

V. 1 N. 1 to 16

MISSING

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1877

Kitty's Christmas Eve.

Christmas is really coming.
And the stars are hanging
Twinkling in the sky so bright,
Of the beautiful white snow-storm,
Come quiet to the window and see
I know you are only a doll,
But then you can look at me,
And I'll tell you how I feel.
The angels have stockings on,
And whether good Santa Claus will them,
As they lie in their cotton slippers,
Do you think they can see your pillows,
And instead of a candle, a star?
I am sure I would like to go up there,
If it wasn't so very far.
But Papa and Mama would be lonely,
And Carlo, and Fussy, and you,
O you dear, darling Dolly, I wouldn't!
You're a love in your mantle so new;
But then, you must take it off now, dear,
And lie in your snug little bed;
I will sleep in my pretty little stockings,
And hang them right here at your head.
Then I'll go to the chimney-corner,
And sit up to Santa Claus there.
To bring you a muff, and a bonnet,
And a ribbon to tie in your hair.
But I haven't yet prayed to the Father,
To ask him my soul to keep;
Yes, I'll pray; but instead of "I lay me,"
I'll sing him my new Christmas hymn.
For I want to see Kris with his candles,
And his pack that is full to the brim;
And I'll sing him my new Christmas hymn,
So I'll sing him my new Christmas hymn.
I'll sing it over and over,
To fill up the long, long time.
I'll hear the tramp of the Reindeer,
And the bells with their merry tune.
O how could I ever sleep through it,
And only of Santa Claus dream?
But I'm tired, so I'll just begin it,
That dear little Christmas hymn.

Santa Claus' Court of Complaints.

Two little stockings hung by the mantel-shelf. Two little figures in long white night-gowns kneeling at mamma's knee. Two little voices softly saying, "Now I lay me down to sleep." Two pairs of clinging plump arms about mamma's neck. Two sweet loving kisses—and then Artie and Daisy nestled down in a pretty crib-bed in a cosy room next to mamma's.

It was the same old "night before Christmas" that has come around nearly two thousand times already and never yet missed its hearty welcome. The longest, dearest, most tedious and most delightful of all the nights in the year.

In a moment mamma had said good night and gone, and the children were left alone with their happy thoughts. The two curly heads were filled with visions of Santa Claus, but pretty soon little Daisy's sweet blue eyes dropped fast asleep, and with her rosy cheek pillowed on her dimpled hand, she went far away into the beautiful fairy dream-land, leaving Artie behind. The little fellow waited with all his heart to go to sleep, but the more he tried to go to sleep, the more he could not. His round wide-open black eyes grew rounder and wider open the more he strove to keep them shut.

Just then he thought some one spoke his name. He listened. I wonder if he knew about what "listeners never hear." Any way he soon proved the truth of the saying. It was mamma's voice speaking. Perhaps she did not know that he was awake. Said she to papa, "Artie is very destructive; he has not a single toy left that is whole. He has pulled them all to pieces to see how they were made, and he treats Daisy's the same as his own. She has said 'I'll try' in this way and a hard cry every few days over some new breakage. I think no one but Santa Claus himself will be able to cure Artie of this habit; he forgets what I say before I have done speaking. I believe if Santa Claus takes one look into our play-room, he will go straight on to the next house." Mamma ceased and there was a silence. Artie could scarcely believe his ears! So then, after all his waiting and longing, there might be no stockings full; no new play-things; no Santa Claus; no Christmas; no anything; and all just because he had broken those ugly old toys! Tears filled his bright eyes, and his poor little heart grew sore and heavy. He did not care now how long the night was, nor how long he lay awake. Suddenly a sound caught his ear! He heard the strangest tiny voices, speaking sometimes in time and sometimes all piping at once, shrill and confusedly. He slipped quietly out of bed and crept up the stairs, shivering in his little night-gown. Noiselessly he pushed the door ajar and put in his pillow-tossed curly head.

Such a sight as met his eyes! A great glowing red fire blazed in the grate and a roaring yellow flame swept up the chimney, making every corner of the room as bright as day. In the middle of the floor stood a well-known figure. There was no mistaking the high peaked sleigh cap, the long warm mantle of fur, made up of pockets everywhere, crammed full and running with all that child's heart could desire. There was the tremendous pack on his generous shoulders. There was the silvery-white hair, and beard frosty and shining. There was the same old stump of a nose in his mouth, but the fire had gone out of it, and only dead gray ashes remained. Then he saw, to his horror, all those wretched, unlucky toys crawling about the feet of the good Christmas Saint.

