

# SATURDAY

## WILL BE

# OUR BIG DAY

## GREAT CHRISTMAS RUSH

is on already. We are busy with anxious Christmas seekers all day. Have you got your gift yet? If not, come and see our great variety we have to show you. All the latest novelties in

### MEN'S FURNISHINGS:

Gloves, Hosiery, Mufflers, Handkerchiefs,  
Swelltest Line of Neckwear, etc.

## BUY HIM ONE

OF OUR SWELL OVERCOATS. They are well made; made by the most skilful tailors; extra well finished and are very neat in appearance.

Prices from **\$5.90 to \$20.00**

UMBRELLAS and WALKING CANES make handsome gifts. See ours—they will sure to be the ones you are looking for. We have some handsome Umbrellas for the ladies.

HANDSOME FANCY BOXES GIVEN AWAY FREE

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Old Y. M. C. A. Building.

ALEX CORBET, Manager

## THE COUNTERSTROKE

By AMBROSE PRATT

Author of "Vigorous Daunt, Billionaire."

(Continued.)

The friends, though savagely angry, were compelled to submit, and so cleverly the girl did her work, that in less than five minutes she had divested them of rings, scarf pins, watches and Oeltjen's revolver, and they were left without so much as a copper piece between them. The man counted the spoil before their eyes, putting the bank notes in his pocket and testing the gold coins with his teeth, mumbling all the while with glee. Then he calmly ordered his victims to walk backwards down the alley for the distance of fifty feet, and finally satisfied, addressed them in this fashion: "Signores, go home and sleep peacefully; you have done a noble deed to-night, for you have generously helped the poor and motherless. Through your kindness I shall be able to drink your healths for a month to come at least, and Giulietta has to thank you for the new dress which tomorrow I shall buy her. Go, and God be with you. I cannot ever hope to repay you, but at least accept this little gift from me as a souvenir of the night." With a mocking laugh, he tossed his pistol towards them and disappeared into the shadows, a door clanging violently behind him.

Cressingham strode forward and picked up the weapon, which after a second he handed silently to Oeltjen. The Count gave vent to an angry German oath, but Cressingham clapped his hands to his sides and broke into a hearty burst of laughter in which his companion presently joined, though perhaps not with equal heartiness, for he had been robbed of over a hundred pounds of Perigord's money. The revolver was made of painted wood.

"It's all very well for us to laugh," said Oeltjen presently, "but the rascal has got away with a hundred and twenty pounds which belongs to Perigord."

they could walk. The soon reached a main street, and by dint of much pushing and struggling made their way at last to the wharves, where they found completely deserted. Boats there were in plenty, but no boatmen. They wandered up and down for half an hour, when there arrived a steam launch flying American colors, to the commander of which they made known their predicament. He proved to be the purser of the Yosemite, a large steamer at anchor in the bay, and a very obliging creature to boot, who immediately ordered his sailors to take the friends off to the Sea Hawk and return for him. Twenty minutes afterwards they stepped on board Mr. Perigord's yacht, and to their astonishment were greeted by Mr. Perigord himself, who it seemed had been for some time anxiously expecting them. He led them at once to the saloon, where they found Cardinal Camille seated before a flask of Seltzer water which he had already sipped.

The Cardinal had insisted on visiting the yacht in order to hear Cressingham repeat the main points of his story in propria persona, and this the young man was obliged to do and subsequently submit to a cross-examination which for rigor and detail would not have disgraced a leader of the bar.

The Cardinal was a big, fleshy man of fifty-five, but so marvellously well preserved that he appeared to be much younger. He possessed a most winning manner and complete control of a very charming smile. So well did he know how to bear himself that although his mind was cynical and it was patent that he found it hard to make himself believe all that he heard, no exception might be taken to his incisive phrases and doubting questions. His eyes were large and dark, but very cold and hard. He seemed to regard the whole world from the standpoint of suspicion, and his remarks were often full of sarcasm which he did not attempt to restrain, but which he half amused by the confident and caressing suggestion of the smile which accompanied his words. He imparted the idea of a man who could not refrain from the utterances of bitter speeches, but who recoiled from their effect; a man who wished to give himself the pleasure of hurting others, but anxious to disarm the people he sought to hurt, fearing perhaps a return in kind. That he knew well the art of doing with men was evident, for Cressingham's disposition was impatient and his perceptions keen, and yet the young man was always as a puppet in his master's hand. He felt his treatment and resented it, but he found it impossible to grasp a single definite cause of offence or display the least annoyance without becoming a fool for his pains.

The inquisition lasted hours, but at last the Cardinal was satisfied, and said so in a manner so friendly and with language so full of deftly chosen flatteries, that Cressingham was constrained to feel pleased in spite of himself and pay tribute, however grudgingly, to the peculiar talents of his inquisitor.

