

# THE QUEBEC ARGUS.

We watch o'er all—and note the things we see.

[VOL. I.]

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## THE QUEBEC ARGUS.

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### CONDITIONS.

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### For the Quebec Argus.

#### TO FLORANTHE.

(On hearing her sing.)

I used to dream in boyish years  
Of angels, whose tones at evening  
Seem'd wildly flung from those bright spheres  
Beyond the golden gates of heaven.

And lingering on the moonlit hill,  
I'd watch for hours the hylow'd ay,  
Till it wou'd almost seem to steal  
My very soul from earth away.

But time a deepening gl'ow had cast  
O'er dreams of youth, and care and pain  
Had wren all me away of the past,  
And joys which ne'er can bloom again.

Yet, when I heard thy voice last night,  
In all its sweet seducing power,  
I felt that blissful wail delight  
Which used to mark my childhood's hour.

And then I fondly wou'd to see  
O'er all its simple joys and then  
In fearful thought I seem'd to see  
Me in my infant years again.

Oh! sing, dear girl—my soul could well  
Forever on that song of thine,  
Whom phantoms come so plainly still  
Of feelings wrong and ay-like mine.

**A Juvenile Poet.**—She took her daily walk in the garden, deprecating in her mind because she had a "beautiful thought" in her head. And this picture may be filled up by the recollection of her brother, who has known her to be pacing up and down the time-walk for hours in this way; sometimes talking alone, sometimes repeating verses, of one in silent thought; the result of all which exercises would be at night, a long story, or an account of her intended travels, in which she, more especially, had to live. "I had to undergo the account of her island"—that is, of what she would do as another Robinson Crusoe, or some fairytale, or scenes of her own composition, or perhaps the battle scene from the "Life of the Duke" for the whole of that night, which she knew by heart.—*Life and Literary Remains of L. E. L.*

Some very curious relics of antiquity have been recently dug up in a field in the possession of J. T. Gremo, Esq. near Winchester. They consist of two antique jugs and a curious drinking cup, of great antiquity, and in a perfect state. The drinking cup, is evidently of Roman manufacture, and is also, probably the jars.

### Montreal Correspondence of the Quebec Gazette.

Montreal, 21st November, 1841.

I send you an Extra of the Boston Daily Mail announcing the arrival of the *Caledonia*, at Boston, on Friday last.

The Liverpool Mail of the 4th, which I have had an opportunity of perusing, states that the *Slyx*, with His Excellency Sir Charles Bagot on board, out back to Portsmouth on the 1st instant, in consequence of having carried away her rudder, and met with other injury to her machinery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The same paper mentions that His Excellency was to sail for Halifax, the second time, in H. M. ship *Illustration*.

No political news of consequence has transpired, if we except a movement of the French troops to the Spanish frontier, and of a French squadron to the Spanish coast, to maintain, it is said, Spanish Spain, by reprisals, the interference of France in the recent insurrection.

The steamship from Boston on the 16th ult., arrived at Liverpool on the 20th. The news of Mr. Leo's arrival had the effect of bringing down American cotton, one-eighth per lb., the increased confidence in the continuance of peace causing such an additional demand in the market.

The weather in England had been unfavourable to the securing of the late crops, however the late on wheat continued to advance, and at latest prices was 28s. 4d. on flour, 14s. 10d.

There had been no later news from China, in the absence of which the Tea market remained steady, at former rates.

At Liverpool on the 3d, Canada Flour was quoted at 27s. 6d. a 28s. 3d. Pot Ashes at 30s. 6d. a 31s. and Peas at 31s. 6d. a 32s.

Under the head of Timber Trade. Quoted red pine is put at 10 1/2 to 11 1/2 yellow, 1s 3/4 to 1s 4 1/4; Oak, 2s 3d. Elm, 1s 2d. to 1s 3d.; Ash, 1s 2d. to 1s 3d.; Deals, per standard, 1st quality, none; Do. 2d do. 11s. a 12s. Do. 3d do. 10s. a 11s.; Pine Staves, 23s. a 24s.; Pines, 12s. a 13s.

Under date of London, 30th Nov. J. P. M. Co. sells for money and account were 88 1/2.

Boston, Friday, Nov. 9th.—I tell to the surprise of every body connected with the press, the brilliant and well-tried Steamship *Caledonia*, Capt. E. G. Litt, was telegraphed about half past four o'clock this afternoon, and arrived at the Cunard wharf about 7. Our vigilant news collectors were on hand, as usual, and boarded the ship in the stream. The *Caledonia* had rather a rough passage, but Capt. Litt held her to the work with great power, and nobly did the perform her duty. She was only 14 days on the passage, including the stoppage at Halifax.

