

The champion weather prophet of Canada, Mr. Vennor, thus vaticinateth for December:—There is every prospect of its being a very stormy and wintry month, and a particularly blustery one. Last year we had no sleighing during the month. This year we shall have sleighing throughout. He expects a great deal of snow and a severe snap of cold.

Mr. CARLYLE strongly endorses the recommendations in Mr. GLADSTONE'S pamphlet for the expulsion of the Turkish governing classes from Europe. This is one of the rare examples of an extreme Tory taking sides with a Radical. But CARLYLE'S Toryism has always appeared to us a peculiarly suspicious form of radicalism.

THE accounts of the ravages of small pox in the settlements north of Manitoba are sad news, indeed. The strictest regulations for vaccination will doubtless have to be enforced among the whites, and the serious experiment made of endeavouring to impress the Indian mind with the necessity of the great precaution.

MARSHAL MACMAHON has contributed three thousand francs (\$600) to the fund in aid of the sufferers by the St. Hyacinthe fire. This is a great deal more than any single Canadian has thought of doing for the victims among his own people. The lesson is a rude one.

THE Minnesota Supreme Court has decided favourably on the constitutionality of a State law taxing liquor sellers for the maintenance of an asylum for inebriates. A very nice question, indeed, which we commend to the Dominion League.

THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

The dull routine proceedings of introducing Petitions and Bills were varied last week by a lively attack on the Government by the Leader of the Opposition, on account of the backwardness of the printing of Departmental Reports and Bills. The Government claimed they were not to blame and threw the onus on the printer. This brought the subject before the Committee on Printing, who directed their Clerk to inform the printer (Mr. Cary of the *Monero*) that they required immediate explanation of his backwardness, or his contract would be rescinded. The next day, Mr. Cary appeared and entered into lengthy explanations, claiming the Bills had not been sent in early enough to get them printed in time, and considerable delay had been caused by the great length of the Corporation General Amendments Act. Mr. Cary promised to do better in the future, and has certainly sent the Bills in much quicker since the remonstrance of the House.

The members are becoming slightly funny by calling out "lost" and "carried" when certain unimportant Bills or Motions are introduced, and great hilarity was caused when Mr. Thornton, member for Stanstead, made his maiden speech by introducing "An Act to Incorporate the Beber Plain Advent Camp Meeting Association." Of course a great many jokes have been perpetrated on this Bill, but they are too poor for repetition.

One of the most singular Bills before the House is one to incorporate Emmanuel (Congregational) Church, Montreal, the second session of which contains the following articles of faith of the "Evangelical Pede-Baptist Congregational Church":

2. The said corporation shall be an Evangelical Pede-Baptist Congregational Church, according to the received faith and order of such churches, holding with other doctrinal principles not specified herein, the following tenets, that is to say:

(1) That God is revealed to mankind in the holy scriptures as *The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit* to whom are attributed all Divine perfections, Eternal in being, Omnipotent and Omnipresent, Infinite in power, wisdom, knowledge, holiness, justice, and truth.

(2) The true and proper deity and vicarious atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man.

(3) The personality and proper deity of the Holy Spirit, whose agency, without interference with human freedom and responsibility, is essential to the bringing of sinners to repentance, and to the exercise of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and is effectual to secure their sanctification and redemption.

(4) That all men have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

(5) Justification through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, such faith being evidenced by appropriate works.

(6) That there will be a second appearance of Jesus Christ to judge all mankind, when there will be a resurrection of the dead, and that, as the Supreme Judge, He will divide the righteous from the wicked; will receive the righteous into eternal life; but the wicked shall go into eternal punishment.

(7) That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are divinely inspired, and are of supreme authority in all matters pertaining to faith and morals.

(8) The perpetual obligation of the sacramental ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper:—the former to be administered to believers and children, by the application of water to the subject, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; and the latter to be observed by the members of the said corporation, with those present who profess to love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity.

(9) The obligation to sanctify the Lord's day or Christian Sabbath, as a day of sacred rest, and of holy convocation for the public worship of God in His house.

This Bill is causing considerable discussion among the members, many of whom strongly object to legislate as to the belief of any religious body, arguing, and I think with reason, that if they do so they will be continually beset with amendments by some member or other of the Congregation who does not agree with some one or other of the tenets. I expect the clause will be struck out in Committee.