Oeltjen then related the history of the robbery on shore. The Cardinal listened with an amused smile, and at once promised to set about securing a restitution of their property. He recognized the robber from the description given, and informed them that the man was a stone worker, half Italian, half English, who had for many years led a disreputable life, and who was probably a Nihilist. He declared, however, that the fellow was a good Catholic, and had many redeeming points about him, and he advised Oeltjen to pay strict attention to the warning which had been given him.

Perigord, who had been absent throughout the evening, at this moment entered the cabin, and placed in Cressingham's hands the jewels which he had brought from the island of Attala.

The young man regarded the treasures with much embarrassment. "They're really not mine, you know," he said. The Cardinal smiled, eyeing him keenly. "Whose then are they?" he inquired, his voice soft as silk.

"They belong to the Count d'Attala, I suppose."

"Well, your Eminence," Cressingham resented the subtle smile with which he was regarded.

"What do you propose to do with them? Restore them to the Count?"

"Perhaps your Eminence would be so kind as to advise me?"

The Cardinal shrugged his shoulders. "I should prefer you to determine the matter for yourself."

(To be continued.)

## THE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Nothing is so pleasing and so appropriate for a lady as a gift piece of jewelry.

Our stock is accurate in design and correct in style. The very latest conceits of the season are here displayed and offered at prices that will meet with instant approval.

Watches, Chains, Brooches, Locket, Pins, Bracelets, Rings, Sterling Silver Articles, Cut Glass, Silverware. Endless variety in all lines.

We invite inspection. We can exactly suit you as well as save you money.

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—AT—

## DAVIS BROTHERS,

Jewellers, 54 Prince William Street

### RECORD BREAKING LUMBER FLEET

Boston, Mass., Dec. 20.—Dashing down the coast before a fair wind, with all sails set, a fleet of 27 lumber laden schooners from Maine ports and the provinces arrived in port yesterday, bringing in fully 27,000,000 feet of lumber. It was the largest fleet of vessels from the north to arrive in this port in a single day. The vessels had been tied up for weeks by the succession of gales which have swept the coast, and the past 48 hours have been the only fair opportunity they have had for making up the lost time.

The schooners were able to carry all sail yesterday, and no prettier sight had been seen in the lower harbor for years than this great fleet of two, three and four masted sailing craft, with all their sails set. There was about a fair mixture of "down East" and "Johnnie" schooners, there being a total of 11 of the latter and 16 of the former. Some pretty sailing stunts were performed by the fleet sailers, while some of the smaller schooners pulled off pretty races from Thatcher's to this port.

Showing the hardships experienced by recent weather, the schooner Demoselle, from River Hebert (N. S.), arrived after 30 days out. She was beset by gale after gale and run into lee points on the coast, where she was anchored for days at a time before she could proceed. Her skipper would not economize work his vessel to sea than another gale drove him to shelter. For 30 days this performance was repeated, until the schooner reached Gloucester a week ago and was able to proceed here today. The schooner Demoselle, from River Hebert (N. S.), and the Oriole, from St. John, had been at sea 25 days.

The schooners had cargoes of scantling, pine boards, spruce laths, timber, plank and shingles.

The maritime province schooners to arrive were: Rowena, 22 days, from Apple River (N. S.); Demoselle, 30 days, River Hebert (N. S.); F. and E. Givan, 20 days, St. George (N. B.); Onward, 21 days, Dorchester (N. B.); Agnes May, 20 days, Musquash (N. B.); Ida May, eight days, St. John (N. B.); Gerald White, 2 days, Point Wolfe (N. B.); Priscilla, 19 days, St. John (N. B.); Otis Miller, 25 days, St. John (N. B.); Virginia, 20 days, Port Greville (N. S.).

### NORTHUMBERLAND ELECTS DELEGATES

Chatham, N. B., Dec. 20.—A well attended and enthusiastic meeting of the Northumberland County Liberal Association was held in the Masonic hall this afternoon, the president, W. S. Loggie, M. P., in the chair.

After the minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary James W. Troy and approved, W. S. Loggie gave an address, first stating the object of the meeting, viz: To appoint delegates to attend the Liberal convention to be held in St. John on the 27th inst., and he then spoke of the dredging of the Miramichi and the completion of the missing link on the Indian town Branch Railway. He also referred to the proposed mail service between Chatham and Bay du Vin.

Mayor Hennessey of Newcastle, followed with an address urging Mr. Loggie to do everything in his power to hasten the completion of these matters as the country was suffering in consequence of the delay.

James Troy also addressed the meeting and the following delegates were appointed: Mayor Nicol, W. C. Winslow, J. D. B. P. J. McInnes, George Stothard, Chatham; Mayor Hennessey, J. W. Troy, T. W. Crocker, Newcastle; T. McCarthy, A. Alcorn, Bert McDonald, James P. Wetmore, Blackville; James Anderson, Burnt Church; Thomas Wilbiston, Bay du Vin; F. W. Russell, John Blake, Eggenville; John Sullivan, Red Bank; Louis Allain, Negus; James Sheasgreen, John S. Miller, South Esk; Harry Doak, Frank Swim, Doaktown; Robert Parks, D. L. Chapman, Ladlow; John W. Vanderbeck, Derby; C. L. McKendrick, North Esk; the president and secretary of the Liberal Association of Nelson and the president of the Blissfield Liberal Association.

