Napoleon Smith.

By a Well-Known New York Author.

CHAPTER XIV.—Continued.

Victorien Larue, we say, was a good type of the ripened fruit of a half-century of debauchery. At thirty his head was bald and shining, while on his lip reposed a ferocious mustache. A decaying tree sends forth moss in profusion, and a decaying and attenuated race, which has no locks of strength on the head, has often the moss of decay on the cheek and lip. The hand trembled with the effects of incessant absinthe-drinking, and as it caressed the mustache it shook as with age. The form was short and stunted, and was an evidence of the truth of the startling fact, that the average of the French army was an inch below that of any other army in a civilized nation. The legs, when in motion, had an uncertain hinge at the knee, and seemed to respond but weakly to the will of their owner, and were liable to carry him, at times, to the right or to the left of the point aimed at. The eyes were sunken, and had the haggard look which indicates watchful and wasteful nights. On the whole, any sensible person would find the alert and wholesome age of the sire at eighty more pleasant to look upon than the decaying youth of the man of thirty. This unwholesome fag-end of a burned-out manhood was the only hope and scion of the Marquis Larue. Languidly he looked up and asked:

"What would you have me do?"

"Who is it that stands between you and the fortune of both our houses?" asked the Marquis with a sneer.

"A beautiful little cousin, Aimee Boh by name," answered Victorien, with a smile.

"And where is she now?" hissed the Marquis.

"I have a reason to think she is in this chateau," Victorien answered coolly.

"Yes, she is here, and in our power; and then, what hinders us from taking away that obstacle, the only one between you and the vast estates we see from this window?" and the old Marquis pointed out across the lawn toward the forest. It was a pleasant sight. The chateau had been built with some regard to its surroundings. At the left was a dense forest which had been spared the ravages of war, as it was so far from the field of active operations. Down a gradual descent in front rolled the meadows, now quite brown, and only in spots, where the warmth of springs had protected the roots, was the grass still green. Further down in front ran the quiet river, now sparkling beneath the sun, where it was stirred by the wintry wind. On the right stood the scattered houses of the village, and just beyond were the tents of a detachment of the German Army. Here and there over the brown fields roamed the cattle, as yet spared by the hand of the German army. As Victorien languidly surveyed the rising smoke from the houses in the village, and remarked the sparkling stream, he said, thoughtfully:

"Yes, it is beautiful."

"You did not answer my question," said the Marquis.

"What hinders, you ask. Many things hinder. You say she was left in care of the American Ministry in Paris. When peace arrives, inquiry will be made for her. We will not be safe with Aimee dead. We dare not prove her death, and then—what? We will be the same as now. And more, I do not wish any violence, my dear papa;" and he went on with his cigarette-smoke.

"Why not marry Aimee?" asked the Marquis, abruptly.

"A man can marry when he can do nothing else, and a Frenchman's wife generally is like a butcher's wife—she has the scraps that are left after the day's sales are over. Good! I will marry Aimee, and then we will be safe;" and Victorien complacently caressed his mustache.

"Good!" said the Marquis, "you shall visit her as the friend, the tender-hearted son and sympathizer. Tell her that marriage means freedom. Tell her this chateau will be her home. I think she is too young to have formed any attachments, and you will know how to win her."

"Possibly," said Victorien, "it may be necessary to tell me of the sex; possibly not. If I knew as much of international law as I know of the sex, I would volunteer to go as minister to Russia. Lead me to my fate, my respected papa."