Not one was missing, down to the tiniest, and that terrible tale-telling fire-light, with its unnatural glare, brought out every crack, crack, scar, bruise and scratch, into bold relief. What a pitiful, miserable, shattered, dismembered company of halt and maimed they showed, as they stood, each one telling its own story of wrong and injury.

"My jaw is broken," cried a queer, spasmodic voice, and he recognized the speaker as the horrid-looking nut-cracker.

"My head is split open you see," said the drum, rolling to its place and standing on end, with the great gaping hole uppermost. "I beat me till my head cracked, and it's a wonder that every one in the house is not in the same condition with his nose."

"Look at me!" interrupted the saw, in his grating tone. "My teeth are all broken or twisted about."

"Yes," screamed another rasping voice as the file popped up and joined

the saw, "My teeth are all on an edge. I can't get them clean, for he makes me bite putty, wax, and dough, and I am of no use in the world with his wretched handling."

"I haven't a foot to stand on," buzzed the top mournfully. There was a minute's pause, and in the silence, the walking-doll hobbled stiffly up with a painful hitch in her slow gait. The sailor-boy doll stood by her side and gallantly waited until Santa Claus had cast a pitiful look at her. "He did it," moaned the unfortunate tar. "He first knocked off my hat, in a rage, one day, and then sent my head after it." Artie's teeth chattered and his knees knocked together, as he saw the stern face of old Santa Claus, jumping jacks with all the jump gone out of their spars, dangling legs; broken china tea-sets; tin trumpets, jammed flat; fiddle with no strings; a one-wheeled cannon, tilted on its side; dilapidated express wagons and wrecked water crafts of all kinds, a train of wounded animals, from a Noah's Ark—of all sorts and sizes, led by Mr. and Mrs. Noah and Mrs. Shen, who were all of the family surviving the voyage, and who look sadly worn and shattered by their hardships—all of these were waiting yet, to state their grievances, in this their only chance in a year.

Artie could bear no more. He felt as if the light of that fierce fire, which showed every thing bad and nothing good, was blinding his eyes. Making a mighty effort, he sprang up from his corner to run away, when behold! in a second, he is sitting up in his own little bed, beside Daisy, half-blinded by a ray of the bright winter sunshine, that had peeped in through the window to say a Merry Christmas to the children and streamed straight into Artie's eyes to waken him.

Was there ever a happier boy! What a wonderful day that was! What a grand tree! What a merry company! What a world of beautiful things dear, loving merry old Santa Claus brought to the children! I need not tell you that the dream did its work. Artie's fingers grew as light as a fairy's and as tender as mamma's, when he touched Daisy's treasures.

No more courts of complaint against Artie were ever held. "He" never needed another,—that one lasted his whole life long.

Twelfth Night.

According to old custom, the Yule season lasted from Christmas Eve until Twelfth Night—a period of nearly a fortnight, all of which was regarded more or less as a holiday over the Christmas week.

The first evening of Twelfth-Night party is a large frosted plum-cake in which a dried pea and a bean are baked. The London pastry-cooks ornament these cakes with all sorts of devices in sugar—kings, queens, ladies, dragons, lions, fish, serpents, innumerable other forms. With these are sold "characters"—a series of pasteboard slips, each bearing a small picture and a few rhymes, more or less comic. These slips are numbered, those meant for girls are put with one box, and those for boys with another. When the young people are all assembled, the cake is cut into slices corresponding to the number of the company. The boy who draws the bean is pronounced king, the girl who draws the pea, queen. Their majesties are solemnly enthroned side by side in two large chairs, and the boxes of "characters" are passed about among the rest of the party, each child being expected to read his or her verse aloud, and to support the character drawn for the rest of the evening. Of course this makes much fun, especially when the part allotted happens to be a grotesque one, such as "Sir Gregory Goose" or "Sir Punbilly Clumsy."

A New York toy dealer has a live grizzled monkey dressed as Santa Claus, in the Christmas goods department in his store. A chimney is provided for Jocko to descend, which he does with great agility, to the delight of crowds of children.

