



The nearness of the Christmas season with the rush and hurry it brings along, and the stormy disagreeable weather, are both very good reasons to offer to the world at large for the dearth of society news these days.

It seems really as if every year the Christmas goods grow prettier and this year in addition to prettiness and variety there is the added merit of being able to purchase, very cheaply, the daintiest little trifles.

Beautiful little accessories of the dressing table, china, medallions, etc., there are in bewildering array and if you're not delighted with the articles and their prices why certainly the fault is in yourself not the Christmas goods.

The performance of The Three Guardsmen Thursday night might almost be called a society event bringing out as it did so many members of the smart set. What a very good presentation the Caseneuve company gave of the piece, and what an enthusiastic audience it was to which they played. The frequent applause and curtain calls were fully merited, and there is no doubt that on the opening night the company scored a very decided triumph.

The benefit concert for the Oratorio society was held in Trinity Sunday School room on Thursday evening and was largely attended. The various numbers on the well arranged programme were very heartily received and were as follows: Songs—Still as the Night.....Carl Bohn Robert Seely.

Concluding with the Song Cycle, "In a Persian Garden," Music by Liza Lehmann. Mr. T. Robertson went to Digby last week to see his brother Mr. G. Robertson who was quite ill for a little while but who is now much improved.

Miss Maud McCleskey has returned from a very pleasant visit to her friends the Misses McVey of St. Stephen.

Zion church school room was en fête this week, when the ladies mite society held a fancy sale and tea which was well attended and very successful in every way.

The candy table which was prettily decorated in pink and green and contained a dainty assortment of sweets was in charge of Miss Hattie Lindsay and Miss T. Wilson and tea was served in the infant class room from 5 to 7 o'clock by Miss Puchell, Miss Dean and Miss Wilson.

Mrs. R. B. Colwell and children of this city paid a short visit lately to relatives in Anagance. Mayor and Mrs. Whitehead of Fredericton spent a little while in the city the first of the week.

Mrs. F. B. Murray and Mrs. Frank S. Rogers who were summoned to Halifax last week by the tidings of their father, Mr. J. F. Shaffer's death, returned home on Monday of this week.

Mrs. J. D. Weldon of Shediac spent a few days in the city in the early part of the week. Mrs. W. H. Purdy is entertaining Miss Constance Vail who is enjoying a brief visit from her studies in a Waltham hospital.

Mrs. Miller of Bridgetown who has been visiting her sister Mrs. T. L. Coughlan returned to her home on Saturday last week. Mrs. Chas. Manuel of Boston arrived home a few days ago to spend Christmas with her mother Mrs. J. K. Schofield.

was held this week and was certainly superior to its predecessors in every way. The present location of the new studio on the south side of King square are extremely pleasant—and in the matter of lighting is much better than the former quarters on Prince William street.

Among the St. John exhibits Miss L. C. Cushing has a very handsome fish set, platter and six plates, very artistically executed. Miss Marion Holly's four pieces are a plate with miniature "Gainsborough Girl," a plate with violets and cupids, and a tea set and cream pitcher with miniatures. The work is beautifully done and these articles were greatly admired, as was Miss Lily Markham's large tray with its effective decoration of chrysanthemums.

Mrs. W. O. Raymond's work attracted a good deal of attention and is exquisitely dainty and pleasing. It includes two claret jug plates, and bon-bon dishes. Miss E. J. Ritchie exhibited a miniature on ivory, and a large plaque on which are Venus and cupids in dainty coloring and effective grouping.

The name of Plunket Greene is now recognized the world over as that of the most distinguished and popular ballad singer appearing before the people of England. Possessing a bass voice of rare quality, sweetness and power added to a most magnetic personality, Greene is to the fore not merely at all the principal London concerts, but at the great Musical Festivals. At the last Leeds Festival, the greatest in the old land, he won a remarkable triumph in the new works then given.

Mrs. Byron Taylor returned this week from a visit to friends in the capital. Mrs. H. S. Briggs is spending a few days in Fredericton the guest of Mrs. H. V. B. Bridges.

Mr. John A. White of Bat. Forage, was in the city for a day or two this week. Mr. M. N. Cockburn of St. Andrews spent a little while in the city during the week.