On the 2nd of November, all was bustle in the palace, preparing for the approaching accouchement of Her Majesty. Sir Robert Peel's horses were harnessed, all ready to copy the intelligence to town, if any thing should happen, to inform all Her Majesty's subjects, if it should be another prince or a Prince of Wales.

Another violent earthquake has been felt at the Island of Terceira.

The news of the acquittal of Mr. Leo had reached England, and appeared to create a good deal of satisfaction.

The town of Dover had suffered severely from the late gales. Nearly the entire beach had been carried away, and it being remained to prevent the sea washing against that vast and stupendous cliff which Shakespeare has immortalized; and even here also the raging surf seemed fully bent upon destruction. A large quantity of several thousand tons weight, fell into the sea on Sunday last, near the mouth of the railway tunnel, and many other huge masses might be seen at a distance tottering over an excavated base.

Twenty-two villages have been destroyed in Egypt by the overflowing of the Nile.

About eleven o'clock on the night of the 30th, the eastern part of the metropolis was thrown into utter consternation by a dreadful fire breaking out in

the ancient Tower of London. It is said to have originated in the house of the Paymaster Sergeant. A most extensive fraudulent issue of forged Exchequer Bills, to a very large amount, recently discovered, has created a very great sensation in the public mind, and occupied the attention of the money and commercial world. The put-impacher, is Mr. J. E. Brown Smith, son of a clergyman, and nephew of the celebrated Sir Sidney Smith.

The rebellion in Spain had been effectually put down, notwithstanding that its ramifications had proved more extensive than was at first supposed. A decree of amnesty had been issued by the government at Madrid, which embraced an exception of the most prominent rebels therein named—and it was supposed that affairs would now go on quite smoothly.

The grand humbug first started by the London Morning Chronicle, about Hunters' Lodges in the United States, has been copied into the papers throughout the United Kingdom, and appeared to create quite a sensation.

War with the U. States they seemed to consider inevitable, and some of them very desirable. We see, however, no evidence that the British government had taken any steps in the matter.

### From the Montreal Transcript.

#### EXPECTANCIES.

The long delay of the *Slyx* (a poor stick at sailing) has kept a host of expectant, would-be official, in a state of torturing suspense, in the serious injury of their health and spirits. There are in the first place, the learned gentlemen, who would condescend to serve the public as District Judges at the small compensation of from £300 to £500 a year. These *clerics of Theosis* have doubtless been practising on high stools in their back offices, a dignified judicial mien, fancying themselves already Mansfields or Eldons; dreaming of the welcome sounds of "your Honour," or "may it please the Court," from the lips of their now rival brethren, with the alluring prospect before them of soon teaching, and adorning a seat on the King's Bench, with a three cornered hat, and a cool thousand a year for the little innocent gratifications of paternal affection or of a literary taste. We can assure them that the prospects to moderate the hotness of their haste, lest it may turn their health; and besides, let them remember that the Proclamation dividing the Province into Districts, must issue within a short fortnight, and in a month more the whole machinery of our District Courts be put into motion, the Judges appointed, and the long agony over.

There is in the second place, or rather we should say in the first place, (as to pay,) the office of Registrar of Montreal. A nice, genteel situation, not so responsible nor so laborious as that of an itinerant Justice, and then the pay—quite an object in a Province like this—does not equal to £4000 the first year, and a £1000 ever after, a sum which would enable one to keep two books, and do the thing in leisure style. How many anxious eyes has been turned for months back to this snug post! How many a reverend meditation begged for! A host of testimonials collected! What petitions presented, that it may please His Excellency to carry into effect the intentions of His Excellency's illustrious predecessor, or of his late illustrious predecessor's gallant predecessor, and that His Excellency would thus reward the important services of the said Petitioners during two unnatural and wicked rebellions, or during the no less unnatural and dangerous, though somewhat less bloody Election combats.

And in the next place, there are the Registry Offices in the County, just the very thing for gentlemen of moderate abilities and quiet habits. Not that they will make a man's fortune,—as the expectant calculate and yawn with a sigh,—but they will enable one to get a deputy, and spend his winters in idleness. Lots of poor devils would do the drudgery for £50 a year, and find themselves; and if any thing better turned up, why we should be in the way of it. And besides, one can wear out one's old clothes among the habitation—and fish or hunt on the fine days, and read Blackwood and Bentley on the foul, not so bad a birth on the whole; although, if I chose, I could make a great deal more by my profession. But I always liked to have something sure, coming in, &c. &c. Thus has argued many and many a worthy man, for some months back. All he wants, he says, is just that the Solicitor General, or the Honorable the Mayor, or the Member for the County of South So, would speak a word to Sir Charles. If my Lord Sydenham had lived, or Mr. Bluff had been here, he would have been sure of a birth, in fact it was promised him? We should like to have a history of all the rejected petitions.