The excitement caused by the Sisters of Providence Bill to empower them to manufacture will be put to an end by the introduction of a clause providing that any manufacture they may enter into will be carried on in a building separate from the Convent and on which the Sisters will pay the usual taxes.

A very absurd and uncalled for attack has been made on the Solicitor-General on account of the reply he gave to the question of Mr. Watts regarding the reason of the non-removal of the new female prison of the Protestant female prisoners. Mr. Baker stated that it had been intimated to the Government that the Protestants of Montreal desired that the Protestant prisoners should not be removed from the Montreal goal to the new female prison, the reason, I believe, being that the latter was in charge of the Sisters of Bon Pasteur. The Solicitor-General pointed out that every necessary arrangement had been made for the comfort of the Protestant prisoners, both temporal and spiritual, and so soon as it was intimated that the Protestants desired their removal, it would be immediately done. Now, where is the untruth in that reply? Mr. Baker did not state that the Protestants did not desire their removal, but that it had been intimated to the Government that such was the case, and that intimation came through the only source by which Government could take cognizance of it, namely, the Protestant member for Montreal.

For some days past, the largest committee room in the House has been hung round with a number of drawings of every description, the work of the pupils of the schools founded by the Council of Arts and Manufactures. Many of them show signs of talent and are very creditable to the students, the majority being the handwork of those in their first and second year of study. I will not enter into any lengthy description, as you will shortly receive a paper on the subject from another source.

Up to the present time we have had no evening session, everything having passed off with little or no discussion or opposition; but as the Budget speech will be shortly given, we may look for some harder work.

C. W. M.

HON. R. LAFLAMME.

Toussaint Antoine Rudolphe Laflamme, Q.C., D.C.L., is the son of the late Toussaint Laflamme, a merchant of Montreal, by Marguerite Suzanne Thibauden, of Pointe Claire, a daughter of one of the expelled Acadians from Nova Scotia. He was born in Montreal on the 15th May, 1827, and is therefore in his fiftieth year. He performed brilliant studies at the St. Sulpice College, thus early revealing the fine intellectual qualities which have distinguished his career. He prepared for the bar under Hon. Judge Drummond, and was called to practise in 1849. In 1863, he was awarded the silk gown. He stands, by universal consent, among the most eminent lawyers of this Province, and enjoys a large and lucrative practice. One of his partners is a colleague of his in the Ministry—Hon. Mr. Huntington. Mr. Laflamme has appeared in his professional capacity several times before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in England. He was also counsel for the Seigniors who claimed their indemnity in virtue of the Seigniorial Act of 1857-8. Among others of his celebrated cases, we may mention his labors in favor of the St. Albans raiders where he won very high consideration, and the prominent part which he took in the Guibord trial. He is Professor of the Law of Real Estate in McGill University, from which institution he received the honorary degree of B.C.L. in 1856, and that of D.C.L. in 1873. He declined a Puisne Judgeship in the Supreme Court in 1875. Mr. Laflamme has always taken an active part in politics, but singularly did not covet Parliamentary honors till late in life. He was one of the earliest members of the Lower Canada Rouge party, became one of the editors of *L'Acadie*, and in 1847 was elected President of the *Institut Canadien*, of which he was one of the founders.

He was first returned to Parliament for Jacques Cartier at the general elections of 1872, and has since maintained the seat. His advent to office is a tribute to fidelity to party convictions. As Minister of Inland Revenue, he will add much to the strength and prestige of the Government.

HON. LOUIS BEAUBIEN.

The new Speaker of the Quebec Legislative Assembly belongs to an ancient and honorable family. He is descended from Trotter de Beaubien, who came from France so far back as 1650. His father is Pierre Beaubien, M. D., of the University of Paris, who represented Montreal from 1841 to 1844, and Chambly from 1848 to 1851 in the Canada Assembly. His mother is a daughter of the late Hon. C. E. Casgrain, Seigneur of Rivière Ouelle. The subject of our sketch was born at Montreal, on the 27th July, 1837, and educated at the St. Sulpice College of this city. In 1864, he married Suzanne Lauretta, daughter of Hon. Mr. Justice Stewart, of Quebec. He has been for many years a member of the Agricultural Council of Quebec; President of the Hochelaga Agricultural Society, and a Director of the Laurentides Railway Company. He was also, for several years, Vice-President of the Northern Colonization Railway. Indeed, in the promotion of the agricultural, colonization, and railway enterprises of the Province, Mr. Beaubien has ever been a foremost man, devoting thereto much of his time, means and energy. He represented Hochelaga in the House of Commons from 1872 to 1874, when he retired from that body to confine himself exclusively to the Provincial Assembly, for which he was first returned in 1867. The County of Hochelaga has since then re-elected him at every contest. Mr. Beaubien is a man of directness and power, and in his new position will doubtless add much to his well-won reputation, as well as to the strength of his party.