The Pastors Helpers, Kings daughters of Leinster street church held a tea and sale in the church Sunday school room last Tuesday afternoon and evening. The room was very tastefully decorated yellow and white predominating. Tea was served from six to eight o'clock and a large number of useful and fancy articles were disposed of.

Fancy table: Miss Currie, Miss Addy, Miss Allen Miss Brande and Miss Wetmore. Novelty table, Miss Basing, Miss Carrie, Miss Sullivan, Miss Heston, Miss Bertie Barbour, and Mrs. J. W. Robinson.

Flower table, Miss Annie Knott, Miss Nettie Hatfield, Miss Winnie Erb, Miss Bertha Allen and Miss Lulu Kelly. Candy Table, Miss Bessie Waterbury, Miss Minnie Nincent, Miss Cora Clerk and Miss Jean Cameron.

Mrs. A. J. Heath and family of Carmarthen St. have gone home to Boston for the Xmas holidays. Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Morins of Halifax have taken up their winter quarters at the Grand Union hotel for the winter.

Miss Robinson of Digby who spent several weeks with friends here, returned to her home last Saturday. Mrs. Cloness of Nanaimo, B. C. who has been staying with her sister, Mrs. A. L. Goodwin for the past three weeks, left this week for Toronto to spend the winter with her son who is attending college in that city.

Mrs. Whightman has returned from a pleasant visit to Mrs. Abramson of Digby, N. S. Among the Christmas attractions secured by Manager Dockrill of the Opera house is a special engagement of Ishams Octoroons one of the foremost colored organizations in America.

The Octoroons are seen in an original musical farce, two acts, entitled "The Tenderloin Coon." The public may be satisfied to know that the large delegation of amber hued individuals are afforded ample opportunity to display their talents, and it can safely be said that much good amusement results. Comical situations abound; there are songs galore and dancing a plenty, in which the entire organization takes part, prominent hits being scored by each and every member of the company.

A number of friends called last Wednesday evening upon Mr. and Mrs. John Magee of Winter Street to celebrate the fifth anniversary of their marriage, and to tender expression of good will in the shape of several valuable gifts. The evening was pleasantly spent in games, music etc and a delicious lunch was served to the assembled guests.

VERSES OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Verdes on a Cat. (Lines on hearing of the death of an old pet that had been in a family for 14 years.)

So, poor old Dinah's dead! No more will she be fed On turkey, fish and cream. She lived a peaceful life, Here in this world of strife Now let her sweetly dream!

Lo! many cats there are That live to eat and war, But Dinah did not fight, Nor ears she did not chew, Like pussy's sometimes do, When in the yard at night.

Her place she kept in house, Was terror to the mouse That from his hole did stray, But turkey she would steal And of it make a meal At any hour of day.

O, rest thee well old cat! Lie thou with mouse and rat Thy tooth and claw laid low, So shall all pussy sleep, And clouds above them weep On clover and on snow.

L. MIDDERT. St. John, Dec. 6, 1898.

The Return Check.

I often have thought what significance lies In the check that you get at the door; When, to visit a friend, from the play you arise, And thro' it gain entrance once more. There are shows tho', in life, where this rule doesn't hold.

Where your hopes and your fortune meet wreck; Your love has proved false and to leave her you're told— Here's where you get no return check!

When Adam in Paradise had a front row, Found everything heart could desire; But then he was tempted—the sequel you know— At least, if you don't, please inquire. They told him to leave, and instantly he left; Oh, his troubles were more than a peck!

To manhood you grow, and look back with a sigh On childhood's delightful domain; The visions it held have forever gone by, And live but in memory again. You think of the loves of your boyhood so fair, When peace was the goal of your yearning; Oh, bright land of childhood—you long to go there Alas! you have no return check!

You muse o'er the comrades who fell by the way, What jovial hearts had the boys! Yet here you are patterning on, day by day, The life you led in your troublous and joyous days. But the time for departure grows briefer each day, The laurels your brow may bedeck, So guard well your seat in the golden parquet, For remember, there's no return check!

The Calamity of Kalamazoo.

