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All literary correspondence, contributions, &c., to be addressed to the Editor.

When an answer is required, stamp for return postage must be enclosed.

City subscribers are requested to report at once to this office, either personally or by postal card, any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

NOTICE

Our Agent, MR. W. STREET, who collected our accounts west of Toronto last year, is again visiting all the places on the Grand Trunk, Great Western, Canada Southern, Northern and Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railways. Subscribers are requested to settle with him all accounts due.

Subscribers are once more requested to take notice that the dates to which their subscriptions are paid are printed on their wrappers with each number sent from the office, thus: 1.78 would signify that subscriptions have been paid up to January, 1878; 7.77 up to July, 1877. This is worthy of particular attention, as a check upon collectors and a protection to customers who, not seeing their dates altered after settling with the collector, should after a reasonable time communicate with the office.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Nov. 3rd, 1877.

THE FIRE AT PORTLAND, ST. JOHN.

The news of another conflagration, this time in the suburb of St. John known as Portland, in now in possession of our readers, and will have promoted various reflections. By the new regulations enforced by special act of the Local Legislature, while the business or southern portion of the city is being built in brick, stone and iron, two other defined sections are left at liberty to be built of wood, with degrees of danger from fire affected by the heights to which the houses in each district are allowed to be carried—the width of the streets, &c.—mitigated by the insistence upon the roofs being of fire-proof material. The outlook is not as cheering certainly as it might be—so far as these two districts are concerned. Financial needs and the ever present supply of timber for building, we may presume, have influenced these measures, and as the districts are now a settled matter, it will be best to turn public attention to making them as safe as possible in construction. In the very fire we are referring to the progress of the flames was in one instance stopped by a building of brick interposed in the line of wooden tenements. Perhaps our St. John friends may be induced to look at the plan of sand party-walls with sides supported by wood, and the sand suffused with water at the time of a fire breaking out—which has appeared in these columns and the value of which we have not seen disputed. Another suggestion is, that wherever possible, horizontal surfaces in floors, &c., should be fireproof externally just as the roofs are arranged to be, vertical surfaces of wood being at all times in less danger than horizontal ones. Then, as to the various additions in connexion with the dwellings such as wood-sheds, stables, covered galleries &c., so fertile in fire communication, we may be allowed to declare that by the pillar and socket plan, such subsidiary buildings might be largely made to take to pieces, so as to be thrown down on a fire breaking out. The separate portions need hardly be injured on this plan. In all approximately fireproof dwellings and offices the doors could readily be made with hinges to lift apart—so that they could be removed at once on the outbreak of a fire. That will be as easy as making them with the common hinges. Flooring tiles in the good build-

ings would do the rest. Those things are neglected often enough, because holders of insurance policies are too willing to look at matters in the lump, but it is for the insurance offices and agencies to exert themselves to cure their constituencies of that pernicious habit of mind.

THE LITERARY CONVENTION.

At the Literary Convention held last week at Ottawa, according to the announcement made in our last issue, the following resolutions were adopted:—That this Literary Convention is of opinion that the following means would contribute most materially to the extension of education and to the development of Canadian literature:

I. The establishment of parochial libraries in the localities where they do not exist now, and the establishment of public libraries under the auspices of the municipalities in the different cities and towns of the country.

II. The establishment of literary institutions and debating clubs in all the localities where they do not exist now, and which are important enough to maintain them.

III. The establishment of a system or a regular course of public lectures in our large cities on the plan inaugurated by the Laval University.

IV. The distribution to our authors of prizes offered to competition by the State by our most important educational establishments at fixed periods.

V. The distribution as prizes in our schools of a much larger number of Canadian books of well known merit which might have received the approbation of the Board of Public Instruction.

VI. The establishment of a Canadian library by a joint stock company with branches in our various cities in order to promote specially the sale of Canadian books.

Moved by Mr. L. P. TURCOTTE and seconded by Mr. JAMES LEMOINE, that a request be made to the Federal Government and to the Local Government of Quebec asking them:

I. To make copies by competent persons of the historical documents deposited in the archives of London, Paris and other cities.

II. To put all the archives of Quebec in one depot which should be at the office of the registrar containing already the largest part of the French archives.

