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All we ask of each subscriber of the

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

is that he will procure us **ONE** additional subscriber. This can be easily done, and it will go far towards increasing the efficiency of the journal. We are doing our best to put forth a paper creditable to the country, and our friends should make it a point to assist us. Remember that the Dominion should support at least one illustrated paper. Remember too that the "NEWS" is the only purely literary paper in the country. We invite our friends to examine carefully the present number of the paper and judge for themselves of our efforts in their behalf.

L'OPINION PUBLIQUE.

Such is the title of an illustrated paper, written in French, and published from the offices of this Company. It is now in the seventh year of its existence and has prospered from the beginning, but since the month of January of this year, special efforts have been made to improve it, both pictorially and editorially, and the result has been of the most satisfactory nature. It is in the hands of two or three of the best known and most graceful writers of the Province of Quebec, who have, besides, the inappreciable advantage of assistance from the first pens in Quebec, Ottawa, Montreal, Three Rivers, and elsewhere. The literary movement among the French Canadians has never been so pronounced as it is at present, and most of us have really no idea of the variety, abundance, and general excellence of French Canadian literature. We feel therefore justified in calling attention to this fact among our English-speaking friends throughout the Dominion. The knowledge of French is almost a social and commercial necessity in Canada, while in the circle of polite education it cannot be omitted. Hence the English-speaking people of Canada, who wish to learn the language, or improve their acquaintance with it, cannot do better than subscribe to this beautiful weekly, which will furnish them with choice reading, written in good French, and edited with a single view to the entertainment of the fireside. The form of the paper is a large quarto, the size of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, containing twelve pages of matter—four devoted to illustrations and eight to letterpress. The price of subscription is only \$3.00 in advance. Colleges, convents, academies, schools, and public institutions are particularly invited to give the paper a trial and they may rely upon being treated with due consideration. For further particulars apply to the office of the Burland-Desbarats Lithographic Company, 5 Bleury Street, Montreal.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, April 14th, 1877.

THE PRESERVATION OF LEARNING

A correspondent of an American scientific paper suggests the use of gum copal for the preservation of stereotype plates. The fact that this substance has withstood the elements for such a considerable period, as is indicated by the conditions under which it is found, is ample proof of its durability under ordinary circumstances; and all that would have to be specially guarded against would be its possible exposure to fire. The plan pro-

posed is this: To varnish on both sides the printed sheets to be preserved, and then, by the application of heat and pressure, mould them into solid blocks. This done the blocks might be placed in earthen vessels and covered with melted copal. Thus, like flies in amber, the ideas of the present age might be fossilized and laid away in their integrity for the entertainment or enlightenment of times to come. Buried under public buildings, or other structures likely to remain in some form to challenge the curiosity of explorers—geologists, maybe, of some distant geological era—such fossilized records of our day and generation might be the only clue to the mental and moral condition of a type of humanity that had long since passed to the limbo of forgotten existences.

The *Scientific American* taking up the suggestion makes the following serious proposition:—In a few years, one of the grandest monuments of the age will be erected, in or near New York, the magnificent gift of France in commemoration of the Centennial year. When we are building the tower on which to set the colossal statue of Liberty giving Light to the World, let us make room in the foundation, or elsewhere, for a legacy to intellectual light to remote posterity. Without weakening the structure in the least, spaces might be left for storing our more precious and instructive volumes, duly embalmed in copal or otherwise, to remain undisturbed until the celebration of our tenth centennial year, or longer, in case the preservation of ordinary books and records should be more satisfactory than we have anticipated. This would simply be carrying out in a more scientific and comprehensive way the common practice of depositing newspapers and transient matter in corner stones. A more favorable opportunity for setting a signal example to the civilized world touching this matter is not likely soon to occur than in connection with the light-bearing statue of Liberty; nor a more appropriate opportunity. Let it be done!

DEAD HEADS.

In an article on "Journalism and Journalists" in the *New York Evening Mail*, we find the following:—"It is the people and not the journalists who are 'Dead heads.'" In case anything more serious than stubbing his toe befall a man, he hastens to the nearest newspaper and demands that the editor shall wield the pen and shed ink in his vindication or defence. And if the jaded editor does not with alacrity espouse the cause of his 'patron' he will make an enemy for life. 'Members of the press' are literally hunted down by all sorts of people who have axes to grind. The managers of a public meeting who do not find the reporters at the table suffer stings of disappointment; the judge who sonorously blows his nose after reading his opinion, looks anxiously for the stenographers; the preacher who descants upon some special subject loses spirit if the representatives of the press are not there; even the burglar on the way to the State prison covets a talk with the 'newspaper man.' Yet the outside barbarian thinks all newspaper men are 'dead heads,' and envies them the fine times they have in the way of free dinners and free tickets to all manner of shows. There never was a greater mistake. People do not seem to realize that, on the part of the journalist, it is merely a matter of business; that the reporter or editor goes to these places, so attractive to the outsider, much as the horse goes to the plough—because he must do so. We venture to say that four-fifths of the entertainments are to journalists intolerable bores. The press is the victim of the public's rapacious and unceasing demand for services without pay. Let us have the boot on the right leg.