Down the splendid hall they walked and up the wide staircase and stopped at a door. Aimee was in no dungeon. Her room was one of a suit splendidly furnished, and her window looked out over the wide domain her father had taught her to think her own by birthright. This window was secured by an iron grating. Otherwise, she was waited on by servants, and treated with as much respect as though a guest in the chateau. A pretence was made of great care for her safety, but still she knew she was a prisoner. During her month of confinement her mind had been filled with thoughts of her father, and her grief had distracted her thoughts from any danger to herself. Occasionally she had thought of the American who had won her heart, and at those moments she wondered that no effort had been made to search her out or effect her release. She had never really feared violence from the Marquis. She knew of his desire to secure her fortune, and had thought his love of gain would not drive him to crime. Hers was one of those elastic natures which seemed to be compressed into a new strength by adverse circumstances. Her childish features had taken on a mature look which added to her pensive beauty. When the door of her room was opened, she arose and faced the Marquis and his son.

"Aimee," said the Marquis, "you have never met my son. Victorien, this is your cousin Aimee."

"It is with rapture I meet my cousin," said the exquisite Victorien; "too long have I been deprived of that pleasure. Allow me," said he, attempting to kiss her hand. With a look of intense disgust, Aimee drew back and contemplated the grinning burlesque of a man.

"Such beauty should not be shut away from the world," he continued, in that tone which had been successful for so many years among the demi-monde.

"Who chooses to sequester my unworthy charms from the world? Not I, I assure you," said Aimee, with anger. "If you or your father have reasons for confining me here, do not attempt by flattery to conceal your motives."

"Mademoiselle is unreasonable," said Victorien. "Who should furnish a home to you if not your nearest relatives? To whom will you go if we throw open the doors and bid you depart? Two armies interpose between you and Paris. If you could trust our German invaders, still you would doubt the army of the Republic, and worse still, the Commune. Here you are safe and in seclusion, and we are not only bound by the ties of blood to offer you a home, but since I have seen you, my fair cousin, I am constrained by a new force to shield you from all harm;" and the withered pigmy laid his hand on the padding of his coat, above where science locates the organ of life.

"I think I can leave you to win the affections of our little cousin," said the Marquis, as he retired from the room with a sardonic smile on his face.

"Farewell, my dear papa; you need not fear for my angel-cousin and myself, for we shall know how to spend the time;" and Victorien kissed his fingers to his vanishing sire.

Readiness to resent an insult is not always an evidence of female purity. There are natures so pure that a gross idea is a novelty, and hard to understand. Reared in such seclusion that absolute innocence is again revealed by another Eve in a modern Paradise—such was the condition of Aimee as she gazed without fear on the closing door and the grinning face of her ape-like cousin. He approached her on his uncertain legs in a circular manner, and said:

"Aimee, my cousin, why may we not bring to a conclusion all the scheming of the last three generations of our family by uniting our fortunes. These are troublous times, and you have no home. I offer you my hand, heart and fortune;" and he again dramatically touched his narrow breast.

"I do not understand you," said Aimee.

"That is strange," said Victorien. "I offer to make you my wife. I am determined to marry and settle down on my estates here. Since I have seen you I have become the slave of the grand passion. Aimee, my child, you are lovely," and he extended his hands. Aimee looked at him out of great childish, wondering eyes, and simply said:

"Monsieur, it is impossible!"

Her coolness and directness gave a sting to the calm words, and Victorien looked at the closed door and approached her more closely, saying:

"Mademoiselle answers as coolly and calmly as if she stood in the grand salon with a crowd around her. Aimee we are alone. Give me a kiss, Aimee."

Still she did not understand him, and only drew back with a deprecating glance and uplifted hand, saying:

"Victorien, if you are my cousin I need only tell you that I cannot marry you. I am but a child in experience. I demand of you the protection which a child may expect from a man and a relative. Please go away and leave me."

"Ah, Aimee, you are too beautiful, and I must win your love. A kiss, my angel—a kiss!" and the baleful flush of a base passion which lingered in the ruins of his manhood, as fire lingers among the charred timbers of the house it has destroyed, flashed out of his sunken eyes as he grasped Aimee and drew her to his breast.

Then all the horror of her situation rushed upon her comprehension, and she struck him madly in his weazened face. He went reeling backward with a curse on his lips. As he gathered himself and approached her again, she said, in a whisper of concetrated anger, at the same time grasping a heavy chair and raising it over his head as if it had no weight:

"If you touch me again I will kill you!"