III. To put together in another depot at Ottawa the archives disseminated in the various Federal departments inside and outside; this depot being placed under the control of the Department of Agriculture.

Moved by Mr. ERNEST GAGNON and seconded by Lieut.-Col. STRANGE, that a petition be prepared for presentation to the Dominion Government requesting that the Copyright Law be so changed as to accord with that of Great Britain, allowing it to extend during the life of the author and fifty years later.

MURDER AT AN ELECTION.

In this civilized Canada of ours a subject of the Queen has been set upon by hired bullies at an election, and has soon after died of his injuries. It may be said that this is only part of an established custom or system, and is nothing so very new. Perhaps not, but not the less is it exceedingly cruel, degrading and horrible, and a matter which while it concerns the State primarily, becomes a special charge against the authorities of the county who failed to keep the peace and to restrain the savages. From a merely electoral point of view, violence is as bad as the bribery against which so many precautions are now taken. In view of its physical consequences, it is far worse. In our belief, it would not be too harsh a step where violence at a nomination or during the polling had resulted in the loss of life, to make the election null, and, in addition, to disfranchise the constituency during the remainder of the term

of the Parliament. In this way, while it would not be worth the while of candidates or their friends to encourage violence, but on the contrary would be made their interest to repress it, the local authorities would be brought to give their consideration to the proper means of keeping the peace, and then, and for all the future, we should hear a great deal less of such barbarous proceedings.

We hear of Mr. DELANE's retirement from the editorship of the *Times*, and are impressed by the announcement as affecting the history of the country far more deeply than will be everywhere acknowledged. The editor's work is a quiet one, but in these days will yield to none in importance—and while the man labours thus unobtrusively, that part of the public who think know that the commonwealth is benefitting in all its departments. In France and to some degree in England his labours are appreciated, but in no country calling itself civilized are they less thought of than in this pushing Canada of ours. The unquestioned pre-eminence of the *Times* as the leading journal of civilization may be said to have been the work of Mr. DELANE, for although it had become already a great paper when he first took the oversight of its editorial department, it could hardly, we suppose, be said to be so entirely at the head of the daily press as to have distanced competition as leader of public opinion. Eliminate the element of rough political contact, and we shall not be far wrong in regarding DELANE as Britain's greatest statesman—for while not engaged in the personal control of parties, he has for years guided the thoughts of all the parties in the State. Resting at length from his unremitting and unassuming labours, he is now enjoying in the decline of life the repose he has so well worked for, and a grateful country will certainly carry the event in its remembrance.

THE shipments of grain from India to Great Britain are five million bushels more this year than last. This will sound strange enough to those who realize the presence of the enormous famine in Southern India, and the utter inability there has been of competing with its ravages in any adequate sense. Such broad facts are all we have to go by in this latitude, for we know scarcely anything with certainty except that there has been an appalling loss of life, great private generosity—of course inadequate to the occasion—with governmental mismanagement somewhere, and now with the expectation on the part of the press that the principles of action for meeting such an emergency will be better settled in the next of these periodical visitations than they have been in the present one.

AMERICAN journals are discussing the silver question, and it is said that it will be difficult to secure the permanence of the return to specie payments unless silver as well as gold be re-monetized, and we feel disposed to agree with that opinion.

WE take notice that in Manitoba a Judge has taken part in an active political movement. The sooner that sort of thing is brought to a satisfactory close the better it will be for the general administration of justice in the Dominion.

REV. W. B. AFFLECK.

This well-known and highly popular apostle of temperance was born April 16th, 1830, at Grassington, Yorkshire, England. Having been deprived in infancy of a mother's care, at nine years of age he began to work in the coal mines of the County of Durham. Drinking, fighting and gambling were the marked characteristics of the miners at that time and the youth became an adept in all three. Directly through his drinking and other vicious propensities and practices he was in early life crippled, having had one limb broken five times, the scars of which will ever remain. In 1847, though young, ignorant and debauched, he attended a