Owing to unusual pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over a mass of matter—editorial and other.

EPHEMERIDES.

In the biographical memoir which we lately published, accompanying a portrait of the late Rev. William Smart, an account was given of a remarkable dream which that lamented clergyman once had. A gentleman of high standing in Ottawa writes thus to the editor concerning this dream:

"While lecturing recently in a neighbouring town I had occasion to quote your account; and endeavoured to explain the dream on scientific principles. At the close of the lecture, I was informed by a gentleman who resided beside Mr. Smart for many years, that Mr. Smart spent the early years of his life in the very shadow of the old Bailey. I think this fact will explain all that appeared wonderful about the dream. The curious in such matters will find the subject discussed fully in Carpenter's Mental Physiology."

An exchange says: "The question is very often asked: What is the difference between a registered letter and any other? The difference is that a registered letter does not go in the mail proper. It passes from hand to hand outside of the mail pouches, every person through whose hands it passes being required to sign a receipt for it on receiving it, and secure a receipt for it on passing it over to the next transit. The person holding the last receipt is thus always able to show who is accountable for its loss. The responsibility rests upon the man who has signed a receipt for the registered package and who is not able to produce the package or a receipt from somebody else for it. The safest way to send money is by money order. Where it does not go to a money-order office it should always be sent in a registered package. Money ought not to be sent in an ordinary letter under any circumstances. There is no possible way of 'tracking' such a letter."

The Americans must have a sensation every week. Blue glass has had its day and now is the turn of the telephone. Perhaps my readers would like to hear all about this new curiosity. The following is written *in parvo*:

The telephone in its present form consists of a powerful compound, permanent magnet, to the two poles of which are attached ordinary telegraph coils of insulated wire. In front of the poles, surrounded by these coils of wire, is placed a diaphragm of iron. A mouth-piece to converge the sound upon this diaphragm substantially completes the arrangement. The motion of steel or iron in front of the poles of a magnet creates a current of electricity in coils surrounding the poles of the magnet, and the duration of this current of electricity coincides with the duration of the motion of the steel or iron moved or vibrated in the proximity of the magnet. When the human voice causes the diaphragm to vibrate, electrical undulations are induced in the coils envolving the magnets precisely analogous to the undulations of the air produced by that voice. These coils are connected with the line wire, which may be of any length, provided the insulation be good. The undulations which are induced in these coils travel through the line wire, and, passing through the coils of an instrument of precisely similar construction at the distant station, are again resolved into air undulations by the diaphragm of this instrument.

A study of the pedigree of many words which are in daily use would prove more fascinating than any other kind of mental recreation. Trench, in his little work on the "Study of Words," has done much to cultivate the taste for this kind of investigation; but he made only a beginning. The field is inexhaustible. "Jet" derives its name from the Gagates, a river of Lycia, where was found the black stones which the French call gagate, or jaet, which we abbreviate into jet.

Pamphylia, a Greek lady who compiled a history of the world in thirty-five little books, has given her name to the "pamphlet."

"Punch and Judy" are the relics of an ancient mystery play, in which the actors were Pontius Pilate and Judas Iscariot.

"Dollar" is from the German thaler, which is derived from Thal, the Valley of Joachim, in Bohemia, where the silver works situated there make this coin.

"Bigot" is from Visigoth, in which the fierce and intolerant Arianism of the Visigoth conqueror of Spain has been handed down to infamy.

"Humbag" is from Hamburg; "a piece of Hamburg news," was in Germany a proverbial expression for false rumors.

"Exhort" and "yeast" are from the same root, which signified something boiling or overflowing.

"Gas" and "gust" have the same parentage.

"Blue Jeans Williams" probably does not know that the fabric from which he gets his name was originally made by Moors, at Jean, in Spain.

"Gauze" derives its name from Gaza, where it was first made.

Damask silk was first made at Damascus.

The word "panic" has a curious origin. According to Herodotus, the god Pan was supposed to have assisted the Greeks at the battle of Marathon, 490 B. C., striking such a terror into the Persian host that they fled to their ships in perfect dismay. From that time the Greek word *panikon* was used to describe unreasonable or sudden and over-powering fear.

