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THE DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY;
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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1874.

THE DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.

The Engraving, Printing and Publishing business founded and heretofore carried on by G. E. Desbarats, will henceforth be continued by a Joint Stock Company under the above title. This Company, which will shortly be incorporated by charter under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada, has acquired the property of "The Canadian Illustrated News," "The Favorite," "The Canadian Patent Office Record and Mechanics' Magazine," "The Dominion Guide," "L'Opinion Publique," and other publications issued by G. E. Desbarats, also his Patents, in Photo-typing, Photo-lithographing, Electro-typing, etc., and the good-will of his large Lithographic and Type Printing Business.

The Company proposes to build a magnificent structure in a conspicuous and convenient locality in this City, where the business can be permanently established on a footing second to none of its kind in America.

Meanwhile, the ample Capital at its command will enable it to push the existing business to the utmost extent compatible with its present location; to improve the above mentioned publications in every particular, and to satisfy its customers, as to promptness, style of workmanship, and moderation in prices.

The Patronage of the enlightened Canadian Public in every part of the Dominion is solicited for this new Company, which will strive to build up a business alike beneficial and creditable to Canada.

We are on the eve of an electoral contest which will agitate the country for a couple of months. From the circumstances of the case, there is reason to anticipate that it will be conducted with considerable personal virulence. On the one hand, the party in power will make the alleged corruption of the late government their *cheval de bataille*; while, on the other, the Conservatives have already sounded their war-cry, in branding the present Cabinet as a "ring of conspirators," who are secretly manipulating the elections to maintain themselves in office. We suppose there is no use protesting against all this unfairness and abuse. It seems fated that in Canada, as in the United States, no gentleman can emerge from private life and present himself for public honours without being reviled in the most unscrupulous fashion and dragged down to the depths of infamy. Let us only hope that this abnormal and atrocious state of things will not ultimately result, as it has done among our neighbours, in driving all the best talent and all the integrity of the country into the shades of retirement. What will add to the acerbity of the campaign is the confidence expressed by the Ministerial party that they will sweep the constituencies and roll up an overwhelming wave of majority which shall bury their opponents in everlasting shipwreck. For ourselves, looking calmly and dispassionately over the battlefield, we fail to see anything justifying this overweening confidence. The Conservatives are prepared for a minority, indeed, but they profess to hold their forces well in hand and preserve a serried front. Their tactics will be to get rid, as much as possible, of exceptionable men, and put forward candidates of wealth, position and influence. These men will go before the people disclaiming all connection with or implication in the Pacific Scandal, and professing to be as honest and patriotic as the men in power. In many cases, they will have no objection to promising the government fair play, a thing they can safely do, seeing that the Administration has not yet declared any policy. A show of independence goes a great way with electors, and many Conservatives will doubtless be elected on that platform. There are two points which we venture to predict, even at this incipient stage of the canvass. The first is that the Conservative party will form a new combination of leaders, which will surprise their adversaries and add unexpected strength to their cause. The second is that the Pacific Scandal will be a less potent issue with the people, outside of Ontario, at least, than is at present imagined. Altogether, we have no reason to modify the opinion expressed in our last issue, that, in the interest of the government themselves, whom we sincerely wish well, the dissolution of Parliament and this sudden order-

ing of general elections, are a serious mistake, which will be used against them with considerable effect. Spite of ourselves, we feel that there has been a seeming lack of sincerity and a want of broad, bold statesmanship in all this business, for which neither the character nor the abilities of Mr. Mackenzie had prepared us. We hope he will think and act for himself, and not be unduly influenced by the spirit of intrigue which is essentially characteristic of several of the gentlemen who surround him.

The latest news from Spain is startling, because, on this side the water, at least, it was unexpected. We had, indeed heard that the noble attitude maintained by President Castelar was viewed with some disfavour by certain parties, but we had been led to hope that the good sense of the majority would prevail in endorsing the action of the Executive, especially at the present crisis, when the Carlists are again pushing their advance posts in the mountains of Navarre. In this estimate we have been mistaken. On the 4th inst., after the reading of the President's message, a final and decisive vote was taken thereupon, in the Cortes, by which Castelar was beaten. The vote stood 120 against and 100 for him. As soon as the result was announced General Pavia sent an officer to the Chamber with a letter demanding the dissolution of the Cortes; Senor Salmeron and others urged Castelar to continue in power, but their prayer was refused, whereupon a company of Municipal guard entered the Palace of the Cortes and expelled the Deputies; Pavia with his staff held the position outside with cannon pointed at the building. This *coup d'état*, was not successful, or rather it succeeded in overthrowing the man whom it was intended to support and maintain. A decree was at once promulgated appointing Serrano as President and a new Ministry was formed as follows: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sagasta; War, Zavala; Justice, Figuerola; Agriculture, Becerra; Finance, Echegaray; Interior, Garcia Ruiz; Marine, Topete. The fall of Castelar is probably the knell of the Spanish republic. He was the last of the prominent men who essayed to save it. Serrano is not a republican. Neither is he a great man such as the situation demands. There have been rumours that he has had lately some relations with the Alphonists, and it would certainly not surprise us to learn that his second advent to power is only the prelude to the ascension of the Prince of Asturias, who is now in alliance with the party of Don Alphonso.

The French Opposition papers of this Province are publishing notices from the different departments at Ottawa, to the fact that they must cease being sent thither and furthermore that they may no longer insert government advertisements. Human nature is ever the same. The present administration is rapidly drifting into all the old tricks and dodges charged against its adversaries and insensibly, when it is reproached therefor, its organs have taken up the refrain—"Well, Sir John did the same thing." It is well, only we all expected something better from the party in power than an imitation of Sir John's policy. Seriously, there is reason for misgiving lest our friends should injure their cause at this very early stage of their administration.