White with anger, the cowardly wretch stood before her as the door opened and the old Marquis entered and gazed on the tableau. The chair was still in the air, but slowly it sunk, and a shriek of such awful intensity rank out from Aimee's lips that the old servant-woman ran into the room, and the Marquis and his hopeful son slunk out, leaving the unconcious girl to the ministrations of the nurse.

The tremulous Victorien was brushing the dust from his soiled coat, and straightening the crumpled linen of his erstwhile immaculate bosom, as they walked down the wide staircase and the long hall.

"You see it will not work, my son. Easy means will not remove the obstacle in our path. I bought our freedom from the bandit Le Noir, and if I can find the smooth-faced villain again, he will place Aimee where she will never cross our path again. Shall I send for him?" asked the old Marquis.

"I am ready for anything now," said the amiable Victorien, showing his fruitless porcelain teeth. "Crush her in any way you please, but be quick about it, for in a few days peace will be declared, and in a new form of society, perhaps, our methods will not pass as readily as they would in a time of war. Put her in the hands of Le Noir as soon as you will. I care not."

"That is our plan, then," said the Marquis. "She must disappear. Her father is dead, and when she is gone, farewell to fear. We shall succeed. Ah! who shall hinder?"

"I jest want tew leave one of these ere yaller dodgers in every house. I can't supply the goods now, but when this cruel war is over, as the poet says, we will show yer some soap that isn't deleterious, anti-malarious and qualities various. A chromo card goes with every cake——"

The voice was heard at the open door, and the Marquis sprang forward with a curse on his lips.

"Hello, Marquis! How hev you been since our little episode in the old skatin' ring. I heard a woman scream, and didn't know but the house was afire, or somebody's pug-dog had a fit," and Sturgis smiled broadly.

"You cursed Yankee soap-peddler, how dare you crowd uninvited into my door? If I should serve you right, you fool, I would set my servants to flog you down the avenue to the highway," and the Marquis frothed with anger.

"Yew needn't go out of your way to bestow any little attentions like that on me. I am travelling incognito, and as a private citizen. I deprecate all style. Stick that ere dodger up in the kitchen, and when yer want soap give the sunflower a chance. Bye-bye, Marky," and Sturgis took a long look at the hall and stairway, and went out whistling. He stopped, and wetting a sticker, left one on the park gate.

(To be continued.

Advertise in the WEEKLY SUN.

NOVA SCOTIA.

AMHERST.

Amherst, Dec. 27.—The coming civic elections, to be held on March 1st next, are now the chief topic of public interest here and an interesting and warm contest is looked forward to. Ex-Mayor Dr. D. C. Allen and Mayor Amos Purdy have entered the civic ring for the mayoralty, and W. M. Read, J. Seaman Lowe and Jas. Donalds as one team, and John D. Ross, Robert B. King and J. N. Fage as another team for the three seats at the council board.

J. W. L. Fraser, commercial traveller of this town, and Miss Bessie Tuttle, daughter of Milledge Tuttle of Pugwash, were this afternoon united in marriage by Rev. Robert Williams, the service taking place in the Pugwash Methodist church. Miss Black of Amherst officiated as bridesmaid; Charles Black of Pugwash as groomsman.

Miss Florence M. Goodwin and Charles W. Oulton of Baie Verte were married on Dec. 21st by Rev. Mr. James of Port Elgin. Miss Retta Goodwin acted as bridesmaid; Joseph C. Turner as groomsman.

The Masons of Acacia Lodge, No. 8, A. F. and A. M., on Sunday celebrated St. John's day by attending divine service in the Methodist church, where Rev. J. L. Beatty preached on eloquent sermon to the members of the craft. On Monday night the members held their usual St. John's day dinner in the Terrace Hotel.

DIGBY.