Appropos of the recent marriage of the Duke of Norfolk, it is interesting to read what an old writer says of them. His words are:—"A courtly, gallant, and chivalrous race have these same Howards proved themselves from generation to generation. An Earl of Arundel acted in Ben Johnson's 'Masque of Hymen' when it was acted at Court. Another Earl distinguished himself in the Lords by a passage at arms with Lord Spencer. Said he:—'When those things you speak of were doing your ancestors were keeping sheep.' Whereupon my Lord Spencer retorted some what weakly, though to the point:—'When my ancestors were keeping sheep, yours were plotting treason.' Perhaps this may have been true in the earlier history of the family. Latterly, however, the Howards have nicely equipped loyalty to their Church and to the Throne by alternately embracing the Protestant and the Roman Catholic religions. The present Duke has broken the regularity of the alternations.

William Page has given up his studies in the Tenth street building, New York, and, in his regret to say, in very feeble health at his home on Staten Island, where he still paints a little.

International Bible Lesson—Sabbath December 23rd, 1877.

PAUL'S LAST WORDS.—2 Tim. iv.—1-8.

The voyage of life draws to a close and this great man is about to land on the shore of immortal bliss. His last days were spent in imprisonment. We have no account of his final trial. He died a martyr to the truth he so long had proclaimed. It is generally understood that he was beheaded a short distance outside the city of Rome. This epistle to Timothy is considered the last one he ever wrote, and it manifests the greatest confidence in God and a readiness to meet him. He had fought a good fight. The faithful soldier now expects his laurels of reward. He had finished his course and expected the prize—the Crown of Righteousness. He was ready. It will be well for all to examine themselves and ascertain whether they are ready to meet God—ready to be offered up—ready for death, judgment and eternity.

For the Watchman's Military Column.

The British Government has acceded to the demands made by the Australian Government for the service of qualified officers to be lent to command and instruct the auxiliary forces, several officers have already been selected from the different branches of the service.

If Erzeroum falls, British interests are likely to suffer, printed cottons of British make alone passing annually over the Irizondo-Bayazid road, were estimated at a value of £1,800,000 sterling. For two months in the spring this was blocked by the Russians who have already got her hold on five sixths of Armenia, and if victorious, not one yard of English print that can be kept out will go over either.

All Staff N. C. Officers of regular Cavalry viz, the Sergeant Major, Qr. Mr. Sergt. Farrier Major, and Trumpet Major are allowed to wear gold laced Tunicas the same as officers. The chevrons, or stripes to be worn on the right arm with Crown—a little above the wrist.

The formation of the Cavalry force of the Province of Quebec into provisional regiments, similar to Ontario, has already commenced. The Cookshire, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, & Compton Troops having been named as the 5th Provisional Regiment of Cavalry under the command of Brevet Lt. Col. J. H. Taylor.

Lieut. Colonel Lovelace, Officer in-charge of the Cavalry etc., has been promoted to the rank of Major.

The first evening of Twelfth-Night party is a large frosted plum-cake in which a dried pea and a bean are baked. The London pastry-cooks ornament these cakes with all sorts of devices in sugar—kings, queens, ladies, dragons, lions, fish, serpents, innumerable other forms.

With these are sold "characters"—a series of pasteboard slips, each bearing a small picture and a few rhymes, more or less comic. These slips are numbered, those meant for girls are put with one box, and those for boys with another. When the young people are all assembled, the cake is cut into slices corresponding to the number of the company. The boy who draws the bean is pronounced king, the girl who draws the pea, queen. Their majesties are solemnly enthroned side by side in two large chairs, and the boxes of "characters" are passed about among the rest of the party, each child being expected to read his or her verse aloud, and to support the character drawn for the rest of the evening. Of course this makes much fun, especially when the part allotted happens to be a grotesque one, such as "Sir Gregory Goose" or "Sir Punbilly Clumsy."

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scout to know how to keep these natives in subjection. Some few of them have learnt to recognise the value of British gold, and their chiefs find that to be in the pay of the English and to remain peaceable and orderly is better than tempting chastisement at our hands; but even gold is not always a sufficient inducement to them to keep quiet.—The Colonies.

PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF THE NEW HEBRIDES.—The Melbourne Argus says:—"Petitions go home by the mail to the British Government praying for the annexation of the New Hebrides Islands. No large expenses contemplated. The group is adjacent to Fiji, and can be easily governed from that dependency. Two or three white men on land and an occasional visit from the cruisers on the station would suffice to guard against the contingency which is anticipated—viz., the extension of the penal settlements of the French nation in this direction. It is a national misfortune to Australia that New Caledonia was ever allowed to be occupied as a convict Colony. All that remains is to prevent the evil from spreading. The French extended their possessions from New Caledonia to the Loyalty Islands, and now we have authentic reports from the missionaries that they are proceeding in their old manner to absorb the New Hebrides, which lie next on their march. This magnificent group would be their most important possession. It contains the finest harbours in Polynesia, and its inhabitants have been civilised and rendered tractable by English efforts, and they are as eager to welcome our flag as they are determined to resist the French. Without laying down any doctrine that Australasia as well as Australia belongs to the British Empire, we may assert that the Empire is too deeply interested in this quarter of the globe to regard with indifference the spread of penal settlements in its midst. The objection is not to the tricolor, but to the yellow flag."

MONEY NOTES AS A VEHICLE OF DISEASE.—A Quebec contemporary says:—"We would bring under the notice of the proper authorities, the exceedingly filthy condition of the \$1 and \$2 bills of the Dominion of Canada, which are now current. They are unfit to be used by any man who desires to keep his hands clean; what is of greater consequence is, the public health is endangered. A teller in one of our banks had small pox in a very virulent form, and as no doubt that it was caused by the filthiness of which he was handling."

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EPISCOPAL.—Church of England services are conducted in the Court-house every Sabbath afternoon, at half-past three o'clock. By Rev. L. O. Armstrong.

REBYTERIAN.—(First.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Second.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Third.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Fourth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Fifth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Sixth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Seventh.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Eighth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Ninth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Tenth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Eleventh.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Twelfth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Thirteenth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Fourteenth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Fifteenth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Sixteenth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Seventeenth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Eighteenth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Nineteenth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Twentieth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Twenty-first.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Twenty-second.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Twenty-third.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Twenty-fourth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Twenty-fifth.)—Rev. J. M. White, Pastor. (Twenty-sixth.)—Rev. J. M. 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THE WATCHMAN AND OTTAWA VALLEY ADVOCATE.

LACHUTE, FRIDAY, DEC. 28, 1877.

EXTENSIVE AUCTION SALE.—We draw attention to the advertisement of Taylor & Co., in another column, of fine furniture, at their new store in the West End, Lachute, on Friday, the 28th inst. The chance is a rare one of procuring furniture of such excellent quality.

REVIEW.

THE YEAR now closing has been an eventful one to many individuals, many families and some nations. It has been one of great financial depression all over this country and in various parts of the world. Fortunes have been lost, enterprises frustrated, large cities burnt to the ground, earthquakes, steamboat disasters, cyclones, famines, pestilences, accidents and other calamities in various places. There have been remarkable events chronicled, systems and theories advanced in philosophy, religion and politics; while the war in the East and the undisturbed state of France have awakened conjectures and afforded prophetic utterances of no small concern in the world's future history. The political, religious and commercial disquietude of the world afford to many enquiring minds a means of unfolding the future destiny of the State and the Church from year to year. But it must be remembered during all these vast changes and vicissitudes that there are divine laws immediately enacted by God himself, and laws of merely human origin that have their authority only from the injunctions of the State, and that the events that transpire whether prosperous or adverse are controlled for a destiny which no man for the moment can determine though he be ever so skilled in human wisdom.

We may be able to discover the secret causes of events which have transpired and view things in their various relations, connexions and tendencies so as to be in a position to show with some plausible argument that had such and such principles and instruments been attended to and properly directed the results would have been entirely different. But if they had been entirely different can we assert positively that they would have been more to our advantage? During the past year death has entered many homes. Adversity has marked the career of many a business man. Fire has visited St. John, N. B., and other Cities. The war in the East has caused an untold amount of suffering, and the untimely death of scores of thousands; these with other afflictive events have occurred. Yet can we by human reason or philosophy say they might better not have taken place? We might be prepared to say so only for having viewed the most important events of ancient and more modern times which give a key to the numerous evidences that God rules this world and observes the general course of men; sees the variety of character, the force and violence of human passions their infirmities and contradictions, which if left to themselves might produce a babel of difficulties which would tower higher than any delusive structure, and hence the Divine interposition which often meets us and which we term adversity. All these things however are designed to teach us important lessons. They are public universities in which our youth and all classes may study lessons of wisdom and prudence. We may see whatever men of merit and ability have fallen through greed of gain or from having forsaken the means of moral persevering energy which raised them to positions of trust and struck out on a career of pernicious habits or questionable revolutions which caused their shame and speedy downfall.

