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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

Montreal, Saturday, May 12th, 1877.

THE GREAT MONTREAL FIRE.

It is a source of pride to be able to say that Montreal is disposed to do its whole duty towards the heroic men who lost their lives at the late fire. We are called upon, like all our fellow editors, to express our views on the subject, but the sentiments of His Lordship the Metropolitan, at the public meeting of last Saturday, being so much better than anything we could write, and representing as they do the general feeling so eloquently, we cannot do better than to summarize them here. His Lordship declared that the accident which had caused so much sorrow and affliction, was, as many such calamities, one of those cases in which good may result from evil if proper attention be paid to the lesson. Many things had been developed by it which it would be wrong if we paid no attention to. He would not allude to the bad and faulty buildings that had been erected and still were in process of construction, but would pass on to what the accident had developed in the men who met their death at duty's post—their devotion, their noble character, and all that went to make them the men they were. The citizens had come to look upon the firemen as men of iron. They must henceforth look upon them as men of steel—nay, men rather of pure gold. They had been looked upon as men of indomitable courage—of stolid, unflinching endurance. Now, they must be looked upon as men of a high sense of duty, noble and generous in their patriotism, unswerving and loyal in their character. He felt that their conduct—the conduct of those who had been wounded and survived as well as those who had died—had been as brave after the accident as during the progress of the fire when they had unhesitatingly rushed to the rescue of their fellow creatures, and so doing died. He had heard of their heroism in times gone by which had made them face danger and death to save the property and people of Montreal. But he was aware, personally, of what their conduct had been in hospital in the scenes he had there witnessed. And he had reason to thank God with all his heart for that institution. If in its memorable history it had never done any good before, it had, in the calamity they were met to discuss,

done that which was worth all the time and expense previously devoted to it. The brave fellows conveyed there have been attended with the most unremitting care, their hurts and bruises dressed with the utmost tenderness. He had both seen and heard of the conduct of these men in hospital—of their patient endurance, their humble submission to the affliction under which they suffered, their fortitude in pain, and their great gratitude to those who, having been wounded, had ministered to their wants. He also could say that those who had been called away were keenly alive to their spiritual duty, and gave abundant evidence of their faith in God and trust in His mercy. Proud of our firemen before the recent calamity, respecting them at all times, their characters have proved such that Montreal had risen an hundred-fold in the estimation of every person. Knowing and feeling this himself, and having heard it expressed on all sides, His Lordship was certain that he expressed a universal desire in hoping that something would be done to develop the sympathy experienced in the most practical manner, with a view to supporting the widows and orphans of the killed, and in any other manner deemed necessary. He was not aware of the nature of the financial condition of the bereaved relatives of the firemen, but many of them must surely have been dependent upon the bread-winner, now no more, and the very least the citizens could do now in appreciation of the sacrifice of these brave men who died for our lives and property, is to come forward by private as well as public subscriptions, and endeavor to supply the places, so far as it can be done, of those who are now with their Maker—come forward and show in the most practical manner possible that we appreciate the services of those men whose last act of duty was done on the perilous occasion on which they laid down their lives. These noble sentiments were endorsed by the following resolutions, which we reproduce in order that they may be widely known: That this meeting desires to express the earnest sympathy with the bereaved families of the members of the Fire Brigade who lost their lives in the brave performance of their duty, at the lamentable fire which occurred on the morning of Sunday, the 29th of April, and recognizes the claim which they have upon the substantial aid of the citizens generally. That as the most practical method of extending assistance to the families of the deceased firemen, it is the opinion of this meeting that the Corporation should make a liberal grant towards the provision to be made for them, as well as for the family of Mr. LYNCH, the foreman of the Water Works, who lost his life in the performance of his duty on the same occasion. That this meeting expresses its satisfaction at the manifestations of practical sympathy already made by the different insurance companies, by the members of the Corn Exchange, and by other citizens, in their contributions towards the fund in aid of the families of the deceased firemen, and is of opinion that an effort should be made to supplement any grant which the Corporation may make by private subscriptions. That a committee of nine be appointed whose duty it shall be to wait upon the Corporation to urge upon them the making of a grant in accordance with the foregoing resolutions, and to receive any private subscriptions that may be needed for the same purpose. That this meeting cannot separate without expressing its sympathy with the families of citizens who lost their lives on the occasion of the recent fire, and that the committee just appointed be requested to make inquiry as to the position of the families of the deceased, with a view of extending to them such assistance as may be necessary. That this meeting desires to express its strong conviction that the by-law relating to the erection and inspection of buildings within the city limits recently enacted should be rigidly enforced, and that no consideration be permitted to interfere with that enforcement.

MONEY IN LITTLE THINGS.