DIGBY, Dec. 30.—The fishing schooner Jennie B. Thomas, Capt. Hooper, of this port, and owned by Joseph Snow, went ashore last night on Peters island, near Briar island, and is reported a total loss. She had a big catch of fish on board at the time.

On Monday afternoon at the police court C. A. Jordan was fined fifty dollars and costs for Scott act violation. On Tuesday judgment was entered up against Simon Conwell in a first offence case, and two convictions in two first offences against M. H. VamTassel were obtained, the third being adjourned for further evidence.

Charles Lunis, who was quite badly hurt on Christmas eve, was able to be out for an airing this morning.

DIGBY, N. S., Dec. 31.—Alex. Langford of Weymouth, who was sentenced to three months in jail for interfering with a constable in the discharge of his duty, and who during his term broke jail and fled and was re-captured some days later, was today released from the county jail, having served his time, and no action having been taken to prosecute for jail breaking, he obtained his liberty and left for his home on the Flying Bluenose.

The crew of the schooner Jennie B. Thomas, wrecked on Peters' Island night before last, succeeded in saving part of the cargo and ship gear before the hull slid off the shore and sunk in deep water. The owner, Captain Joseph Snow, had put five hundred dollars repairs on her this fall and had no insurance.

Fairweather Bros. are showing a seventeen pound turkey amongst their holiday supply of poultry.

Fishing Inspector Bishop has completed his returns of the fisheries for this county during 1897, and places his figures at $460,000, and the value of boats and equipments at $150,000.

The shipment of dry fish to the Havana market from this port during the week was: H. Anderson, 125 drums; Jos. E. Snow, 103; D. & O. Sproul, 101.

The schooner Parmee O'Hara, Capt. Wm. Snow, arrived in port yesterday with what is reported the largest catch ever brought to this port in one cargo, it consisting of cod, haddies and halibut.

HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 31.—The customs receipts for the port of Halifax show a decrease this year of $115,170, compared with 1896. The inland revenue returns have not yet been made up.

The failures in Nova Scotia this year number 166, compared with 124 last year. The liabilities this year are $1,033,022 and in 1896, $754,096. Three carriage firms failed, A. R. Fulton & Co. of Truro, Bligh & Prince, Truro, and DeWolf Son & Co., Halifax, with aggregate liabilities of $140,000. Six failures occurred in Windsor after the fire, with liabilities of $75,000. In Halifax there were thirty-two failures, one more than a year ago. The P. E. Island failures this year were nine; last year's total being twenty.

In Newfoundland there were twenty-two failures, the same number as last year. The imports of sugar and molasses from the West Indies to Halifax and exports of fish, which in old times constituted the city's chief industry, show a decrease this year. Half the sugar imported into Halifax is beet root, and the decrease is largely accounted for by heavy stocks carried over from the previous year, imported in anticipation of a change in duty.

CORNWALLIS.

CORNWALLIS, N. S., Dec. 31.—Mr. Young and daughter of St. John are in Canning spending the Christmas holidays with Mr. Young's daughter, Mrs. William Rand.

Harris Bast of Kentville recently had a finger almost taken off while working in a mill.

The marriage of Miss Edith Donaldson of Town Plot to E. P. Barnaby of Baddeck, C. B., took place on Monday.

The brethren of Scotia lodge marched in a body to services at the Free Baptist church on Sunday morning, and the pastor of that church, who is a member of the lodge, delivered an address to them. On Monday evening the annual Masonic dinner will be held in their hall.

Freeman Frederick of South Alton cut two of his toes off while at work in a lumber camp recently.

Last Friday a Christmas treat was given to the poor of Windsor.

Professor Frank Eaton, superintendent of schools in Victoria, B. C., is visiting friends in Kentville.

LAWRENCETOWN, N. S., Dec. 28.—Benjamin Whitman of this place and Miss Newcombe of Bridgewater were married on the 22nd.