We may learn not to profess superiority of judgment or skill in the management of the affairs of civil government, and boast of purity and economy over our predecessors, and then when elevated to the eminent position so long looked forward to, a different course is taken wherein the rule of conduct is not a lamp to lighten the path of public rectitude, but rather a cloud of hypocrisy thrown over every action till the sun rises and the cloud disperses showing all the pretensions to have been illustrious examples of pernicious and damaging imbecility provoked by greed of gain and office. The nature and frequency, therefore of all the events which transpire around us whether great or small may be carefully unfolded and the lessons ascertained which they are designed to teach us. We may be long in learning and slow to comprehend but every day some substantial progress may be made. The year upon which we are just entering may be distinguished by many vi-

cissitudes. Let us hold fast to the Divine Law and have each day's history filled up with experiences in keeping with it and take the great embodiment of that Law, Christ, as our example and not Socrates, or any other merely human being, however worthy of imitation, and then shall we be safe and happy no matter what the outward circumstances of life may be around us. In these musings which we have considered sufficiently important to present to our readers we wish them all a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

THE MEETING of the Quebec Legislature which took place on the 19th inst., got through with considerable preliminary business—such as moving an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne which was seconded as usual and carried, and the House adjourned till after the holidays. We noticed the name of our local representative SYDNEY BELLINGHAM, Esq., being present and taking part in the proceedings and to whom we are indebted for parcels of parliamentary reports and papers. The Hon. TREASURER presented to the Assembly a Message from the Lieutenant-Governor, transmitting the public accounts of the Province for the past year. Addresses were moved for statements concerning the Loans effected by the Province, the interest payable, and for correspondence and documents relating to the Railway enterprises going on. We also notice the introduction of a Bill to amend the Educational Act of this Province.

THE RAILWAY BONUS BY-LAW in Toronto for granting \$300,000 to the Ottawa and Toronto Railroad has been defeated by a large majority, and has caused the withdrawal of the \$200,000 By-law submitted in Ottawa. We were in hopes this By-law would have carried so that the enterprise of building a road to connect Ottawa and Toronto would have succeeded as it would have been a great feeder to the Q. M. O. & O. R. R. and formed a link in the great through line from Quebec to the North West. Though defeated for the present this road must be eventually built and over it must travel the people with their immense quantities of wheat and other products, and those who wish to great country change of undertaking.

This contemporaneous article of ours of last week in we endeavored to set him right in the amnesty and quorum question; in return for this good office of ours, instead of thanking us for our trouble, he comes out in his customary style with torrents of abuse, but not one word of argument or attempt even of refutation of our premises. He seems determined not to be enlightened, and desires to keep his readers in the same blissful ignorance; but assuredly their good common sense will spurn such teaching. Again, and for the last time, we repeat that no four Ministers, nor for that matter six of them either, would dare take upon themselves in the absence of the GOVERNOR GENERAL, the PREMIER, and the MINISTER OF JUSTICE, to decide such a weighty State matter as the granting of an amnesty to O'Donoghue, and which he now spurns with contempt as he asserts it was rung from them to secure the election of Mr. LAURIER, the Government candidate, as we have already stated. As to the four Ministers constituting a quorum that was for routine business ONLY, and this our contemporary knows full well, or otherwise he is lamentably ignorant of the subject upon which he undertakes to write.

PRESENTATION.—On Friday the pupils attending the Commissioners' School, Artillery street, Quebec, presented their teacher, Mr. Emalie, (formerly of Lachute) with a beautiful piece of workmanship, in the form of a regulator time-piece. He was also presented, by one of his pupils, with a very nice parlor ornament. Miss T. Staton, was at the same time, presented with a valuable gold locket. The above were accompanied with a very neatly written and appropriate address.

LATEST NEWS.