"Tabby cat" is all unconscious that her name is derived from Atab, a famous street in Bagdad, inhabited by the manufacturers of the silken stuffs called Atabi, our taffety; the wavy markings of the watered silk resembling pussy's coat.

"Old Scratch" is the demon Skratti, who still survives in the superstitions of Northern Europe.

"Old Nick" is none other than Nirk, the dangerous water-demon of Scandinavian legend.

In the phrase "Deuce take it" the deity Tiw still continues to be invoked. In his book, "De Civitate Dei," Augustine speaks of "quosdam demones ducios Galli nuncupant."

The lemon takes its name from the city of Lima.

Loadstone is a corrupt translation of *Lydium lapis*, the stone of Lydia.

The word money reminds us that the coinage of the Romans was struck at the temple of Juno Moneta, the goddess of counsel.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

MUNICIPAL ECONOMY.—The city of Montreal is grievously burdened with taxes and appropriations, and it is the intention of the present Council to inaugurate an era of reform. The new Mayor seems to have entered heartily into the project, as we stated last week, and it is to be hoped that he will persevere.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, KINGSTON.—This fine old structure was built in 1825, at a cost of £14,000, raised, according to the record upon the tablet of its porch, partly by a sale of church lands, by contributions from the congregation and by a Government grant obtained through the intervention of Sir Peregrine Maitland, the Governor of the Province. In 1840, it was enlarged to its present dimensions by the liberality of the then Rector (Ven. Archaieacon Stewart) and his assistant-minister (Rev. Mr. Herchmer,) who gave each the magnificent sum of £1,000 for the purpose. A number of memorial tablets, which adorn the walls of the interior, record the names of numerous military officers and civilians whose ashes repose either beneath the building, or in the adjacent ground. Among the number is one to the memory of the late Governor General, Lord Sydenham, whose bones lie beneath the Cathedral floor. The church is identified with the early history of Ontario; the first St. George's (built of wood) and which stood on an adjoining block, having been the church in which was read and proclaimed the Act constituting the Province of Upper Canada. The present Rector is the Very Rev. Dean Lyster, who is assisted in his spiritual labors by the Rev. Henry Wilson. The congregation is large and composed of the leading society of Kingston, who have lately had the whole church restored at much expense. The interior has been resetted throughout, and painted—the massive pillars being imitation marble; while the altar is decorated in white, color, and gilt, which gives the old building quite a modern finish. A magnificent organ—one of the largest in the Dominion—has been placed in the gallery. The steeple clock, which had been silent for a long time, now chimes the passing hours. The views are taken from photographs by Mr. J. J. Abbott, of Kingston.

THE LATE REV. ARCHIE HENDERSON, M.A.—The Rev. Mr. Henderson, senior minister of the Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew's, Que., died on the 19th of January, 1877. The following sketch of his life and character is taken chiefly from the *Montreal Witness* and the *Argenteuil Advertiser*. He was born at Doune, near Stirling, Scotland, in the year 1783; attended the Grammar School of the latter place under Dr. Doig, graduated at St. Andrew's University, and after passing through the theological class of the ancient Dr. Lawson, at Selkirk, was licensed as a preacher in connection with the associate Synod. He was settled as minister in Carlisle, England, in 1810, and remained there till 1818, when he came to this country, having received an appointment from the British Government, as Presbyterian minister of the County of Argenteuil, with a salary of £100 stg. per annum, which he enjoyed to the last, but which, of course, dies with him. He settled in the village of St. Andrew's, then in its infancy, and resided there ever after, preaching the Gospel, and administering the ordinances of the church, with unwearied zeal, both there and in Lachute and Chatham, till ministers were settled in those places; gaining and retaining to the end of his life the unfeigned respect of the entire community, by his learning and ability, by his high-toned character and his ministerial faithfulness. In the year 1860, his failing sight rendered it necessary that he should obtain assistance in his work, and Mr. Paterson was ordained as colleague minister. After that, Mr. Henderson only preached occasionally, in the absence of his colleague. He continued, however, to do so till within a few months of his death, the last time he occupied the pulpit being in June last, and with no apparently falling off in mental power, and very little even in voice. But the strong man was bowing down. He gave an impressive and affectionate "Table Address" at the communion on the 3rd of December, and attended church for the last time on the 24th. He complained much of the cold, although it was not an unusually severe day, and began at once to fail. Apprehensive of the issue, although not without hope of partial recovery, he proceeded to set his affairs in order with the calmness of one who had the great concern settled long ago. The end of his long pilgrimage came somewhat