On the 23rd, at the close of the school, the teachers and scholars enjoyed a rare treat consisting of readings, recitations, music and dialogues, after which followed a collation of cake and confectionery.

Rev. Messrs. Toole and Wallace intend holding union services here next week.

THE YEAR'S BUSINESS.

Trade With West India Merchants This Year Has Not Been a Success.

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 30.—The Herald will publish tomorrow interviews with Halifax wholesalers in all lines regarding the trade of 1897 and the prospects for 1898. The article will say:

The consensus of opinion with West India merchants seemed to be that the trade this year has not been a financial success, due to the decline of the sugar industry through the competition of beet and from other causes. A readjustment of the Canadian sugar duties in the right direction is expected to materially assist in improving this trade. The prospect of the imperial government aiding the West India planters is also regarded hopefully. A disturbance occurred in heavy iron goods in the early part of 1897, due to the tariff uncertainty, which was communicated to the other branches of the hardware trade. It was an off year in shore fisheries. Coal and gold mining were good, and dealers in mining machinery and supplies report the trade satisfactory. The fall trade of 1897 was an improvement over the spring dealings, and in some lines was compensation for the spring. The majority of the hardware firms report increasing values lately, with strong indications of a good spring trade. The wholesale grocery merchants almost with one accord speak of the year as an improvement over 1896, and they are hopeful for the future.

AN ANGLO-JAPANESE FLEET.

(N. Y. Herald, 29th Dec.)

Russia may wish to hold Port Arthur and Germany Kiao Chou, but as long as Great Britain and Japan have their fleets combined for duty at Port Hamilton their command of the Yellow sea, upon which these two ports are situated, will be absolute.

On the west of the Yellow sea lies the province of Shang-tung, which projects to the eastward and forms one of the promontories by which the Gulf of Pe-chi-li is cut off from the Yellow sea. South of Shan-tung promontory lies Kiao Chou, and near the southern end of the peninsula of Liao-Tao lies Port Arthur.

The British admiral, with two score ships—it is reported—has joined the Japanese fleet at Port Hamilton, a small island off the south end of Corea. One of the interesting characteristics of the English sea commander is that he takes possession of a strategic position with unerring instinct. Whether there are or are not to be hostilities in China waters, it is very sure that the Anglo-Japanese vessels have secured the coign of vantage.

To the east are the narrow straits of Corea, through which Russia must bring her coal and supplies from Vladivostock before they can reach her fleet at Port Arthur. To the west is the Yellow sea, up which Prince Henry's German ships must plough their way to arrive at Kia Chou. The large island of Quelparet gives a partial protection against the long sweep of seas from the south, while there is further shelter for anchorage in the Port Hamilton roadstead. Both Great Britain and Japan have an ample force of fast cruisers—"the eyes of the fleet," as Nelson called his frigates—and these vessels can easily keep a patrol across both straits and sea, leaving the bulk of the fleet at anchor until the scouts signal the approach of a hostile, or possibly hostile, squadron.

As the Japanese ports are easily accessible for supplies of all kinds, coal, provisions and ammunition can be provided without causing a break in the cordon. Perhaps no movement against Russia, or Germany, is intended, but whatever game may be played the British and the Japanese are not running any risks—they hold the strategic position now, and will probably remain there as long as the present naval activity of other nations continues.

It may be that there is an Anglo-Japanese alliance or even understanding, but the union of the two fleets at a strategic point like Port Hamilton is, at least, a very interesting coincidence.

Great Britain's battle ship the Centurion, her cruisers the Powerful, the Grafton, the Immortalite, the Iphigenia, the Narcissus, the Undaunted, the Rainbow, the Alacrity, the Pique, and the Archer, supplemented by a dozen smaller vessels, constitute a formidable fleet, but when the two new Japanese battle ships, the Fuji and the Yashima, with a score of armored and protected cruisers of large size, become possible allies, there are no three other nations in the world in a position to force an entrance into the Yellow sea.