THE TURCO-RUSSIAN WAR.—New York, December 24.—Cable specials have the following:—The Czar will return to the seat of war in about a month. It is stated that he declared he would march through to Constantinople as the Germans did to Paris. Turkey is preparing to concede the free passage of the Dardanelles, but meets with opposition from England. The Czarovitch has crossed the Lom. Russia continues to pay Serbia one million rubles monthly. The Sultan has held a grand review of troops in Constantinople, great enthusiasm being manifested. The ringleaders of the late riots at Peshawar have been sentenced to imprisonment.

BUCHAREST, December 24.—No news has been received from the front. It is impossible to find out anything concerning the condition of the Turkish

prisoners now en route from Plevna, or the Russian troops caught on the march by the late snow-storms. The cold weather and driving snow produced a terrible effect upon the transport train, which halted near Gatroeni, a suburb of Bucharest, to await a cessation of the storm. On Sunday the wagons and horses were entirely buried in the snow, and working parties were engaged in extricating the train. Forty horses and twenty-nine men were found dead. The men had sought shelter in the wagons and were frozen within half a mile of Gatroeni. This transport train had encamped on the level plain and was buried by the driving snow, which piled up around the horses and wagons.

ERZERUM, December 24.—Snow has ceased falling here, and weather is now fine and will facilitate the operations of the Russians.

Reconnoitering detachments of Russian Cavalry frequently appear in the villages on the plain of Erzerum. A cable despatch from Bucharest says Gourko's campaign resulted in the loss of only five hundred men. The Turks are deserting because of the increasing cold, which causes them, poorly clothed as they are, and wanting in provisions, terrible suffering. Typhus fever is raging amongst the Turks at Sofia.

A St. Petersburg special says the scene of the ovation to the Emperor on his arrival there can never be forgotten. The pupils of the Conservatoire sang a hymn of welcome and presented a crown of laurels, which was accepted with a few words of thanks. Amid artillery and the wild clanging of bells the Emperor drove to the Kahan Cathedral. The alters were aglow with diamonds. Vast as the cathedral was, there was no niche in which another taper could be burned. Accompanied by gladsome cheers which drowned for a time the sobs of mothers bereft of their sons, wives mourning for their husbands, and sisters waiting for their brothers all lost on the battle field, the doors were flung open, and in solemn majesty the Emperor entered. The noise was only partially hushed as the Czar walked with solemn tread to the altar, when suddenly the vast cathedral became as silent as a sepulchre, and the Czar advanced to the altar and kissed the Holy Virgin. On his return to the floor of the Cathedral, the crowd broke all restraint and enveloped him. The people fell down and kissed his garments. So great was the pressure that it was with great delay that His Majesty could reach his carriage. The Emperor drove to the Winter Palace amid the wildest cheering of the vast crowd. All day the multitude cheered before the palace.

BLGRADE, December 25.—The Servians on Monday, after 8 hours, severe fighting, captured Ak-Palanka, together with three Krupp guns and a large quantity of ammunition and provisions. The Turks lost many killed and some prisoners. Prince Milan was present yesterday when the bombardment of Nisch was commenced.

ERZERUM, December 25.—The Russian lines have been pushed forward, and Erzerum is almost invested. The Russian infantry is massed in the northern part of the plain. The bombardment of the town, and consequent interruption of telegraph service are imminent.

LONDON, December 25.—A despatch from Woolwich says it is fully expected that the Royal Arsenal will shortly receive an extensive order. Returns were forwarded last week to the War Office, showing the number of guns and amount of ammunition and stores that each department can produce at short notice.

A Vienna correspondent reports that Gen. Skobeloff, with a division of infantry, two regiments of cavalry and half a brigade of artillery, has occupied the town of Trojan, near Trojan pass.

ATHENS, December 25.—A despatch states that a demonstration in favor of war took place on Monday among soldiers and civilians at Lamia, on the frontier. A battery of Krupp guns has started for Chalkis. War becomes more probable every day. It is commonly believed that the Cabinet hesitates to adopt any decided policy before the meeting of the British Parliament.