Have you heard the pretty legend, sad and mournful, and yet true, Of the brave and ducky lover and the Indian maid Mahzoo? How they lived and loved, and wandered on the river's shady shore, Happiest of Indian lovers, in the days that are no more?

All day long the maiden labored, weaving baskets by the stream, Thinking of her love, her Kahla, weaving him into her dream; Then he comes—she hears the rowing of his light birch-bark canoe, "Kahla!" calls she; cries he, "Coming, coming to my own Mahzoo!"

Ah! one night she waits in silence; sad her face— Her love is dead! Wounded in the chase, her warrior in a fortnight to be wed In the morn they find sweet Mahzoo lying silent in the stream. Gone unto her lover Kahla, nevermore to watch and dream.

Still the echoes o'er the river may be heard soft through the air; Echoes of the warrior Kahla and of young Mahzoo the fair, All the trees repeat the whisper, all the ripples murmur, too, In the stream that bears their name now—bears the name, "Kalamazoo."

Day Dreams.

Day dreams will not do, boys, Pleasant though they be; Day dreams fruitless are, boys, As rain upon the sea. Vain it is to climb boys, Fancy's golden stair, If the climbing ends, boys, In castles in the air!

Not by strokes of luck, boys, Can you win a name; There's no royal road boys, Leading on to fame, Those who gain renown, boys, Don't with shadows play, Heed the lesson well, boys, Cast your dreams away.

Work lies at your hands, boys, Tasks that must be done; You must buckle to boys, Ere the set of sun. Swiftly flies the time, boys, Whilst you simle's stray; Youth's bright day is short, boys, Cast your dreams away.

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Day dreams will not do boys— To yourselves be true; If you would achieve boys, You must dare and do. Have a purpose clear boys, Then with heart and soul Follow where it leads, boys, Till you reach the goal.

The A to Z of Pessimism.

Little babe, Mother's prayer. Little boy, Lots of dare. College youth, Football hair, Fearless man, Country air. Pretty maid, Lovely snare, Little bugzy, Aged mare. Priestly priest, Youthful pair, Little kid, Wear and tear, Troubled life, Wordly care. End in sight, Dread despair, Graveyard's scene— That's all, I swear!

A rule, a six months' cruise decreases the speed of a ship fifteen per cent. This is caused by the barnacles which form on a ship's hull.

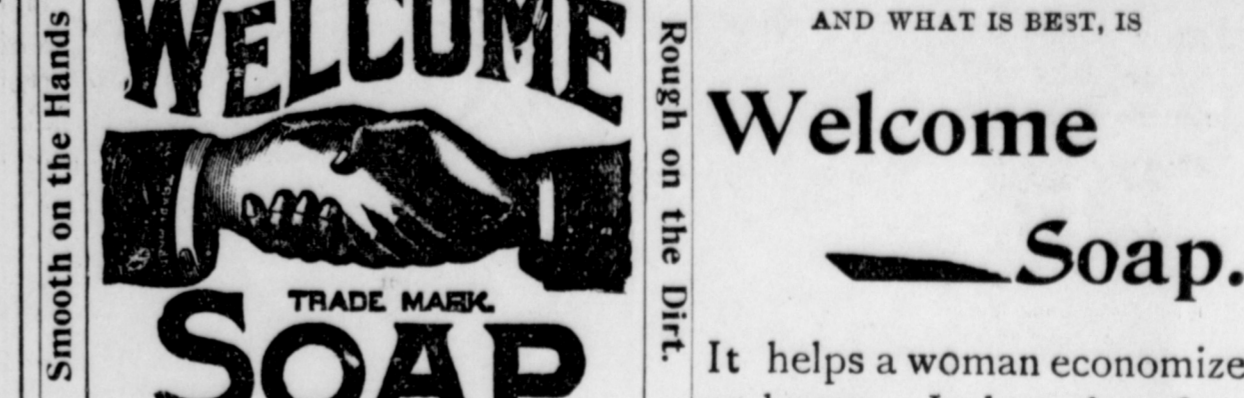
London, as comprised in the Metropolitan and City police districts, has a population of 5,633,866, equalling the combined populations of Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg and Rome.