THE TURBINA.

Will Steam Sixty Miles an Hour.

Since the Turbina's famous run on the Solent, last summer, in the British naval review, when she attained the remarkable speed of forty miles an hour, the unique craft has been undergoing repairs at the iron works of her inventor, C. A. Parsons, at Newcastle-on-Tyne. In early January the boat will make another trial trip, when, her inventor asserts, she will make at least sixty miles an hour. One great disadvantage noted at the experiment in June, he believes, has been overcome. Then, with the engine reversed, she could make only three knots an hour; now it is said she can make ten. There are now three rotary turbines in the engine room, instead of two, through which the steam passes in turn and goes through a cycle of complete expansion. The enormous rate at which the turbines revolve necessitate three propeller shafts each fitted with three screws. These revolve at 36 2-3 revolutions a second. For this reason, it would seem that the turbine would be particularly applicable to the propulsion of torpedo boats, though it has hitherto proved a disadvantage in the application of this new system to dynamo driving, traction, etc.

STEAMER WRECKED.

Gerona, from Portland for London, Lost Off Seal Island.

Her Cargo Was Valued at Two Hundred and Thirty-six Thousand Dollars.

(Special to the Sun.)

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 2.—The steamship Gerona of the Thomson line, from Portland for London, with general cargo and four hundred head of horses and cattle, struck off Seal Island at four o'clock Saturday morning. She came off with fifteen of water in her hold. The engine fires were out. The captain and crew abandoned her in three boats. The second officer, Alfred Watson, and twenty-four men arrived at Forbes' Point, Wood's Harbor, at noon Saturday. The other two boats, with the captain and thirty-six men, steered for Seal Island.

HALIFAX, N. S., Jan. 2.—Captain J. B. Dakers and the two boats that made for Seal Island from the wrecked Gerona, reached there. Later in the day they were taken off by the steamer Edna E. and landed at Yarmouth. The captain says the men did not take time to save even their clothing. They laid by the steamer till daylight, when she was not to be seen. The Gerona's cargo was insured in Montreal offices. The government steamer Newfield and the steamer Ulunda went from here in search of the steamer.

(Special to the Sun.)

PORTLAND, Me., Jan. 2.—The Gerona, Capt. Dakers (Capt. Baxter remained off a trip), left here on Friday morning with a full cargo, valued at $236,000. The Canadian portion was 8,431 bushels rye, 10,315 bushels peas, 143 packages radiators, 201 barrels apples, 200 cases canned goods, 427 bags asbestos, 134 boxes meats, 15,756 bundles shooks, 1,174 pieces deals, 3,678 pieces birch, 13,932 boxes cheese, 435 boxes butter, 22 cases hats, 1 box clothing, 509 sacks peas, 92 horses. The American portion: 3,800 sacks flour, 70,000 bushels clipped oats, 42,500 bushels corn, 900 boxes meats, 1 box samples, 300 cattle.

The Gerona was built at Dundee in 1888 and was one of the Thomson line running between Montreal and London in summer, and Portland, Me., and London in winter. She was 2,035 net tons.

KENTVILLE SUMMER HOTEL.

(Yarmouth News.)

Dr. B. H. Calkin of Wolfville passed through here a day or two ago on his way home from Boston, where he has been promoting a new summer hotel enterprise for Wolfville. Mr. Calkin is a member of an incorporated company, comprising the following gentlemen: Hon. J. W. Longley, J. F. Masters, C. H. Miller, M. D., B. H. Calkins, M. D., and Geo. W. Borden. The capital stock of this company is $50,000, divided into 2,000 shares of $25. The hotel is to be open for the tourist season of 1898 and the promoters estimate on an average of 90 guests at $2, $3 and $3.50 per day during the tourist season, yielding a total income of $20,000, thus leaving a handsome surplus to the directors. They claim that it will be the finest hotel in Nova Scotia and equal to the best summer hotel in the United States, containing all modern improvements and accommodations. John C. Gordon, of Boston, who is also interested in this scheme, is a co-director with Mr. Whitney in the Boston Coal Co., and has already done much to turn the tide of tourist travel towards this beautiful province. On the property on which the hotel is to be erected is an orchard of 200 apple trees just beginning to bear, and 400 plum trees. This orchard is situated in the finest fruit producing district in the province, which is justly famous for its apples and plums, and in a very short time will yield a profit of $1,000 to $1,200 per annum. Undoubtedly the prospect for a fine hostlery in our sister town is bright.