A Plevna correspondent, under date of December the 17th, states that when the Turks made their sortie, they left thousands of sick and wounded in Plevna, starving and unattended. These unfortunates remained in this state three days, and hundreds of them died. Over a thousand have been already buried, and about a hundred corpses come from the hospitals daily. Undoubtedly many who were not quite dead have been buried. The bodies of those killed in battle lie unburied around Plevna. The Turkish prisoners are encamped among them, and are almost starving. Plevna is one vast charnel-house, surpassing in horror anything imaginable.

ALEXANDRIA, December 24.—The first half of the Egyptian contingent, destined to reinforce the Turkish army,

left here this morning, it is rumored for Crete. The troops were mostly blacks.

FROM WINNIPEG.

WINNIPEG, December 24.—The first railway excursion on the Canada Pacific Railway took place on Wednesday. A party of ladies and gentlemen, guests of Mr. Rowan, the District Engineer, and Mr. Whitehead, the contractor, started for St. Boniface station. The track was smooth, though entirely unballasted. The train, consisting of two flat cars and a caboose, went to Selkirk, where it took the main line and proceeded two miles, as far as the track is laid.

The investigation into the charges against Col. Provencher is proceeding with closed doors.

The hostile attitude of Canadian squatters at Pembina mountain towards the Mennonite colonists has caused some trouble. Notices to quit have been served on the former by officials of the Dominion Land Office.

Snow is two inches deep at Butterford; no snow in the city. It has been raining for the past four days. Telegraphic communications have been interrupted for some time.

DEATH OF GENERAL PERCY.—A number of persons in Canada will learn with regret of the sudden death in London, at the age of sixty, of General Lord Henry Hugh Manvers Percy, brother of the Duke of Northumberland. Lord Henry Percy served in Canada during the rebellion of 1838 and in the Crimea, where he was wounded both at the Alma and at Inkerman. At the latter battle he won the Victoria Cross for distinguished personal valor. When the Guards were at some distance from the Sandbag Battery Colonel Percy charged singly into the battery, followed immediately by the Guard. The embrasures of the battery, as also the parapet were held by the Russians, who kept up a most severe fire of musketry. He found himself, with many men of various regiments, who had charged too far, nearly surrounded by the Russians and without ammunition. Though wounded, by his knowledge of the ground he extricated these men, and passing under a heavy fire from the Russians brought them safely to where ammunition was to be obtained, thereby saving some fifty men and enabling them to renew the combat. He was engaged with and killed a Russian soldier. In 1862 Lord Henry Percy commanded the Grenadier Guards who defended the fair, and he then

CANADIAN VESSELS AND SOUTH AMERICAN TRADE.—New York, Dec. 17th.—American Companies having declined to subsidize the steamship line to run between New York and South America on account of its insufficiency, the Quebec and Gulf Ports Steamship Company of Canada has transferred its office and steamers to this port, accepted the offer and sent its first steamer, the Hayti, out yesterday for Venezuela, to touch at St. Thomas, Lagnayra, and Porto Cabello. Hitherto the carrying trade with these ports has been done by sailing vessels. The Hayti carried a full cargo of merchandise and fifteen passengers, among whom were several agents representing business firms. These had trunks full of samples. The Hayti will be followed by her sister ships Bermuda and Alhambra, making fortnightly trips.

HOW TO MAKE COWS GIVE MILK.—A writer in one of our exchanges says that his one cow gives all the milk that is wanted in a family of eight, and that from it, after taking all that is required for other purposes, two hundred and sixty lbs. of butter was made this year. This is, in part, his treatment of the cow: "If you desire to get a large yield of rich milk, give your cow, every day, water slightly salted, in which bran has been stirred at the rate of one quart to two gallons of water. You will find, if you have not tried this daily practice, that your cow will give twenty-five per cent. more milk immediately, under the effects of it, and she will become so attached to the diet as to refuse to drink clear water unless very thirsty, but this mess she will drink almost any time, and ask for more. The amount of this drink necessary is an ordinary water pailful at a time, morning, noon and night."—Exchange paper.

A terrible explosion occurred in Greenfield's candy manufactory in New York on the 20th. There are 275 hands employed in the factory, very few of whom, it is feared, were uninjured, and some fifty are reported to have been killed.

In the Quebec Legislature on the 20th, the address in reply to the speech from the throne was moved by Mr. Tarte and seconded by Mr. Thornton, and after a rather long debate, the address was adopted en bloc. On its adjournment on the 21st, the House will stand adjourned till the 17th of January.

The death is announced of the wife of Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy.

