

Literary Criticism.

" PICTURESQUE CANADA."

PART II.

We were content with about four pages of the first part of this work, as literary specimens of the capabilities of its Editor-in-Chief, in order to connect the commencement of the second part with the first, it is necessary to refer to the concluding words of the former part, and there we read that "every incident is familiar to the *traditional school boy*," whatever kind of boy that may happen to be. When reading of the Plains of Abraham, we learn that "*you and your party can drive leisurely up.*"

We pass certain commonplaces in the third line, and then we learn that "military buttons and buckles are the dreary pledges, held by battle fields, of human valor and devotion and all the pomp and circumstance of war," we are reminded by this, of a mountain, said to have been in labor, and as a result, to have brought forth a mouse.

On page 26 we read "Whatsoever *may* have been the result of a more precipitate attack," where "*might have been*" is an evident necessity. "The Very Reverend" author is supposed not to be joking when he says of the neighbouring States—"A great Christian people will struggle unitedly and religiously to free millions;" he does not appear to remember that such an utterance has ever been heard as—"They who take the sword shall perish with the sword."

The religiousness of the author unfolds itself, a little further on, in the simplest of platitudes—"What, then is our destiny to be? Whatever God wills." "The future will bring wisdom with it" (we are told); to enable us (Canadians) to do our duty in the premises—the Dominion constituting "the premises" as we presume. One of our duties is said to consist in "guarding our own heads while we seek to do our duty to our day and generation."

After maintaining the necessity of "keeping up the defences of Halifax and Quebec, and fortifying Montreal by a cincture of detached forts," our ecclesiastical politician assures us that "our best defence is no defence," and endeavors to enforce this assurance in the following fashion—"Go to the mayors of our cities and bid them dismiss the police. Tell bankers not to keep revolvers, and householders to poison their watch-dogs. At one stroke we save what we are expending on all the old-fashioned arrangements of the dark ages. It has been discovered that the best defence is no defence."

Outside of Canada, people will probably enquire if Canadians make their lunatics principals of universities. Here is the concluding paragraph of this portion of the work. "It does not become grown men to dream dreams in broad daylight (such dreams as are involved by the maintenance of a police force). Wise men regard facts. Here is the Admiral's ship, the stately Northampton in the harbour of Quebec. Come on board, and from the quarter-deck take a view of the grand old storied rock. What enemy on this planet could take Quebec as long as the Northampton pledges us the command of the sea? And for answer, a charmer says, you will be far stronger, without the forts and without the Northampton."

Of two marvels, which is the greater? That Barnum has hitherto overlooked Wild, or that Wild has failed to negotiate a lucrative arrangement with Barnum.

The curse of the rich—They always obtain "the best advice," and as a natural consequence, an untimely grave.

SCRAPS FROM MODERN HISTORY.

II.

In the land wherein it is officially declared that "all men are created equal," and that "they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights," there are burial grounds, in the deeds of which it is stipulated that no person with negro blood in his or her veins can ever be buried there.

A Congregational Church in New Haven, Conn., parcelled out in its cemetery, a side lot for the interment of "niggers," but it became necessary to enlarge the cemetery, and to bury white persons on the other side the "niggers," so that they now—"To the great mortification of the more respectable members of the Church," occupy the centre. One "brother" proposed to erect a wall three feet high, on either side the "nigger ground." This was assented to, with the amendment that the wall be five instead of three feet high. The pastor of the Church "thought a wall five feet high altogether too low;" he therefore proposed one of seven feet.

A Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia on one occasion advertised burial lots for sale, with the unique recommendation that "no colored persons, or executed criminals were buried in the cemetery."

"RAN AWAY.—Committed to the County Jail of Alexander County, Illinois, on the 31st day of October, 1854, by L. L. Lightner, County Judge, a negro boy about thirty years of age, weighs about 155 pounds, dark copper color; has a small scar over his right eye, two upper front teeth out, and several jaw teeth gone. Calls himself Samuel Sears. The owner is requested to come forward, prove property, pay charges, and take him away.

"W. C. MASSEY,

"*Sheriff of Alexander County.*

"Thebes, Ill., Oct. 31st., 1854."

"Among the traits which distinguished the black regiments, was devotion to their officers. In the attack made on the American lines, near Croton river, Westchester County, New York, on the 13th May, 1781, Colonel Christopher Greene, the commander of the regiment, was cut down and mortally wounded, but the sabres of the enemy only reached him through the bodies of his faithful guard of blacks, who hovered over him, fighting with the utmost daring to protect him, until the last man of them was killed. No monumental piles distinguish their "dreamless beds;" not an inch on the page of history has been appropriated to their memory." The bones of these forgotten victims of the revolution are now shovelled up, carted off and thrown into the sea, with other rubbish of the city."

TORONTONIAN REFINEMENT.

We understand that certain ladies (beautiful and accomplished doubtless) have been greatly shocked at the circumstance of the Editor introducing the phrase "puking and muling" in a rhythmical advertisement, they recommended the lady to whom it had been committed for transmission to the States, not to send it; the circumstance, while it illustrates the innocence of the ladies, of any acquaintance with so vulgar a writer as Shakespeare, has reminded the writer of another lady who was heard by him to inquire (in a photographer's studio in King Street) if her portrait could be taken "in steel engraving."

We observe that the Carleton Street Methodists have been holding an "Apron Fair"; this will, of course, be followed by a "Pants Fair," and the ladies will doubtless be suitably attired in either case.