BIG LUMBER CUT.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec., 30.—The Van Dyke Lumber company, which takes the place of the old Connecticut River Lumber company, will put 40,000,000 feet on to the banks of the Connecticut river, the Berlin Mills company 40,000,000, the Glen Manufacturing company of Berlin 20,000,000; Western Lumber company of Groverton 12,000,000, Browne Lumber company of Whitefield 15,000,000, Libby & Sons of Gorham 10,000,000, Wild River Lumber company of Bean's Puchase 10,000,000, and the Ammanoosuc Lumber company of Milan 10,000,000 feet. Provided there is snow enough nearly one-half of these logs will be manufactured into pulp at Berlin, Groveton and Holyoke, Mass. It is reported that the Fall River Manufacturing company of Holyoke have offered George Van Dyke $2,000,000 for his purchase from the Connecticut River company.

Free Trial To Any Honest Man

The Foremost Medical Company in the World in the Cure of Weak Men Makes this Offer.

HEALTH AND ENERGY ASSURED. HAPPY MARRIAGE, GOOD TEMPER, LONG LIFE.

In all the world to-day—in all the history of the world—no doctor nor institution has treated and restored so many men as has the famed ERIE MEDICAL CO. of Buffalo, N. Y.

This is due to the fact that the company controls some inventions and discoveries which have no equal in the whole realm of medical science.

So much deception has been practiced in advertising that this grand old company now for the first time makes this startling offer:—

They will send their costly and magically effective appliance and a whole month's course of restorative remedies, positively on trial without expense to any honest and reliable man!

Not a dollar need be advanced—not a penny paid—till results are known to and acknowledged by the patient.

The Erie Medical Company's appliance and remedies have been talked about and written about all over the world, till every man has heard of them.

They restore or create strength, vigor, healthy tissue and new life.

They quickly stop drains on the system that sap the energy.

They cure nervousness, despondency and all the effects of evil habits, excesses, overwork, etc.

They give full strength, development and tone to every portion and organ of the body.

Failure is impossible and age is no barrier.

This "Trial without Expense" offer is limited by the company to a short time, and application must be made at once.

No C. O. D. scheme, no bogus philanthropy nor deception, no exposure—a clean business proposition by a company of high financial and professional standing.

Write to the ERIE MEDICAL COMPANY, BUFFALO, N. Y., and refer to seeing the account of their offer in this paper.

BRAM'S CASE.

It is Expected the New Trial Will Take Place in March.

BOSTON, Dec. 31.—J. E. Cotter and Asa P. French, counsel for Thomas M. Bram, called at the office of United States District Attorney Jones at 2.30 o'clock this afternoon, and a consultation took place between those gentlemen and Mr. Jones and Assistant District Attorney Casey.

Mr. Jones, on being asked the subject of the conference and the result, said that a statement had been prepared by counsel for the government and for Bram, which stated the matter as those interested desired to have it.

The statement given out is as follows: "Mr. Cotter, counsel for Bram, and United States District Attorney Jones have had a conference with respect to the re-trial of the Bram case. They were agreed that the presence of the Herbert Fuller would greatly facilitate the trial. That vessel is now in Cuba, but it is expected in home waters in March. The department at Washington has authorized Mr. Jones to incur a reasonable expense to secure the use of the vessel, and the owners have expressed a willingness to make the desired arrangements. As a result of the conference Mr. Jones will in an informal way state to the court that at some later date counsel will ask the court to assign a date in March for the trial. The precise date, of course, will depend upon the somewhat uncertain arrival of the Herbert Fuller."