But we had forgot another little birth, not so bad a one either, worth we believe, about seven hundred a year—the new post of Inspector of Common Schools, Chief Commissioner of Education, or some such name as that. Every body can expect that birth, but still hundreds are looking and scores hoping for it. Not that they think themselves Parsons or Lancasters; in fact they admit that they have forgotten the little Latin they ever knew before they came to Canada, and as on acquaintance with systems of Education—they remember they did visit a school house one afternoon some ten years ago, on an examination day. But then the seven hundred a year! Quite an object! And such a paymaster! And not so hard work either, just to ride about the country, making the tour once a year,

and as for making Reports and all stuff of that kind, one can always get plenty ready made in Connecticut or New York! And besides it's so respectable a situation!! so important to the rising generation!! so much wanted in Canada to make it 'in fact, as well as in name, a British Province!!'

Go a head, Gentlemen expectants, Judges, Registrars, and Education Commissioners—don't forget to attend the Levee, and if you can spare a trifle to go to Quebec to meet His Excellency so much the better. The fare is only ten shillings down, and perhaps you may get a free passage up, or some friend may advance the needful on the strength of your expectations. Faint heart never got a good birth in Canada, so don't stick at trifles, and may you have a safe deliverance!

## THE QUEBEC ARGUS.

QUEBEC, 24th NOVEMBER 1841.

The principal items of the news brought by the *Caledonia* will be found in our columns.

We regret to hear of the dreadful fire in the Tower of London, the destruction of which has been great, and of the great loss sustained in consequence, said to be to the extent of a million sterling. A vast number of banners, trophies, &c., the spoils of bygone and glorious victories, and various and countless mementoes bearing a strong national interest, have been destroyed—a loss almost to be more deeply regretted, than that more immediately and intrinsically felt in the destruction of a large quantity of arms and accoutrements, and other similar property.

It appears that we may not expect the arrival of our new Governor General till towards the end of December, when we may look for him to come in with the other good things attendant on the Christmas holidays.

**The Gazette, with its old game of humbug.**—The paragraph so elaborately brought forth by the Gazette of Monday, respecting the comparative tolls to be exacted on double and single horse sleighs, and the curious introduction therein of a story about the "Bostonian" roasting potatoes along the St. Ely road side, illustrating, in somewhat of an eccentric style, truly, the subject in hand, bore so strong a similitude to the ancient and revered history of a rock and a bull, that we were dubious of its real intent or meaning, and in this uncertainty waved our primary purpose of "dishing up in a hash" the aforesaid paragraph to our readers. We have since been rather confirmed in this conservative leniency of feeling towards our friend of the Gazette, as we perceive, in the Mercury of last night, a kind of side rap at him from the Editor, and also a smart and straightforward acer from a tri-stated correspondent. Fair play is an honorable dealing prized even by the men of the press; and two to one we think us enough, in all conscience, to settle the affair; so we have even made up our minds to let them fight it out among themselves and in their own fashion. On a second thought, however, we feel disposed to add a fractional item of remark upon the Gazette's paragraph, omitted by the Mercury's correspondent, and that is leaving it for the Sage of the former paper to depict a better, had those same "Bostonians" (whose gentle form of blockade he touched upon so tenderly, feelingly, and apparently) succeeded by chance in the enterprise which brought them into the Province—does he really suppose, we beg to repeat, that under such pleasant and accommodating masters the driving of two horse sleighs would not have been entered, ay, a half century ago. Yes, Brother Jonathan would have speedily and effectually met the wretched manufacturer, along with numerous other similar and precious systems, and taught folks the use of a "Span"—even had he done so at the end of a cowhide; and, which just we must mistake the "real grit" of those Yankees, they would not have also used freely and effectually to being about sundry and dower other ameliorations, the very proposal of which even at this late day, in seeming (only, we believe) seems to sadly afflict the impaired distention of the Quebec Gazette.

**Havins' Plan of the Naval and Military operations before Quebec.**—We propose to devote a few pages, at our first leisure, to notice this work; and which, from a recent prolonged and close inspection of it, we are disposed now to do most favourably, from a conviction of its high merits both in conception and execution. Perhaps, it would be as well to premise, for the information of such of our readers as are unacquainted with the prospect detailing the character of this publication, that its principal features are comprised in a chart or plan of a large size, say about two feet by three, showing the operations before and around Quebec, by land and water during the memorable campaign of 1759; and which terminated so successfully for Britain with the glorious victory on the Plains of Abraham, (shared, however, with the death of the brave Wolfe) and the final conquest of the country.

The localities of the different positions of the army on land, and the stations of the attacking ships of war in the bay and river, are faithfully and clearly given. A chart of the particular position of the se-