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EDWARDSBURG ILLUSTRATED.

In the next number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS we shall present a double page illustration of the flourishing town of Edwardsburg, Ont.; its principal buildings, manufactures and sites of importance and interest. Accompanying the pictures will be a full letter-press description from the pen of our Special Correspondent, Mr. George Tolley. We commend the number to our friends as a continuation of our series of "Canadian Towns and Cities Illustrated."

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, April 13th, 1878.

THE SITUATION IN EUROPE.

As we go to press, the situation in Europe is represented as most critical. In a day or two, we shall have the reply of Prince GORTSCHAKOFF to the circular of Lord SALISBURY, and pending that, no definite judgment can be pronounced upon the ultimate result, but it still remains true to say that the crisis is of a most alarming character. Since our last issue, events have followed each other with great rapidity. Lord DERBY resigned the portfolio of the Foreign Office, on account of the calling out of the reserves. His resignation was promptly accepted, and his place as promptly filled by the appointment of Lord SALISBURY, a circumstance which proves that the British Cabinet is both unanimous and determined. Lord SALISBURY lost no time in showing his hand. Within a few days after taking office, he put forth a circular which may be regarded as a masterpiece both of intelligibility and firmness, and which has raised its distinguished author, at one bound, to a front rank among contemporaneous statesmen. That circular cleared the atmosphere wonderfully, not only as showing what England demands, but by placing the whole Eastern Question on its truly international grounds. The effect in Europe was not slow in manifesting itself. Austria, which had been vacillating all along, suddenly made common cause with England, and the mission of IGNATIEFF to Vienna became a signal failure. France, whose policy throughout has been one of great reserve, if not of abstinence, declared that she would not move a step either in the Congress or out of it, that would be detrimental to Britain. Even Germany, whose leaning toward Russia has been no secret for any body, has adopted a course of marked moderation. Thus the situation has been considerably simplified, and we are in a better position to-day to understand who would be the parties to the war, if such were declared, than we were a fortnight ago. France and Germany naturally neutralize each other. So long as one of them is quiet, the other must needs be so. Austria sooner or later must side with England. Great pressure, much of it of a very questionable nature, is being brought to bear in the direction of a Russo-Turkish alliance; but evidently this cannot be relied upon. The Porte cannot and will not take up arms against Britain, and the Khedive has announced that if she does, he will immediately proclaim the independence of Egypt. The whole Hellenic element, which for strategic purposes is invaluable, would be in favour of Great Britain. The questions to be decided are of the most intricate

character. The first may be stated thus: How can Constantinople be protected, now that the Sultan is but a shadow and the frontiers of the new Bulgarian State, which will be a dependency of Russia, encircle Constantinople? Russia has stipulated at San Stefano for the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Straits. This would be very convenient for Russia, as the Black Sea would thus remain closed to European ships of war, while the danger that the Porte, in case of war with Russia, might throw the entrance to the Black Sea open to such ships, is merely nominal. It is much more probable that, in future wars, the Porte will be the ally of Russia, and will open the Sea of Marmora to the Russian fleet. The point to be decided is whether this state of things can be accepted. The danger can only be avoided by England concentrating all her energy upon the settlement of this question in a European, and not in an exclusively English sense. The second question is the Bulgarian question. In this the most important point is not the proposed occupation by Russia for two years, though that is a very serious demand, nor is it the settlement of the boundaries, but the important question is what measures must be adopted to prevent Bulgaria from becoming a Russian dependency, when the occupation comes to an end. To this point Austria must devote all her attention and all her energy. Europe will not be the dupe of Russia unless she begins by deceiving herself.

LORD ELCHO respectfully protests against the employment of English Volunteers upon foreign service. Lord Elcho is the pattern Volunteer—one of its earliest officers, and always its warm friend; he cannot therefore object upon very light grounds to the satisfaction of their patriotic aspirations. He does so, he says, in the interests of the force and of the nation. No one who knows the spirit which animates the Volunteers can doubt that many efficient regiments might thus be obtained for foreign service, and that they would on trial be found not unworthy to stand shoulder to shoulder with their comrades of the Regular Army and Militia. But LORD ELCHO argues that any such use of the force would be a departure from the principles of the military system and would endanger the permanence of the Volunteer force at anything like its present numerical strength. On the first point the noble lord describes the principles upon which our military system rests—a paid regular army, raised by voluntary enlistment for service at home and abroad; a paid militia raised in theory by compulsion, whose service is nominally for home defence, but who may also volunteer for foreign, and have frequently done so to the greatest benefit of the State; and unpaid Volunteer force raised for home defence only, whose voluntary service exempts them from compulsory enrolment in the Militia. The employment, therefore, of Volunteers on foreign service would, LORD ELCHO believes, be a direct departure from the principles of that military system. As to the effect of such employment on the force itself, the noble lord says the great value of our volunteer army consists of its numbers; it represents an armed nation. Six hundred thousand men have passed through the ranks; 190,000 are at the present time serving in them, and in any national crisis this number would at least be doubled. But he thinks the number would dwindle away rapidly if in case of war or national emergency Volunteer regiments are to be expected to volunteer for foreign service, and the men who fail to do so, because they cannot leave their work, are to be looked upon as wanting in patriotic zeal.