There are many things beside wheat, corn and potatoes which will bring money to the farmer. We were quite surprised, the other day, to notice at a station just over the lines, a quantity of barrels of common moss, called "Princess Pine." This was to be forwarded to New York; it was sold at three dollars per barrel, and was used by florists in making bouquets and floral decorations. An acre of such land would yield greater returns with no cultivation whatever, than an acre of wheat upon which ten days labor had been expended. From one station in New Hampshire, we were informed several thousand barrels had been forwarded. No country furnishes more of this moss, or evergreen, than Canada, and in the country where there are large families, this could be gathered and sent to town. The price averages 7 to 8 cents per pound, and if made in wreaths for Christmas decorations is sold at 5 cents per yard. All people in towns like to surround themselves with something to remind them of the country. How eagerly would moss and wild flowers be purchased if brought to town in spring. A few years since, a German procured from Isle Jesus a caleche load of Pitcher Plant which realized in Germany \$300. Fern roots, with which our woods abound, meet with ready sale in towns. Dried grasses and flowers now form quite an important trade. One family of young ladies in a country village have become quite famous for dried flowers and grasses. Then again all kinds of fungus growths are coming into use and will meet with ready sale. The merelle dried can be sent to New York or Paris, where it will bring \$4.00 per pound. We have pointed out a few things by which our country readers can gain money outside of the farm. We have no doubt many things will suggest themselves, and once a trade is commenced it will greatly increase. We know of one habitant who sends about 20 barrels of moss a year to one florist, for which he receives \$300 per barrel. There are fern collectors in New England whose sole business is to collect and dry ferns. Several farms are engaged in this trade which is very profitable.

THE BOATING SEASON.

There is a pretty general concurrence among experienced people that "open boats are unsafe" and if they were to give the grounds of their opinion, they might add, because when freighted with people, light open boats are top-heavy, having the centre of gravity raised too high; because, in addition to such defective adjustment, they are often overloaded in proportion to their draft of water, and because, when managed by occasional pleasure-seekers, ignorance comes in to add to the other dangers.

In the late lamentable accident in Montreal, from the falling of a wall, the first step should have been to have overhauled the Building Inspector. In the case of boats we have no inspector, and there is the more need that every one should have an inkling of the truth affecting the question.

There can be no doubt whatever that open boats for sails or oars ought to receive additional stability by fixed ballast. This ballast should be cast in iron, exactly to fit the inside of the boat, and a part of the ballast might be placed below the keel. In addition to this, the weight to be carried by a pleasure boat should be regulated on the Plimsoll principle by a "load-line" painted on the outside to indicate how much she will bear. But all will be unavailing if there be not in those on board sufficient promptness of mind and control of muscle to keep the boat in trim, handiness with the oars and canvass, and skill and quickness with the helm, with some perception of wind and currents and the course of other vessels; but it is seldom we find these qualities in casual amateurs, who, nevertheless, with the usual confidence of Canadians, do not often take on board a skipper to direct

matters. And so, no season passes by without a painful record of what are called "accidents while boating." The neglect of the rule "never to stand up in a boat" also conduces to the lamentable results we once more bring before our readers.

THOMAS CARLYLE has published a letter in the *Times*, on the conflict between Russia and Turkey, which produced a marked sensation. CARLYLE thinks the present policy of England is drifting the nation warwards. He most emphatically declares no British interest whatever needs protecting, except the Suez route. He speaks of the ignominy of England in being connected with Turkey at all, and asserts that the only hope for the Turks lies in the Russians angering them and gradually drilling them into the knowledge and experience fitting them to govern themselves. CARLYLE adds that the newspaper outcry against the part taken by Russia proceeds from ignorance, egotism and paltry national jealousy, which is no more respectable than the howlings of Bedlam. He says a rumour prevails that DISRAELI, despite the Queen's neutrality proclamation, intends to send the English fleet to the Baltic, or do some other feat which shall compel Russia to declare war against England. Latterly the rumour has shifted from the Baltic, and become still more sinister on the eastern side of the scene, where a feat is contemplated that will force, not Russia only, but all Europe to declare war against us. This latter he says he has come to know as an indisputable fact. He calls the attention of the friends of their country to his statements, lest in a few weeks the maddest thing that the British Government could do should be done, and all Europe be in war.

TRANS-VAAL has been annexed to the British Empire, and the British flag hoisted at Pretoria. Mr. SHERSTONE informed President BURGESS that he could wait no longer, and proclaimed the Trans-Vaal British territory on April the 12th. President BURGESS has issued a protest against annexation, but at the same time counselled peaceable submission. Messrs. JOHNSON and PAUL KRUGER, two leading inhabitants, will proceed to Europe and the United States to protest against annexation to powers who have recognized the Republic. A body of British troops entered Trans-Vaal. Some rioting is thought likely, but armed resistance is impossible.

A correspondent, noticing our request for suggestions as to the forthcoming Caxtonian Exhibition, writes that he thinks it might be well combined with the Provincial Educational Exhibition promised by the Superintendent of Education in his late excellent circular. He also suggests that both be held at Sherbrooke at the time of the Provincial Convention of Teachers. The only objection to this, he adds, is that Montreal people will aid nothing that goes on outside the Island City. This is surely a needless attack upon our liberality of sentiment. The Caxtonian Committee might take both suggestions into consideration.

THE Cabinet is thoroughly united about the protection of British interests, but is divided about what those interests are, and how far English communications with India will be imperilled by the Russian advance in Asia.

THE STORY OF A NIGHTCAP.—Doctor Barney who wrote the celebrated anagram on Lord Nelson after his victory of the Nile—"Honor est à Nilo" (Horatio Nelson)—was shortly afterwards on a visit to his lordship. He had omitted to provide himself with a nightcap, and borrowed one from his host. As his custom was, he sat down to study before retiring to rest, and was shortly afterwards alarmed by the nightcap catching fire from his candle. He collected the burnt remains, and returned them to Lord Nelson with the following lines—

Take your nightcap again, my good lord I desire—
I would not detain it a minute.
What belongs to a Nelson, whenever there's fire,
Is sure to be instantly in it.