OUR PICTURES.

Our cartoon on the first page needs no explanation. It appeals directly to the experience of every housekeeper. Sugar is not a luxury, but a necessity of life, and its rapid rise, especially on the eve of a long and severe winter, is a great hardship for the poor. The question is above politics or party. It addresses itself directly to the common sense of the community and by them should be regulated. The Serbian types grouped elsewhere as a half-page are an object of curious observation, especially at the present time. There is nothing distinctive in the types, and beauty is certainly not one of the features. A characteristic scene is that of the Turkish chicken thief meeting with condign punishment in the streets of Smyrna. The details are sufficiently clear, while the execution of the whole is quite effective. Our Fashion plate consists of new styles for winter wear. The front and back of three toilets are given. Nos. 1 and 3 are a Duchesse pattern of black velvet, long and straight in front, short and tightened behind. The ornament of the whole is of rich passementerie. The skirt of dress is of slate cashmere. Nos. 2 and 5 are a Hussard vest of grey woollen matelasse. Nos. 4 and 6 are a visiting Dolman of black velvet.

EPHEMERIDES.

The prospectus for the new volume of SCENESER'S MONTHLY gives the titles of more than fifty papers (mostly illustrated) by writers of the highest merit. Of Foreign Travel we have "A Winter on the Nile," by Gen. McLennan; "Saunterings about Constantinople," by Charles Dudley Warner; "Out of My Window at Moscow," by Eugenie Schuyler; "An American in Turkistan," etc. Three serial stories are announced: "Nicholas Murnum," by Dr. Holland, the Editor whose story of "Sevenoaks" gave the highest satisfaction to the readers of the MONTHLY; "His Inheritance," by Miss Trafton, will begin on the completion of "That Lass o' Lawrie's," by Mrs. Hodgson Burnett. There are to be, from various pens, papers on "Home Life and Travel." Also, practical suggestions as to town and country life, village improvements, etc., by well-known specialists. A richly illustrated series will be given on "American Sports by Flood and Field," by various writers, and each on a different theme. The subject of "Household and Home Decoration" will have a prominent place, whilst the latest productions of American humorists will appear from month to month. The list of shorter stories, biographical and other sketches, etc., is a long one.

During the year ST. NICHOLAS, the incomparable Magazine for youths (published by Scribners, N. Y.) will have interesting papers by William Cullen Bryant, John G. Whittier, Thomas Hughes, William Howitt, Dr. Holland, George MacDonald, and others. There will be stories, sketches and poems, of special interest to girls, by Harriet Prescott Spofford, Susan Coolidge, Sarah Winter Kellogg, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Louisa Alcott, Lucretia P. Hale, Colia Thaxter, Mary Mapes Dodge, and many others. There will be also "Twelve Sky Pictures," by Professor Proctor, the astronomer, with maps, showing the "Stars of Each Month," which will be likely to surpass in interest any series on popular science recently given to the public. Amusement and instruction, with Fun and Frolic, and Wit and Wisdom, will be mingled as heretofore, and St. Nicholas will continue to delight the young and give pleasure to the old.

The ATLANTIC MONTHLY, the old and ever popular Boston Magazine, promises for 1877 among its attractions—An unusual number of Poems by Longfellow, Poems by Lowell, Whittier, and Holmes, a New Story, in three parts, by T. B. Aldrich, two Stories in dramatic form by W. D. Howells, frequent contributions from Mark Twain, Papers on Colonial History by C. F. Adams jr., descriptions of Egyptian Life by Charles Hale, Original Music, in each number, by such composers as J. K. Paine, George L. Osgood, Julius Eichberg, Dudley Buck, and Francis Boott, with words by some of the most distinguished ATLANTIC poets, and the Contributor's Club, a new department.

