

The Dominion Illustrated.

\$4.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

THE SABISTON LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING CO

RICHARD WHITE, PRESIDENT.

ALEX. SABISTON, MANAGING-DIRECTOR.
The Gazette Building, Montreal.

TORONTO NEWS COMPANY, WESTERN AGENT,
Toronto, Ont.

London (England) Agency:

JOHN HADDON & CO.,
3 & 4 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, E.C.
SOLE AGENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

All business communications, remittances, etc., to be addressed to "THE SABISTON LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING CO., MONTREAL."

Literary communications to be addressed to

"THE EDITOR, DOMINION ILLUSTRATED."

24th JANUARY, 1891.

With reference to our Prize Competition, we think it well to remind our subscribers that the coupons—entitling the holder to compete—are only sent when applied for. All direct subscribers who wish to take part should, therefore, write at once for same.



The Hawaiian Islands.

The death of King Kalakaua, of the Hawaiian or Sandwich Islands, at San Francisco on Tuesday is much to be regretted, as occurring so soon after the settlement of the constitution of the little kingdom, and when its general affairs and the civilization of its natives were progressing so favourably. The late monarch, born in 1836, did not come to the throne until nearly forty years later, and then with extreme difficulty; his reign has, therefore, been a comparatively short one, but it has witnessed and brought about a wonderful advance in every branch of industry in the Islands. The new sovereign is the Princess Liliuokalani, who, well on in years, will not likely make any radical change in the policy of her predecessor. To many persons the Sandwich Islands have been known only as having been discovered by the famous Captain Cook, and also where that intrepid navigator was murdered; but many circumstances connected with the group are of great interest, and deserve greater publicity than is usually accorded to them. With a form of monarchical government very similar to our own—except that the Upper House is elective—the Islands have a special interest for Canadians, and an additional link lies in the fact that Colonel Volney Ashford, the commandant of the Hawaiian forces, is a native of this country. At present almost the entire trade of the Islands is with the United States; but the treaty under which this trade is done will expire within two years, and can be terminated at even an earlier date by one year's notice being given. As the distance from Honolulu to Victoria involves but one day's extra steaming than to San Francisco, and as we can consume all their exports and supply them with practically everything that they now get from the States, it would be an excellent opportunity for Canada to make a vigorous effort to capture all or most of their trade, amounting, as it does, to over \$6,000,000 per annum. As a nation, we want a foreign trade; our friends to the south of us continue to throw every vexatious obstacle in the way of business relations between us and them, and every patriotic Canadian will hail with pleasure such legislation on the part of our Government, backed up by the practical efforts of our merchants and manufacturers as would result in a large and lucrative trade being opened up with the neighbouring islands in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

The Behring Sea Dispute.

The political sensation of the past week has, without doubt, been the application to the Supreme Court of the United States for the writ of prohibition against the condemnation of the British schooner *Sayward*, seized in the Behring Sea. In spite of Mr. Blaine's disclaimer this move appears to have been a total surprise to the American Government; loud complaints have been uttered by the press of that country, while an elaborately worded resolution on the subject has been introduced by Mr. Enloe, of Tennessee, into the House of Representatives. It can be readily understood why such action would excite so much indignation. Lord Salisbury and Mr. Blaine had been exchanging ponderous diplomatic notes on the subject; a sudden and widespread interest had been taken in the naval forces of the two Powers in the Pacific; and all the features of the case promised to develop rapidly into the great event of the year; when lo! in steps Mr. Cooper—owner of a little vessel, the very existence of which most people had forgotten—under the direction and guardianship of Sir John Thompson, and thrusts straight at the legal head of the matter; the stroke may be parried, but in any case the attacking party have all the advantage of a two-fold assault. Should the Supreme Court decide (as may be expected) that in their opinion the legal merits of the case sustain the claims of that nation to which they owe allegiance, matters will be exactly where they were three weeks ago. While there is no question but that the Canadian Government was the prime mover in the affair, the concurrence of the Imperial authorities is not so clearly proven, and, while heartily endorsing the action, many of our people would be pleased to know that the Home authorities had nothing to do with the motion, beyond a passive acquiescence in its being taken; they could recognize in such an opportune proof of the admirable system under which Canada is governed. Had Her Majesty's Government directly instituted or fathered this sudden change in the method of conducting a serious diplomatic campaign against a great nation like the United States, many would think it to be inconsistent with the dignity of the British Empire, and even an unwillingness to maintain their position at any hazard that might arise; it being certainly a marked departure from the regular and accepted lines on which the action of the Empire against a foreign state is conducted. But while this is true as far as Great Britain is concerned, there is nothing derogatory on the part of a country like Canada, occupying the almost independent position she does, endeavouring to obtain a decision of the knotty question from the highest legal tribunal of the country whose action inaugurated the dispute, knowing that such a decision—if favourable to the Canadian view of the case—would practically settle the whole difficulty; if unfavourable, would make matters no more prejudicial to Canadian interests than before. Such is one of the benefits of the system of our government. A kingdom within a kingdom, and unhampered by the tradition and formulæ necessarily of great influence with an older and greater state, we can fight our own battles to the utmost extent of our power, and adopt measures, honourable and fair to us, which might be less so if directly put into practice by the Government of the British Empire.