A RIGOROUS and uniform divorce law throughout all the States of the Union is favoured by many newspapers, regardless of section. The facility with which a marriage can be tied in New York, and cut loose from in Chicago, is filling the charity hospitals and lunatic asylums uncomfortably all around.

LEAVES FROM MY NOTE-BOOK.

MOORE'S CANADIAN BOAT SONG.

In Moore's preface to the second volume of his poems, edition of 1840, he says (and here it may be stated that he visited Canada in the summer of 1804), "After crossing the fresh water ocean of Ontario, I passed down the St. Lawrence to Montreal and Quebec, staying for a short time at each of these places, and this part of my journey, as well as my voyage from Quebec to Halifax, is sufficiently traceable through the pieces of poetry that were suggested to me by scenes and events on the way, and here I must again venture to avail myself of the valuable testimony of Captain Hall to the truth of my description of some of those scenes through which his more practised eye followed me."

"In speaking of an excursion he had made up the river Ottawa, 'a stream,' he adds, 'which has a classical place in every one's imagination from Moore's Canadian Boat Song,' Captain Hall proceeds, 'While the poet above alluded to has retained all that is essentially characteristic and pleasing in these boat songs, and rejected all that is not so, he has contrived to borrow his inspiration from numerous surrounding circumstances presenting nothing remarkable to the dull senses of ordinary travellers. Yet these highly poetical images drawn in this way, as it were carelessly, and from every hand, he has combined with such graphic, I had almost said geographical truth, that the effect is great even upon those who have never with their own eyes seen the 'Utawa's tide,' nor 'flown down the rapids,' nor heard the 'bell of St. Anne's toll its evening chime,' while the same lines give to distant regions, previously consecrated in our imagination, a vividness of interest, when viewed on the spot, of which it is difficult to say how much is due to the magic of poetry, and how much to the beauty of the real scene. It is singularly gratifying to discover that to this hour the Canadian voyageurs never omit their offerings to the shrine of St. Anne before engaging in any enterprise, and that during its performance they omit no opportunity of keeping up so propitious an intercourse. The flourishing village which surrounds the church, the 'green isle' in question, owes its existence and support entirely to these pious contributions."

"While on the subject of the Canadian Boat Song, an anecdote connected with that once popular ballad may, for my musical readers at least, possess some interest. A few years since while staying in Dublin, I was presented, at his own request, to a gentleman who told me that his family had in their possession a curious relic of my youthful days, being the first notation I had made, in pencilling, of the air and words of the Canadian Boat Song, while on my way down the St. Lawrence, and that it was their wish I should attach my signature to attest the authenticity of the autograph. I assured him with truth that I had wholly forgotten even the existence of such a memorandum; that it would be as much curiosity to myself as it could be to any one else, and that I should feel thankful to be allowed to see it. In a day or two after my request was complied with, and the following is the history of this musical relic."

"In my passage down the St. Lawrence I had with me two travelling companions, one of whom, named Harkness, the son of a wealthy Dublin merchant, has been some years dead. To this young friend, on parting with him at Quebec, I gave, as a keepsake, a volume I had been reading on the way—'Priestley's Lectures on History,' and it was upon a fly-leaf of this volume I found I had taken down in pencilling both the notes and a few of the words of the original song by which my own boat-gee had been suggested. From all this it will be perceived that, in my own setting of the air, I departed in almost every respect but the time from the strain our voyageurs had sung to us, leaving the music of the gee nearly as much my own as the words. Yet, how strongly impressed I had become with the notion that this was the identical air sung by the boatmen, how closely it linked itself in my imagination with the scenes and sounds amidst which it had occurred to me, may be seen by reference to a note appended to the gee as first published."

The note is as follows: "I wrote these words to an air which our boatmen sung to us frequently. The wind was so unfavourable that they were obliged to row all the way, and we were five days in descending the river from Kingston to Montreal, exposed to an intense sun during the day, and at night forced to take shelter from the dews in any miserable hut upon the banks that would receive us. But the magnificent scenery of the St. Lawrence repays all such difficulties."

"Our voyageurs had good voices, and sang perfectly in time together. The original words of the air to which I adapted these stanzas, appeared to be a long, incoherent story, of which I could understand but little from the barbarous pronunciation of the Canadians. It begins—

"Dans mon chemin j'ai rencontré
Deux cavaliers très bien montés,"

and the refrain to every verse was—

"A l'ombre d'un bois, je m'en vais jouer,
A l'ombre d'un bois je m'en vais danser."