EXTENSIVE

AUCTION SALE

OF NEW

FURNITURE!

BALANCE OF A

Bankrupt Stock!

The undersigned will sell by auction at their New Store,

WEST END LACHUTE

December 28th, 1877.

of New Furniture.

READ THIS TWICE!

THE CHEAP SALE IS STILL GOING ON,

AND

THE PLACE TO GET CHEAP DRY GOODS, IS AT BENN'S.

A FRESH ASSORTMENT JUST RECEIVED.

See the clothing and cloth!

See the assortment of caps!!

See the immense stock of

BOOTS and SHOES

We keep warranted mens', womens' and childrens' boots.

Go and see the quality.

Go and see the prices.

Also the groceries and hardware.

AT

ALFRED BENN & CO.,
MONTREAL HOUSE.

Dec. 7, 1877.

NOW IS THE TIME

TO GET

WHITESIDE'S IMPROVED Noiseless Spring Bed and Moth Proof MATTRESS.

The Cheapest and Best Sleeping Apparatus of the Age.

WHITESIDE, JORDON & CO.,
66 COLLEGE STREET, MONTREAL.

1st

TAYLOR & CO., Have Removed to Opposite Allen's Hotel.

They keep constantly on hand a full supply of FLOUR in barrels and bags, also CORN-MEAL, OAT-MEAL, FEED, FLOUR, HAMS, BACON, SALT-BEEF and FISH.

GROCERIES!

Tea, Sugar, Oil, Spices, Coarse and Fine Salt, and every requisite for the family.

COALS AND IRON.

Long experience in this business, he has now the advantage from his possible prices which, cash can procure. Sales are made strictly for cash or table produce; and cash will be paid for good butter and pork in its proper season. At the spot, in the WEST END, opposite Allen's Hotel, Lachute.

TAYLOR & CO.

D. WILLIAMSON, Jr., General Merchant, Grenville, P. Q.

Invites attention to his new stock of FALL and WINTER dry goods, which is very complete in every department, also choice

Teas and General Groceries, and Provisions, Boots and Shoes Hardware, Crockery and Glassware, Lamps and Coal-Oil, Patent Medicines, Stationery, Wall-Paper and Window-Shades, Etc., Etc.

These goods are offered at prices suited to the times for cash or farm produce, for which the highest price will be paid.

Sept. 7, 1877.

D. WILLIAMSON, Jr.

NEW STORE! NEW GOODS!

NEW PRICES!

AT

ST. ANDREWS, P. Q.

GOOD wide Wincies 6c. to 8c.; Black Lustres 10c.; Real Good White Cotton 7 1/2c.; Grey Sheetings, 7c.; Scarlet-Flannels, all wool, 22c.; Fancy Flannels in great variety very low.

DRESS GOODS.

IN GREAT variety at 15c. and upwards. Fine Fall and Winter selections, specially purchased. The ladies are delighted with our all Wool Merinos of every shade at such low prices.

MOURNING GOODS of all kinds at Panic Prices.

Ladies Cloakings, Ulsters, Etc., ready made in latest styles.

TWEEDS!

SPECIALLY purchased. A good, Winter Tweed for 55c. and upwards. Heavy Double Width Over-coatings at \$1.00, upwards.

READY MADE CLOTHING FOR THE MILLION.

The largest stock of BOOTS and SHOES ever offered in the country, at unheard of low prices. Just think, Ladies fine prunella at 50c. per pair. Men's coarse and fine boots at similarly low prices.

GROCERIES,

Of all kinds at lowest prices. Teas a specialty. Choice New Season Japan at 30c. to 50c.

HARDWARE.

In full stock, bought from the best houses and at lowest prices.

CUTLERY, CROCKERY, ETC., ETC.

W. C. STEWART.

N. B. Fine large selection of FURS to arrive soon.

Taylor & Co.

Lachute, Dec. 21, 1877.

herbs do not bite it, as it causes little
no irritation, and will not blister the
affected. Price 25 cents per pot.

DICK'S HEALING SALVE
FOR MAN AND BEAST

Is unsurpassed for Bad Leg Cuts, Burns, Etc.
Wounds of any kind, occurring on man
beast. Price 25 cents. It may be had whole
sale and retail of

ALFRED BENN & CO.,
Leeds, P. O.

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