

The Dominion Illustrated.

\$4.00 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

G. E. DESBARATS & SON, Publishers,
162 St. James Street, Montreal.

GEORGE E. MACRAE, WESTERN AGENT,
127 Wellington Street West, Toronto.

8th DECEMBER, 1888.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

SPECIAL.

During the month of December we will give to new subscribers the current first six months, twenty-six numbers, of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED, making a volume of 416 pages, containing over 250 beautiful engravings, and a great amount of interesting and instructive reading, ALL FOR ONE DOLLAR, the conditions being that the subscriber remits, *at the same time*, \$4.00 for a full year's subscription, beginning 1st January, 1889. In other words, we offer eighteen months' subscription for \$5.00, or again, we give away three months' subscription gratis. Persons wishing to form clubs can obtain their own subscription FREE, by sending us the price of four subscriptions, as now offered.

This offer is open for December only, and should be taken advantage of *early*, as our stock of back numbers is limited.



Sir William Dawson took occasion of the yearly dinner of the McGill Medical Faculty to state that the number of lady scholars at the chief Canadian seats of learning was steadily increasing. He said also that there were more lady pupils at McGill than in all other Canadian colleges together. The figures which we have gathered show this to be true: Queen's College, Kingston, 15; Victoria College, Cobourg, 16; University College, Toronto, 27; Dalhousie College, Halifax, 34, and McGill College, Montreal, 109.

The work of colonization is going on apace in the northern and newest fields of this province, bordering on the Height of Land. The townships called Guigues and Duhamel, in the land around and about Lake Temiskaming, have grown so much, in a few years, that the number of dwellers claim the right of being endowed with municipal institutions. Large tracts of this fine country have been bought up by French capitalists and companies, and funds have been sent forward for tillage and farm buildings.

There is talk in money circles about getting all bank notes that are in circulation received at par throughout every part of the Dominion. As things stand, discount is demanded at Montreal, for instance, on several banks of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. There is no doubt that the system is awkward, and does not show that bond of thorough fellowship and brotherhood which should flourish among the provinces.

A writer in the Halifax *Critic* says that the searovers of Elizabeth brought back to England a number of Spanish idioms, and he makes out that the old term, "Oh, dear me," is a phonetic twist for the Castilian *Ay de mi*, "Woe is me!" Of course this ejaculation at once reminds one of the Moorish ballad which Byron did into English

from the Spanish version of the Arabic original. One of the verses gives the mourning key to the dirge:—

Perdi una hija donzella,
Que era la flor d'esta tierra,
Cien doblas dava par ella,
No me las estimo en nada.
Ay de mi. Alhama!

A standing anomaly of the American electoral system is that an election may go to a candidate who polls only a minority of votes. In a triangular or quadrangular contest the effect is not so glaring, as in the first election of Abraham Lincoln, who was in a large minority of the popular vote. When there are only two candidates, however, the manifest violation of the American principle, "The majority must rule," is very striking. Thus, Mr. Cleveland has to step out of the White House, although he got 79,000 more votes than General Harrison.

There can be no two opinions on the need of the swiftest mail sea service attainable, if Canada wants to secure the Imperial subsidy for the passage of the mails from London to Yokohama, through Canadian territory, and over the rails and steamers of the Canadian Pacific. The matter is of vital importance; the whole country is alive to it; the newspapers are unanimous in its favour, and we may rest assured that the Government will not lose the opportunity of helping on another national work.

We have already called attention to the irruption of bears in the towns and villages of the old provinces. Their first inroad was in the streets of Pembroke, three months ago, since when a week scarcely passes without the report of a raid in different parts of the country. In Ontario and New Brunswick it is now proven that Bruin has still his lair in the wild wood and his haunts on the outskirts of peopled dwellings for food. In the Richelieu valley, at St. Denis, the bears paid a visit lately, and fifty-six were killed in the forests of Garneau, Lafontaine and Fournier, and in the seignory of St. Roch des Aulnais, L'Islet.

It is not generally known that Montreal has the largest and greatest bell in America, the *bourdon*, or burden, which can be heard over the St. Lawrence, from the western tower of Notre Dame to Varennes, a stretch of thirty miles. The famous Moscow bell weighed 57 tons. At Pekin there are seven bells, each weighing 120,000 pounds. The bell of Notre Dame, of Paris, weighs 38,000 pounds. That of Notre Dame, of Montreal, of English make, weighs 29,400 pounds. The heaviest bell in the United States is that of the New York City Hall, weighing 23,000 pounds.

We have already told our readers that, although Major Bedson had sold the last buffalo herd to an American ranch, the animals were likely to be kept on their old grounds, at Stony Mountain. A number of experiments have been made in crossing the breed with ordinary stock, but ranchmen do not believe that the experiment will be of any practical good. Its only result can be to deteriorate stock, as the buffalo is entirely wanting in hind-quarters. What would follow would be the preservation of the buffalo for the sake of the "robe," but this, though of great beauty and value on pure breeds, is neither one nor the other on the mixed stock.

We also spoke of pelicans in the Northwest and Mississippi Valley, sailing south for the winter, and wonder was expressed that these birds were

found in our country at all. They are, however, quite plentiful on the prairie. Dr. Fream, who lately called at the Manitoba penitentiary, kept, along with a menagerie of his own, by Major Bedson, says that the superintendent is a great naturalist, and it was surprising, among specimens of moose, bison and cariboo, to see a number of pelicans, which travellers usually associate with more southerly latitudes.

Some six or seven French-Canadians were lately elected to the legislature of several of the New England States. This is the result of naturalization, whereby these people have become American citizens, and are no longer Canadians. This change of allegiance, the possession of their own priests and parishes, schools and societies, all root them in their new homes, hindering more and more every well meant plan of repatriation. Any one who has seen these Canadian groups beyond the border will see at once that their return here is hopeless.

Parliament will likely be called on to settle another knotty point as between the Federal and Provincial Governments, on the payment of the militia when called upon to quell riots and keep the peace. In two cases, lately, the Italian uprising on the Hereford Railway and the Skeena threatened outbreak, the Federal Government had to yield and pay the costs of the volunteers, while the Quebec and British Columbia legislatures looked on and refused to contribute a cent. The share of responsibility in such critical events is surely one-sided, and it will have to be clearly defined.

THE STUDY OF LITERATURE.

The editor of this paper was perhaps the first to put forward the claims to the chair of English Language and Literature, in Toronto University, of W. J. Alexander, B. A. (Lond.) Ph. D. (J. H. U.), Munro Professor of English Language and Literature at Dalhousie University, and some time Fellow of Johns Hopkins University. In doing so he was fully aware of Professor Alexander's abilities, and that high estimate has been enhanced by the perusal of the Inaugural Address delivered at the Convocation of Dalhousie on the subject whose title heads this article.

The professor takes a threefold view of literature. First, as the simple expression of thought, and under this head the dramas of Sophocles are included with the elements of Euclid, and Tennyson's "Idylls" with Darwin's "Origin of Species." Hence, to use the professor's own words: "As the literary student, then, may be employed now on the material of the mathematical, now on that of the historical or scientific student, the differentiation of his study must be sought, not in its material, but in its aim. Euclid has, as a mathematician, one end in view, and Thucydides, as an historian, another; but, inasmuch as both were writers, they must have had also a common end, and it is in this end we must seek the aim of literary study. Now, every written thought is the representation of a certain mental condition, and its aim is the reproduction of that condition either in the mind of others, or in the writer's own mind at another time; and, consequently, the aim of the student of literature is simply the reproduction within himself of this mental condition of the writer." He has attained his end when he has put himself at the point of view of the author.