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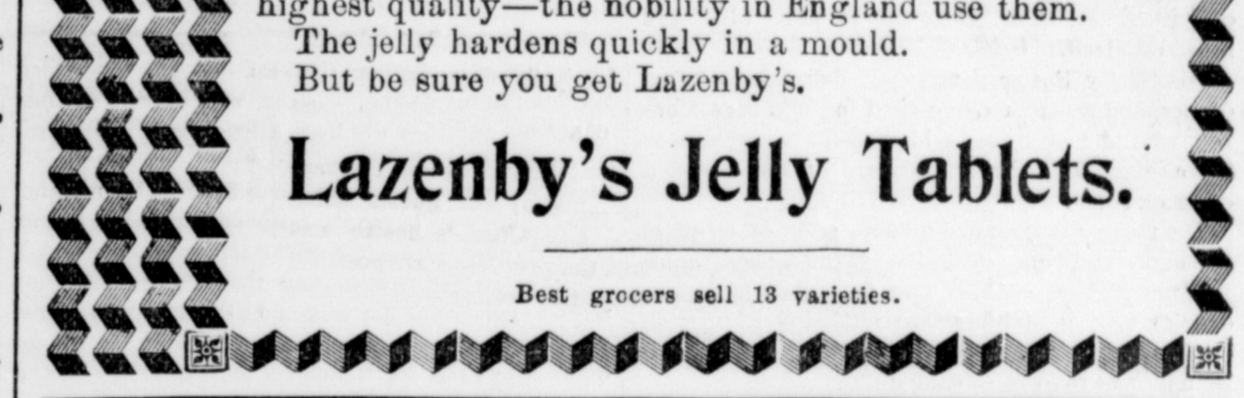
WELCOME Soap Co., = St. John, N. B.

Holiday Desserts.

If you have friends spending the holidays, an easy way of serving a "change" for the dessert at Dinner is to use Lazenby's English Jelly Tablets.

One dropped into hot water is all the work there is to do to get a delicious table jelly. They are of the very highest quality—the nobility in England use them. The jelly hardens quickly in a mould. But be sure you get Lazenby's.