The CANADIAN MONTHLY will begin its eleventh volume with the beginning of the new year. The publishers, Adam, Stevenson & Co., Toronto, promise that they will make it their endeavor to preserve the standard which they have hitherto maintained and will improve upon it if possible. The MONTHLY deserves well of the Canadian public for the work it has performed in the past, stimulating a love for letters among a reading public. For certain classes of readers, more especially those who are partial to theological discussions and political debates, the Magazine has been a vehicle of entertainment and instruction. From its prospectus, we infer that it will continue to cultivate these two special fields.

There is perhaps no public so willing to bestow favor on genuine musical execution as that of Montreal. Opera of different styles and various grades of excellence is frequently performed here, and it always meets with encouragement. But when performances of unquestioned superiority are offered, the response is unequivocally flattering. This is positively true in the case of the Boston Lyceum Opera Company, whose appearance is set down at the Academy of Music for the 14th, 15th and 16th of the present month. The works they have chosen for representation are the ever charming masterpieces—the Bohemian Girl, Maritana and Martha, by Balfe, Wallace, and Flotow respectively. The artists chosen to interpret these operas are not known to us, but, upon careful inquiry, we find that they enjoy the very best reputation in the United States. Another guarantee, which the public will readily accept, is that the entire appropriation of Mr. C. C. DeZouche, whose taste and experience have stood a long test among us, and who serves, as often before, the thanks of all lovers of music for the opportunity thus extended of aesthetic enjoyment.

DOMESTIC.

HADDOCK.—Tie the fish with a string in the shape of an 8, or with its tail into its mouth; lay it in plenty of cold water, well salted. Place the fish kettle on the fire, and by the time the water is on the point of boiling, the fish will be a very large one, should be quite done. Let it drain across the kettle, and serve with

CORN STARCH CAKE.—One cup butter worked to a cream, with two cups of sugar, one cup milk, which is dissolved one teaspoonful soda, two cups flour, which are sifted two to splendid cream-tartar. Whites only of six eggs, beaten to a stiff froth. Mix all these well, and bake in a moderate oven. This will make one good sized loaf, and is very rich and delicate.

CAPER SAUCE.—Melt two ounces of butter in a saucepan, add a tablespoonful of flour; when the two are well amalgamated add pepper and salt to taste, and rather less than a pint of boiling water; stir the sauce on the fire until it thickens, and add a good allowance of capers, either whole or coarsely chopped, and, removing the saucepan from the fire, stir into the sauce the yolk of an egg beaten up with the juice of a half a lemon and strained.

HUMOROUS.

"TIME works wonders," as the woman said when she got married after a thirteen years' courtship.

"THERE!" said Jones, as he wrathfully pushed away the pig which his landlady had just served him. "The stuff isn't fit for a pig to eat, and I ain't going to eat it."

THE meanest man on the street to-day is the one that is seen hanging around a band of street musicians, near enough to hear the music, but far enough to avoid the hat.

ANOTHER of the Pope's neat little jokes is recorded. A young American girl six feet high, had just received the Pope's blessing at a reception, and as she rose from her knees Pope Pius began to smile at her height, and made her kneel again. "Miss," he said, "I shall have to give you a blessing and a hat."

A WORTHY barrister has a habit of taking his spectacles from his nose, and twirling them in his hand. One day last week, while arguing a case, he became so deeply absorbed in the point he was making, that instead of his spectacles, he took a large cork-screw from his pocket and fiddled it about for some time, to the infinite amusement of those who were present.

A WESTEVAN brother was engaged in preaching a collection sermon, and pleaded earnestly that the congregation would give him a good collection. At the conclusion the plates were produced, and the good man perceiving that copper, and not silver, was the prominent coin, said with great solemnity: "I perceive, my brethren, that now, as in the days of Paul, Alexander the coppersmith has done us much evil."

A leading Paris grocer offers for sale small bits of macaroni for use in soup which are stamped with the image of Napoleon III., instead of us ordinarily, with the letters of the alphabet. When the macaroni swells the features enlarge until the nose, moustache, and profile of the late Emperor stand out in startling relief. Republicans complain that, having had to swallow the Emperor during twenty years, it is too much to ask them to renew the dose.