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The "Horrible" in Journalism.

The prominence given to "horribles" in the literature of to-day is a feature that most sober-minded men and women would gladly see removed. There is not a single redeeming point in the custom. The feeling of rest and renewed strength, coupled with that sense of general good-will to all with which most people rise in the morning, often receives a rude shock when the daily paper gives startling prominence to details of aggravated cruelty to man or beast, to accidents with unusually painful accompaniments, or to murders and suicides which are blood-curdling in the painful minuteness given to the circumstances of their committal. To men such particulars are more or less brutalizing; to women they are, or should be, revolting, and at times are positively dangerous; while to children they forcibly present such cruel facts and suggest such gross ideas that if their medium were in any other guise than the daily paper it would be promptly thrown into the fire. The abuse is not a new one; it is false to consider it a product of civilization. The news journal of the last century—in fact, the general literature of that period—was imbued with details of the class complained of to a much greater degree than at present. Witness the almost daily record of hanging and decapitation that can be noted in old periodicals, and of the infliction of cruel and prolonged torture. But whatever features of the past may now be worthy of emulation, journalistic literature is certainly not one. The evil is wide-spread, but not the less an evil. It is especially noticeable in second rate American papers; and a comparatively recent weekly journal, which claims for itself the highest rank in the illustrated line, devotes a large portion of its pages to articles of this objectionable class, making them especially attractive by means of the excellence of its mechanical work. The keen competition now-a-days rendered necessary in our newspapers, has doubtless much to do with the continuance of this feature; but should a firm stand be taken by any prominent ones towards limiting or omitting the objectionable details, it is altogether probable that such would be those most highly prized in the circle of home life.

The Late Earl Granville.

A distinguished and faithful servant of the Crown has passed away in the person of the EARL OF GRANVILLE. Born in 1815, he had attained a ripe age; and at a time when most men are either unfit or unwilling to undertake onerous public duties, he was one of the prominent figures in Imperial politics. He was educated at Eton and Oxford, whence he graduated in 1834, and went into the diplomatic service as attaché to the British Embassy at Paris. Two years later he entered Parliament, and in a short time displayed such

unusual ability that he was appointed Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by VISCOUNT MELBOURNE, the then Premier. In 1848 he became vice-president of the Board of Trade, and three years later succeeded to the responsible position of Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Other important offices were filled by him, and in 1855 he became the Ministerial leader in the House of Lords. He was always a consistent Liberal and a strong supporter of MR. GLADSTONE; hence, each administration conducted by that statesman saw EARL GRANVILLE in a prominent position in the Cabinet. From 1870 to 1874, and from 1880 to 1885 he was Secretary of Foreign Affairs. His last régime cannot be called a successful one, as his management of the negotiations with Russia in the Afghanistan boundary question, and with Germany on the division of New Guinea was severely criticised, the Australians especially finding fault with his practical abandonment to Germany of so much of the neighbouring island. Since the defeat of the Liberal administration EARL GRANVILLE has not had much political notoriety, but has steadily maintained a warm interest in educational and public matters. He was Chancellor of the University of London, and will be much missed by that institution. In his death has disappeared one of the few remaining landmarks of the English political life of half a century ago.

The Archives Report for 1890.

Comparatively few of our people are aware of the vast collection of historical documents in the vaults of the Archives at Ottawa, and of their inestimable value to the student of our annals. Twenty years ago they existed only in scattered and inaccessible places; to-day, largely by the energy of MR. DOUGLAS BRYMNER and his staff, they are collected and well indexed, and available for public use. The annual reports have been anything but the dry compilation of figures, which characterize most Blue Books; they are ably-written and interesting memoranda of the work and collections of the year, often of considerable length, and usually conveying an admirable summary of the documentary history of a certain period, supplemented by a great number of transcriptions of papers, and digests of correspondence and records extending over a number of years. The recently-issued Report of 1890 shows no falling off in any way from its predecessors. The period to which most attention is given is an extremely important one, viz., from 1760 to 1791—the years during which the political foundation of Canada was laid, and which witnessed vast changes in North America. To those who look on historical investigation as so much wasted time, the events summarized in this report teach an important lesson, inasmuch as the system on which our national life now is conducted, and which affects personal liberty, personal advantages, and even expense, took their origin in the period mentioned, and the details of their adoption form a valuable precedent for present and future legislation—giving an opportunity to avoid similar errors. A feature of special interest in the volume is that relating to the American invasion of Canada in 1775, and the temper of the Canadians during that trying time. Much mention is made of efforts made by the rebels to poison the minds of the *habitants* against KING GEORGE; and an interesting fact stated is that a large party of the American rebels would have been cut off at Isle-aux-Noix by a detachment of the 26th Regiment but for information given by an infamous scoundrel called BINDON, "a merchant" of Montreal. Accounts of the rise and progress of the fur trade and of the beginnings of our canal system are fully given, and altogether the Report is one of extreme interest, and reflects great credit on its compiler. A complete index to the contents of all the Reports issued to date would be of great value to the historical student; in fact, is almost essential to give the volumes their true value as works of reference. It is to be hoped that the Government will at an early date look into this matter, and make a grant sufficient to cover the cost of compiling such an index.

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891.

QUESTIONS.

THIRD SERIES.

- 13.—Give particulars of the mention of one of the first proprietors of the Island of Montreal?
- 14.—State the name of a retired officer in the British Army, who is an artist?
- 15.—Where is it mentioned that tea is intoxicating?
- 16.—In what article and under what name is mention made of a new magazine, whose main object will be to aid in ameliorating the sufferings of the poor?
- 17.—Give details of the mention of a great defeat sustained by France in 1692?
- 18.—On what page appears an item relative to a portage of fifty miles through the woods?

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 143 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January, February and March.