I ventured to harmonize this air and have published it. Without that charm which association gives to every little memorial of scenes or feelings that are past, the melody may, perhaps, be thought common and trifling, but I remember when we have entered at sunset upon one of those beautiful lakes into which the St. Lawrence so gradually and unexpectedly opens, I

have heard this simple air with a pleasure which the finest compositions of the first masters have never given me, and now there is not a note of it which does not recall to my memory the dip of our oars in the St. Lawrence, the flight of our boat down the rapids, and all these new and fanciful impressions to which my heart was alive during the whole of this very interesting voyage. The above stanzas (that is, the Canadian Boat Song) are supposed to be sung by these voyageurs who go to the Grand Portage by the Ottawa River. For an account of this wonderful undertaking, see Sir Alexander Mackenzie's General History of the Fur Trade, prefixed to his journal.

"At the rapids of St. Ann they are obliged to take out part, if not the whole, of their landing. It is from this spot the Canadians consider they take their departure, as it possesses the last church on the island, which is dedicated to the tutelary saint of voyagers."

Times have wonderfully changed since Moore's visit to Canada, and changed for the better. The miserable huts he speaks of disappeared, and the happy homes of thousands link, as it were, Kingston to Montreal, while the Ottawa banks are dotted with smiling villages, and at 109 miles from its mouth stands the youthful capital of the young Dominion, whose destinies are presided over by the son of Lady Salina Dufferin, of whom Tom Moore sang—

"Beauty may boast of her eyes and her cheeks,
But love from the lip his true archery wings,
And she who but feathers the shaft when she speaks,
At once seemed at home to the heart when she sings."

JAMES M. O'LEARY.

Ottawa, April 5, 1878.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

PRESENTATION OF THE GARTER TO THE KING OF ITALY.—This ceremony took place on Saturday, the 2nd ult., at the Quirinal Palace, Rome, in front of which two battalions of infantry were drawn up, the band playing "God Save the Queen," as the Duke of Abercorn and his suite alighted from the Court carriages in which they had been conveyed thither. They were received by the Introducer of Ambassadors, Count Panissera di Veglio, and the Masters of Ceremonies, and conducted to the Grand Reception Hall, the procession (which forms the subject of our engraving) including the Duke of Abercorn, Her Majesty's Special Envoy, and the following members of his suite, each of whom bore some portion of the Insignia of the Order about to be presented to the King: General Sir Frederick Chapman, K.C.B., Admiral Sir Reginald Macdonald, Lord Claude Hamilton, Earl of Mount Edgumbe, Viscount Newport, M. P., Sir Albert Woods (Garter King-at-Arms), Mr. Planche, Somerset Herald, Mr. Cockayne, Lancaster Herald, and Mr. Victor Buckley. The King and Queen (the former wearing the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus), the Duke of Aosta, the Ladies-in-Waiting, the Chevalier of the Order of the Annunziata, the Ministers of State, the Grand Secretary of the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, Sir George and Lady Paget and the Staff of the British Embassy, and the members of the King's Military and Civil Household were all present. His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, addressing the King, said that Queen Victoria had charged him to hand to His Majesty the insignia of the Order of the Garter, and to express the sincere friendship she entertained towards him. Her Majesty's sentiments were rendered more heartfelt by the precious remembrance that she should ever preserve of his illustrious father, and she wished to take the earliest opportunity of giving public evidence of her desire to unite still more closely the friendly relations which had so long subsisted between the two Royal Houses and the two nations, and her sincere wishes for the happiness and prosperity of His Majesty and his family, and the well-being of his country. The King replied in a courtly speech, declaring that the high mission of his Grace was a source of pride and heartfelt emotion to him; his satisfaction at the thought that the mutual confidence and friendship of the two nations had never been checked, and that Her Majesty's choice of her Envoy and the other members of the mission was peculiarly grateful to him. He desired His Grace to carry to Her Majesty his acknowledgments, and to be the interpreter of the good wishes which he entertained for herself, her family, and her people. The delivery of Her Majesty's letters to the King and Queen brought the ceremony to a conclusion.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE SIR WM. O'GRADY HALY.—In a late issue we gave the portrait of the late Commander of the Forces, with a few traits of biography. To-day we present two sketches connected with his funeral. We have not space to describe this event, and must confine ourselves to a few notes. All the officers in the procession wore crape on the left arm, above the elbow, and sword knob. Minute guns were fired from the Citadel as the procession passed from Bellevue House to the place of sepulchre, and a salute of seventeen guns at the conclusion of the services at the grave. The firing party was composed of all the regiments in garrison. The streets along the route of the procession were densely crowded by spectators, and every available position was occupied from which a view of the funeral cortege could be obtained. Business was almost wholly suspended, and everywhere were visible signs of mourning. As the hearse bearing the body passed along the line, it was received by each company of militia presenting arms. After appropriate services in