We are inclined to believe that with the general world of newspaper readers the present Government has lost much of its popularity. Why? For the next six weeks the papers will be filled with election intelligence. The mass of newspaper readers, who look for news, will not thank Mr. Mackenzie for the dissolution.

No amount of specious special pleading can justify the exceedingly ill-timed remarks of Mr. Mackenzie, made at the Huntington dinner, in reference to Imperial decorations. For the sake of the Prime Minister himself, it were desirable that the words should never have been uttered.

The Quebec Bar are striking against—well, the improprieties of the Bench. Surely it is time for the Bench to protest against the impurities of the Bar, when the Solicitor General is mixed up in an ignoble affair with a woman of the town.

The present Government is, we understand, in no great favour with the Civil Service employees at Ottawa. The new-housemaid who sweeps with a new broom, is also in small favour with the spiders whose cobwebs she brushes away.

It is a characteristic verdict that the French Admiralty Court has given in the "Ville du Havre" case—Not guilty, and we don't mind if you do the same thing again.

The great fault to be found with the Mackenzie Ministry is its negligence to declare a policy. May we express a hope that its policy is the best—Honesty?

Mr. Young is Flour Inspector of Montreal. If he inspects flour as efficiently as he has done other people's letters he will do well.

The whist-players' rule—When in doubt play a trump—dissolution.

THE FLANEUR.

My friend F. K., in the Christmas number of the *News* had a valuable paper on the revival of the lost art of palmistry. Of course, he might have known, and probably did expect, that some of us would try to get ahead of him in the resuscitation of old fancies. In this, he was not mistaken. I am going to do more than revive a lost art. I am going to announce the discovery of a new art.

Cookery painting! I am sure none of you ever heard of that before, not even my gastronomic colleague Delta. I will wager that nobody has any conception of what the words mean. Yet the thing exists and the art is practised in Paris, the great workshop of follies and deceptions.

In one of the principal restaurants of the boulevard, a painter is engaged as one of the regular staff. He paints your beefsteak, your omelette, your brisquet, your salad. That is incredible, of course. But listen.

It is difficult to have a layer of fire sufficiently spread out to broil, at one and the same time, joints, livers, steaks, cutlets and sardines or other fish which must be cooked on a gridiron. What is to be done? Art comes in to supplement nature.

The artist takes a brown colour and rubs the gridiron therewith. He puts the meat on it and sets the gridiron in an oven. When the meat is done, he touches up the dark lines which indicate the *sincerity* of the broiling. *La sincérité de la grillade* is French and superb.

For an omelette, it is another process. An omelette is made of four whites and one yolk. The yolk is kept for creams and sauces. To the white is mixed a sort of harmless tincture and when the artist has passed his brush, dipped in ochre, over the surface of the omelette, a simple kitchen boy goes over it with a hot iron, heightening the colour and giving this piece of art the appearance of a succulent dish.

The painter has before him some fifteen pots of various sizes. Each pot has its brush; on one side are two or three brushes, more or less hard. This is his laboratory and his studio. Here his inspirations are reduced to realities. It is here that he puts his *X pinxit*, to every dish that issues from the establishment.

For fish, the mode is simpler. A little varnish for soles, a little vermilion for lobsters are all that is required. The imagination or the good will of the eater makes up for the rest.

I should never end if I went through all the examples furnished by that inimitable *raconteur*, Aurelien Scholl. I shall content myself with only one more, and that the most artistic of all: the doubling of an egg on the plate. This is pronounced a very difficult feat and it is paid for at fixed rates.

The caterer does not want to give two eggs and he does not dare offer only one. So the cook takes a plate in the bottom of which there is a little melted butter; he cuts the shell of the egg with a tool, similar to a glazier's diamond, then, with a knife steeped in oil, he rapidly splits the egg through the middle, where the cut was made by the sharp tool. The egg falls in two parts on the plate, and the yolk being half to the right and half to the left, a single egg is represented!

Scene at a country inn:

Host (putting dish on table).—Here is ham and egg.

Guest.—The egg I see, but where is the ham?

Host.—That is under the egg.

A specimen of classic translation:

Cæsar magno tumultu noctu cassira perripuit. (CÆSAR. Comment.)

Cæsar with a great noise broke through the casters (of his bed) at night.

One day, in the year 1849, as Victor Hugo was leaving the Institute of France and going to the Legislative Assembly, he met Beranger, along the quays:

"Where do you come from?" asked the song-writer, who, not being an Academician knew nothing of its days of meeting.

"From a place," replied the poet "where you should have been long since."

"And where are you going?"

"To a place you should never have left."

Beranger smiled, saluted his illustrious friend and passed on.

Who has not heard of the two Roman statues of Pasquin and Marforio?

When the Franco-Prussian war broke out the following dialogue passed between them.

Marforio.—What news to-day?

Pasquin.—A nation of novelists has declared war to a nation of geometers.

The friends of that charming writer and Bohemian, Théophile Gautier, have drawn a memorial volume, consisting of eulogistic verses and other appropriate letter press. Among the contributors is Algernon Swinburne, whose French verses are much praised for beauty and freshness.

Speaking of Swinburne, reminds me of an elegant and charitable appreciation of him from the lips of Ralph Waldo Emerson. The philosopher called the poet "a mere luper and a sodomite." Thank you, Mr. Emerson. That at least is intelligible, which is more than can be said of most of your sayings and writings. I will not retaliate and repeat what a critical friend of mine once wrote of you. I will make no allusion to what is popularly known as "the sublime nonsense of Ralph Waldo Emerson."

A profound criticism of Alphonso Karr, on the lowering tendencies of our present literature. He says:

We, in 1830, took grisettes and made duchesses of them; you, in 1873, take duchesses and make grisettes of them.