers wouldn't be convinced and so Mr. Gerry departed with the avowed intention of setting his lawyer to work. I hope next week to be able to tell you the result.

The prisoners Thorn and Mrs. Nack were arraigned and pleaded to the indictment on the twenty eighth ult. At least Mrs. Nack said she was not guilty in a feeble, trembling voice and Thorn remained mute, as his counsel explained, and a plea of not guilty was entered for him.

A Mean Husband's Revenge.

Mrs. D. Pride (anxious that her daughter shall make a rich match—I wonder why Mr. Richfellow doesn't come to see our daughter any more.)

Mr. D. Pride—I don't know. The last time he was here he borrowed my clock work phonograph to have some music played into it. He brought it back to my office the next morning saying that the musician was sick or something, and that's the last I've seen of him.

"Was the phonograph empty?"

"Um! now I think of it, I believe it did have in it your reception of me when I came home late the night before. Maybe he's changed his mind about marrying."—N. Y. Weekly.

Mrs. McInty—An' phat did th' docther say was th' matter wid y'r eye, Patsy? Small Son—He say-ed thur was some foreign substance in it. Mrs. McInty (with an "I told so" air)—Now maybe ye'll keape away from thim Oytalians!—New York Weekly.

Umbrellas Made. Re-covered, Repaired. Daval, 17 Waterloo.