The Late Mr. Bancroft.

Three names stand out in pre-eminence of all those whom the first year of this century brought into existence—each a representative of a great nation. From England, the name of Lord Macaulay tells of a man known wherever the English language is spoken as a writer of unequalled charm in the narration of history and biographical essay. From Germany, Count Von Moltke is a fitting type of that grand empire which to-day leads the world in the art of war. From America, he whose death we are now called on to deplore, George Bancroft, the historian of the United States. Full of years, and the worthy recipient of all the honour that a republic can be-

stow, he passed away with the knowledge that the work he set himself to accomplish had been faithfully completed, and that throughout all the English-speaking world his name and the result of his labour had received the most honourable distinction. Born at Worcester, Mass., in 1800, his training was such as to fit him for literary success. He graduated from Harvard in 1817, immediately following this up with a course of travel in Europe, where he spent five years, diligently studying men, manners and books. At twenty the degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred on him by the University of Gottingen. At twenty-two he was back in America, and a tutor of Greek in his *alma mater*. Like many other literary young men, he had been writing verses—of a more or less indifferent quality—for some time, and in 1823 he published a volume of these. But his destiny did not lie in poetry. In but a year later, at the age of 24, he had decided on his life-purpose, and began to lay out his great work. A careful plan was drawn up, and then the next ten years were spent in the collection of material for the work and in the preparation of the first volume. It appeared in 1834 and was at once recognized as a classic, combining great historical accuracy with a bright and vigorous style. Its success was ensured from the first, and the young author received congratulations from all parts of the world. During the next eighteen years three more volumes were issued, and in 1852 the fifth* volume commenced the most important epoch of American history—the revolutionary war—and for 23 years that subject engrossed his attention and occupied the last five volumes of his history, it concluding with the peace of 1783. The last volume of the history did not see the light until 1874—the work thus being the outcome of forty years of steady labour and persistent searching after historical truth. In this spirit he had obtained access to the richest treasures of the archives of Great Britain and Europe, to say nothing of the State papers of his own country, and family MS. and correspondence placed freely at his disposal throughout the land. Such a work, drawn from so many original sources, must, in the natural course of things, lay bare the true character and history of many individuals who, having hitherto figured as martyrs and sufferers for their country, were shown to be self-seeking, and false to their vaunted principles. Much public controversy was the result; but in almost every particular the historian was able to substantiate his statements. Although 74 years of age when the tenth volume appeared, his physical and mental powers were so well preserved, and his zeal in historical work so unabated, that he devoted nine more years of his life to the preparation of a "History of the Foundation of the United States," in two volumes, bringing the narrative of the nation's life down to 1789. Since the conclusion of his last two volumes he had contented himself principally with literary work of a miscellaneous character, writing magazine articles, pamphlets, etc., although, within a very few years back, he had contemplated writing another work on the Constitution of the United States, but this idea he afterwards abandoned. During this monumental literary work, extending over nearly two-thirds of a century, he had dutifully served his country as occasion arose. He acted as Collector of Customs at Boston from 1838 to 1841, held successively in the Cabinet the honourable positions of Secretary of the Navy and Acting Secretary of War, and diplomatically represented the United States at London and Berlin. While thus stationed abroad, occupying high and not very laborious positions, he enjoyed unusual facilities for the consultation of documents inaccessible to an ordinary student, and took full advantage of the chances thus given him. In private life he was most popular—affable, kind, and a charming talker. In his death has now removed the most stately and distinguished figure in American literature.

*NOTE—It may be noted that while the historian indicated his fourth volume as being the first of those on the Revolution, the period it covers (1748-63) can scarcely be considered as fitly belonging to that period.