NEW YEAR'S HONORS.

The Queen's Gifts to Colonials.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The New Year honors are an earldom for Baron Halsbury, the lord chancellor; peerages for Sir Wm. Wallace Hozier of Lanarkshire, and Sir Horace Brand Townsend-Farquhar, member of parliament for West Marylebone; baronetcies for Sir Saul Samuel, the agent general of New South Wales in London, and Sir Frederick Wygan, senior partner of the firm of Wigan & Co., and John Wm. Maclure, member of parliament for Southeast Lancashire, and knightage for the Hon. G. W. Burton, chief justice of Ontario. The persons honored with the order of companion of the bath include Prof. D'Arcy Thampson, the seal expert of the British foreign office; J. McLeavy Brown, the British consular agent at Seoul, is made a C. M. G. (companion of the order of St. Michael and St. George).

A WESTERN VISITOR.

W. McCraney dropped into the Sun office on Dec. 31st with a handful of Vancouver board of trade publications. Mr. McCraney was at one time member of parliament for Halton, Ontario, and a follower of Mr. Blake. He was not a candidate in 1887, and is now farther west growing up with the country. Mr. McCraney thinks that the present generation may see Vancouver the largest city on the Pacific coast. It has a better country back of it than San Francisco, and the saw San Francisco when it was but a village. Mr. McCraney, speaks from knowledge of every mining state in North America, and says not one of them is equal to British Columbia. He predicts that before ten years the province will be producing $100,000,000 worth of minerals annually. He does not recommend gold hunters to leave the Kootenay and go to the Klondike, but he counsels them if they do go to go by way of Vancouver.

PRINCIPAL GRANT AND PROHIBITION.

(Hamilton Herald.)

Principal Grant must expect to be looked upon by the prohibitionists as an up-to-date Judas Iscariot.

(Hamilton Spectator.)

Nobody questions Principal Grant's right to vote for or against prohibition. But why should he imagine that the people are deeply concerned in his intentions?

(Hamilton Times.)

Rev. Principal Grant of Queen's college, Kingston, fears not Buchanism, neither regards Reefer, for he writes to the Globe: "After long and earnest consideration I have come to the conclusion that a dominion prohibitory law would be hurtful to the cause of temperance and most hurtful to the general public and private morality.

(Halifax Herald.)

There have been few subjects discussed more by the press of Canada than this very subject that Dr. Grant is now enlightening us on. He may not know it, but it is nevertheless the fact that nearly everything he is now saying against the late Neal Dow's oriental method of curing the taste for liquor has been said a hundred times before.

HACKING COUGH CURED.

Gentlemen,—My brother was troubled with a very bad hacking cough, but after using three bottles of Norway Pine Syrup he was completely cured. I cannot recommend it too highly.

MISS M. BRADSHAW,
Wesleyville, Ont.

FROM ATLANTIC TO PACIFIC.

The following telegrams are self-explanatory:

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 31, 1897.

Sun, St. John—May 1898 be for Canada's Atlantic winter port the brightest year in its history. We are flourishing here amid delightful weather. THE WORLD.

ST. JOHN, Jan. 1, 1898.

World, Vancouver—Canada's winter port is booming. The mail steamers go out of here every week with full cargoes. SUN.

ST. JOHN CUSTOMS REVENUE.

The customs revenue for December, with comparison, was:

	1896.	1897.
Customs	$55,720 15	$55,854 94
Seizures	90 66	39 67
Steamboat inspection	99 64	31 52
Sick mariners' fund	79 38	174 04
Goods sold	3 15	1 93
Registry fees	13 80	5 16
Quarantine fees	1 00	....
Warehouse fees	....	40 00
	$55,997 94	$56,147 26

Increase, $149.32.