### FREDERICTON NEWS

Fredericton, Dec. 20.—The semi-annual meeting of the directors of the N. B. Telephone Company was held here this afternoon and evening. Those present were: Hon. A. G. Blair, Dr. Stockton, F. B. Black and W. T. Whitehead. There was very little business transacted outside of regular routine.

One of the directors stated this evening that he thought the merger with the Central Company would be completed in about six weeks. He said that it would be necessary first to have the accounts audited, then a meeting of the stockholders of both companies would be called for the election of a board of directors.

It is expected that Joseph P. McPeake, stenographer of the agriculture department, will be appointed special court stenographer by the provincial government at its January meeting. The position is worth \$5 per day and expenses. The examination for the position of court stenographer, two of such positions being vacant, will probably be held late in January or early in February. It is not expected that a permanent position as court stenographer will be filled until after the examinations. Mr. McPeake passed the necessary examinations qualifying him for the position of court stenographer some time ago.

It is understood that the basis of the transfer of the People's Bank to the Bank of Montreal will be that the stockholders of the People's will receive 207 1/2 for each \$150 share and when the Bank of Montreal's account is straightened out they will get what else there is to give them. The shareholders are to be asked to ratify this transfer.

### WEDDINGS

Harris-Tracey.

More than 100 guests were present at the marriage of Wilmot Harris, a popular C. P. R. engineer, and Miss Ula Tracey, Wednesday evening, at the residence of the bride's father, Linus Tracey, at Fredericton Junction.

Martin-Case.

Harry Gale Martin and Miss Laura Case were married at their future home, 11 St. Patrick street, on Wednesday evening by Rev. S. Howard. A large number were present at the ceremony and later sat down to a dainty supper.

Ellison-Evans.

A very pretty wedding took place at 4 p. m. Thursday at the residence of the groom, Exmouth street, when Thomas Henry Ellison was united in marriage to Miss Ida May Evans. The bride, who looked very beautiful, wore a pale blue cashmere dress and allover. She was given away by her uncle, Thomas Evans. The ceremony was performed by Rev. P. J. Stackhouse, B. D. Immediately after the ceremony supper was served in the dining room.

The bride, who has been in the employ of the Earle Publishing Company, received from the firm a substantial check and

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## The "Slater Shoe"

We are showing this season 100 new styles and designs of this famous shoe. Each pair have those desirable touches of distinction which mark them as different.

**\$3.50 Shoes for Boys**

**\$4 to \$6 for Men and Women**

We can send you by mail if you send for an illustrated catalogue.



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### WARNING TO THE HOUSE OF LORDS

London, Dec. 20.—The education bill was buried by Premier Campbell-Bannerman in the house of commons this afternoon. After a speech defending the course of the lower house in rejecting the house of lords amendment and repudiating the claim of the peers that they have the right to lecture the commons on the subject, the premier announced that the government had decided to withdraw the measure.

"Is the general election and its result to go for nothing," he asked with warmth. "It is intolerable that the second chamber while one party is in power, shall be its willing servant, and that when that party is emphatically condemned by the country, it shall still be able to thwart and

distort the policy which the electors approved. It may be necessary to submit for the moment, but neither the resources of the British constitution nor of the house of commons are yet wholly exhausted and a way must and will be found whereby the will of the people, expressed through their elected representatives in the house of commons, will be made to prevail."

Prolonged cheering followed the speech. At a meeting of St. John Council, Knights of Columbus, last evening the sum of \$50 was voted to be divided equally between St. Vincent's Convent and the Boys' Industrial School at Silver Falls to provide a special Christmas dinner for the orphans in the two institutions.

W. S. Mason and Edward Folkins, of Kings county, were the hosts Thursday at a turkey supper given in the Boston restaurant to a number of their friends. James Doherty presided. An enjoyable time was spent.

from the office staff and employees a number of useful and costly presents. Among the guests present was the bride's mother, Mrs. M. J. Steeves, of Moncton. The happy couple left last evening for their home in Sussex, where the groom is employed with the Sussex Manufacturing Company. The bride wore a going away suit of blue broadcloth with white hat.

The section of the city bounded by Charlotte, Queen, Germain and Duke streets, was placed on the high water service yesterday. The increase in the water pressure proved entirely satisfactory and no break resulted. The pressure on the city side of the regulators has been raised to 100 pounds and is now only about fifteen pounds below the maximum. F. A. Barbour, the consulting engineer, is expected to leave Boston Sunday to spend Christmas with his family in St. John.

E. H. McAlpine returned to the city last evening.