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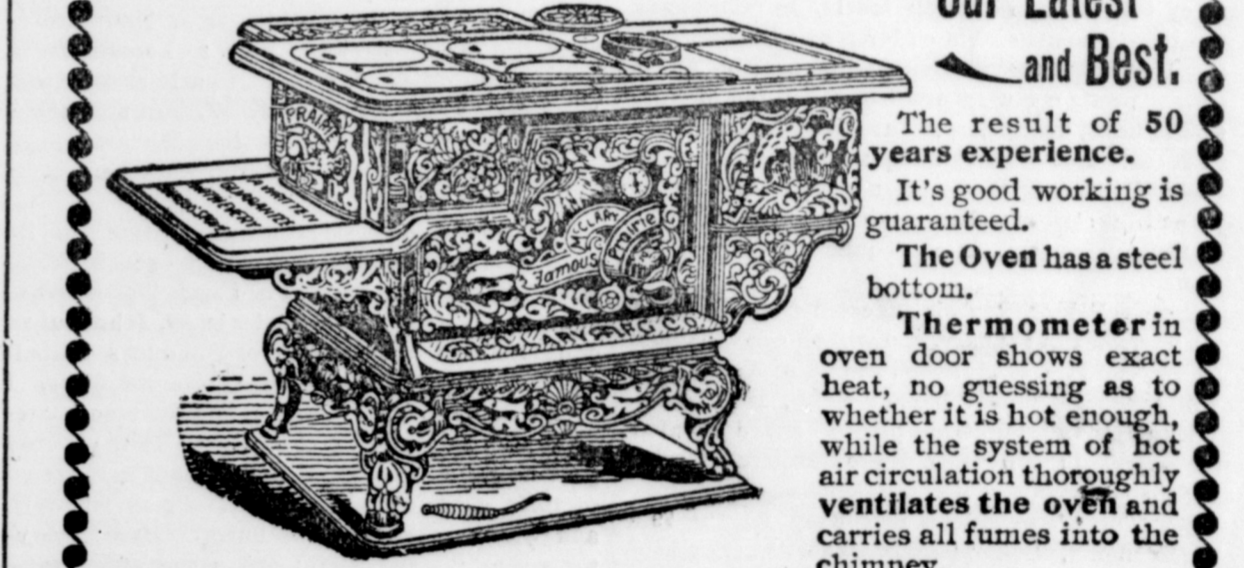
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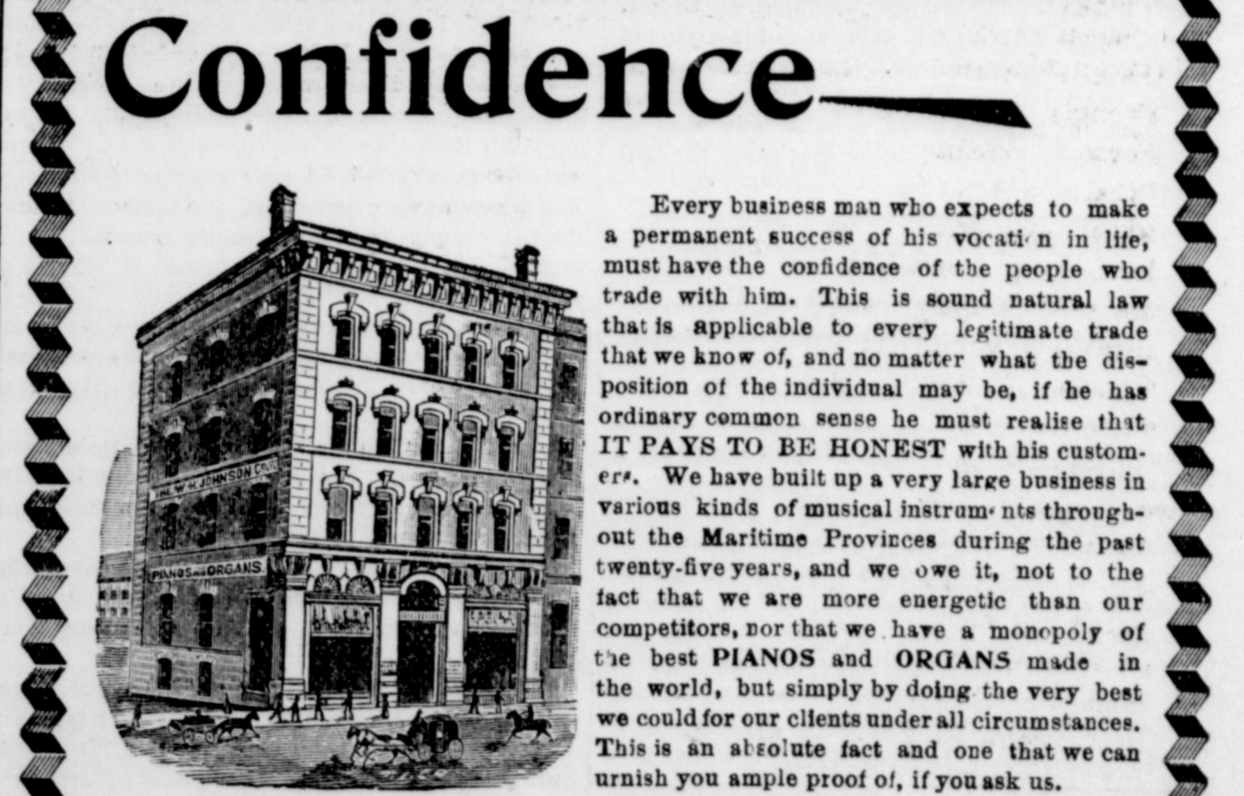
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Confidence

Every business man who expects to make a permanent success of his vocation in life, must have the confidence of the people who trade with him. This is sound natural law that is applicable to every legitimate trade that we know of, and no matter what the disposition of the individual may be, if he has ordinary common sense he must realize that IT PAYS TO BE HONEST with his customers. We have built up a very large business in various kinds of musical instruments throughout the Maritime Provinces during the past twenty-five years, and we owe it, not to the fact that we are more energetic than our competitors, nor that we have a monopoly of the best PIANOS and ORGANS made in the world, but simply by doing the very best we could for our clients under all circumstances. This is an absolute fact and one that we can furnish you ample proof of, if you ask us.



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Mrs. Wm. Lemonts those who sang solo's