temperance meeting and signed the pledge, which from that time he has kept inviolate. The dawning of a sober life led him to desire better companionship, and shortly afterwards he gave his heart to Christ and his hand to the Church. He enlisted as lay preacher and, by his earnest devotedness, soon became a popular favourite on the same ground as that of his former sinful experiences. Wherever he spoke or sung, multitudes of the colliers flocked and followed. In 1852, he married an intelligent and Christian young woman to whom he attributes all the fitness for usefulness that has ever since attended his public life. She became the mother of two sons and five daughters. Wider spheres of labour soon opened before him and he was engaged specially to serve the temperance cause as a Ladies Temperance Missionary at Bishop Auckland, in the County of Durham, England. After five years' service in that capacity he was invited to labour in London, England, for the "United Kingdom Band of Hope Union." His lecturing services there were marvellously successful, and the London press spoke highly of his easy, natural, and popular abilities as a vocalist and lecturer. Undoubtedly this was where the fame was made which has ever since increased in all parts of England as well as in Canada and the United States. It was while serving the "United Kingdom Band of Hope Union," that Mr. Affleck was called into the ministry by one of the branches of Methodism. Though both popular and successful as a Gospel Minister, he felt it incumbent on him to resign his duties and to devote his whole time to the great temperance enterprise. He engaged as superintending agent for the "United Kingdom Alliance" for the suppression of the liquor traffic. While in their employ, heavy domestic affliction and bereavement wore down his health and he was induced to make a visit to America, where, after an eleven months tour and lecturing in all the principal places in Canada and many in the States, he has determined to prolong his stay on this side of the Atlantic, until he has visited all the Western cities, even so far as Salt Lake, Sacramento and San Francisco. Rev. Mr. Affleck is not only a lecturer gifted with rare powers of persuasion, but he is possessed of all the qualities which make eloquence the most effective worker in the propagation of good—wit, humour, cordiality, lively fancy and vast versatility. He is also a popular musician of rare merit. Among his published works we may mention "Home Thoughts," "Heart Melodies," and "Matchless Gems."

THE GRANGE.

The Grange movement must now be regarded as having attained a firm foothold in the rural districts throughout Ontario. The Township, as well as the County Lodge, or Grange, can be heard of in almost every direction. The membership comprises wealthy and intelligent agriculturists, as well as their wives and daughters. The Grange appears to have filled up a long-felt want of a place of rendezvous for purposes of social, as well as mutual improvement. Notwithstanding all that has been said about it in the newspapers, but little is actually known by the denizens of cities, as to the internal working of the institution. From the little he knows of it, the retail merchant is apt to regard it as a dangerous rival, and rabid, partizan organs of political parties view it askance; but the intelligent and patriotic citizen, everywhere, must give it his moral support for he beholds in it a means of elevating and enriching the agricultural pursuit. At the little old historical village of Stoney Creek—where, in the war of 1812, the sturdy Canadian settlers, under Sir John Harvey, vanquished an invading army under Generals Chandler and Winder—is a flourishing Grange which bears the appropriate name of "Acacia." This Grange recently gave an entertainment which may be regarded as a kind of "Harvest Festival," and a peep at a report of the proceedings (which appeared in the Hamilton papers), gives an insight into the character of the organization. It was a beautiful autumn evening and the attendance was large, many visitors being present from neighboring Granges. The following is a clipping from the report:—P. S. Van Wagner, W. M., arrived about 8 o'clock, and taking the chair, relieved Mr. Olmstead. He addressed the audience in his animated style, and welcomed all, remarking that the words of a celebrated Indian Chief expressed his sentiments towards them—they were: "May the Great Spirit so brighten the chain of friendship between us, that a child can find it, when the sun has gone to sleep behind the western waters." After a few preparatory remarks, he spoke of the early settlers of this country, their attachment to British institutions, their sufferings, their perseverance and courage in attacking the dense forests which covered the face of our country. He traced the gradual opening up of the resources of the country—the division of the inhabitants into classes—the struggle for supremacy on the part of each class—and the necessity felt for an agricultural organization, such as is now found in the Grange, whose progress for a time was slow from not being properly understood, but it had outlived opposition and ridicule, and had become one of the permanent institutions of the land. He said it was true, religion and politics could not be discussed in the Grange, but that the leading features of the Christian religion had from the beginning been admitted, to which no one objected, and he knew no good reason why the general politics of the country may not be discussed without descending to party politics; in fact anything