

street was so named from Caroline, wife of the regent; Frederic street preserved the name of the regent's brother, Frederic, Duke of York, after whom Duke street was so named; Duchess street was a compliment to his wife; while Queen street, early applied to a leading thoroughfare of the place, must be taken to commemorate Queen Charlotte herself—a street extending, at the present day, almost in a right line, all the way from the Humber Bay in the west, to Victoria Park in the east, a mile or two beyond Ashbridge's Bay. Princess street was originally Princess street, having reference to the other brothers of the Duke. The example thus early set has been followed. Two additional queenly names, Adelaide street and Victoria street have become familiar expressions, whilst Albert street, Edward street, Louisa street, Alice street, also derive their names from members of the Royal family.

Moreover, Queenston, so familiar to the tourist up the Niagara River, is another memorial of George III.'s Queen Charlotte. The name of this place was at the outset Queenstown, as we learn from D. W. Smith's First Gazetteer of Upper Canada, 1796, wherein, p. 129, we have the information that "Queenstown is situated upon the Niagara River, about seven miles above Newark; it is at the head of the navigation for ships, and the portage occasioned by the falls of Niagara commences here."

Charlottenburgh, an early township name now disused, was also intended to be a memorial of the good Queen. The authoritative work just quoted informs us, p. 62, that "Charlottenburgh, the township of, is on the River St. Lawrence, and in the County of Glengarry, being the second township in ascending." This Germanized name having reference to the Queen fell early into disuse, along with several other names of the same class which once figured on our maps.

Off the coast of British Columbia, now become a portion of Canada, the Queen Charlotte Islands still retain the name of the old queen without any change or ambiguity.

The canvas house which figures so largely in the history of York and Governor Simcoe may once have given shelter to Sir Joseph Banks within its textile walls, but not in Canada. This moveable residence was, we are assured, originally constructed for the use of Captain Cook and his party, while circumnavigating the globe, when engaged in making scientific observations in various parts thereof. Sir Joseph was, as we know, a companion of Captain Cook in some of these expeditions.

HENRY SCADDING.

PARIS LETTER.

Christmas Eve was very bright and cold, so there was a general outing to assist in or witness the midnight masses, after which came the inevitable supper. When the streets resound with song and laughter, be assured the joy is complete. As to the midnight mass, that at Saint Roch, as usual, carried off the palm. The knowing foreign element flock to this church; next, in point of music, is Saint Eustache, and then the Madeleine. The latter has a more famous name, but its musical mass is not so brilliantly executed as that of its rivals. Adam's music continues to be the favorite. The members of the congregation can participate of the sacrament, but this rite, more especially in the rural districts, is more popular at Easter tide.

The favorable character of the weather on Christmas Eve—a special exception after hurricanes and deluges—induced many who declined to go to mass to have a stroll along the Boulevards to notice the exhibits at the toy fair, and, then, to wind up with a supper, costly as the purse could buy, at a restaurant or a wine shop, all of which establishments were blazing with light, and as they have permission to remain open for that night only, Paris realized Victor Hugo's saw of being the "City of Light." Every one of these places was full of clients supping off oysters, black pudding, ham, or some variety of sausage; 360 tons of oysters had arrived that morning from all the beds in France. After good eating and drinking, followed smoking and singing till daylight. In the meantime mammas had been looking after the great expectations of the little ones at home, seeing that their shoes were properly ranged before the chimney, and sufficiently capacious to contain the gifts deposited by Saint Nicholas.

The beautiful weather held up on Christmas Day. The oldest inhabitants never could recall such crowded streets. You did not so much walk, as you were propelled. There was revolution in the air; people seemed instinctively to feel that the light (of prosperity) of other days had returned. The toys had the air of being robustly new, and the majority of them novel. People were in a spending mood, so the Fair can have no reason to complain. The shops were exceedingly showy and stocked, as if preparing against seven years of famine; but the most agreeable feature was the active sales and the ceaseless packing up of purchases. For 48 hours Paris has had no naughty children. The *bon-bon* shops were never so much patronized before, and the bags, boxes, and cases to contain the sweetmeats, were really things of beauty, got up regardless of expense; the patterns of these *sachets* and boxes were pleasingly ingenious and humorous without being ridiculous. What miles of ribbon of every color must have been employed, for twine, no matter how fanciful, is tabooed. The shops were as much filled with extra assistants as with purchasers. There was no diminution in the matter of prices. I do not think the demand for books was as brisk as in former seasons; there was a run on flowers, roses especially; chrysanthemums were neglected. Stacks of holly with red berries and piles of mistletoe sold like hot cakes. Firs for Christmas trees were not in such popular request; the loading them with fruit is often costly, and is an outlay, apart from the usual gifts to be made. Every restaurant had plum-pudding on its menu, and it was served with all blue-light honors; it was wonderful the glee of the French when the waiter serves the p. p. in full blaze. The French cooks commence to know how to make the pudding, though it is a central establishment that supplies taverns, etc., with the favorite, and of all sizes. The "Plum Pudding Supply Co." is an attractive title, its puddings do not run into liquid, to necessitate serving with a ladle, nor do they fall into crumbs, like a 2,000 years' old mummy.

In Italy, Premier Crispi demands all politicians to observe "a truce of God"; in France the truce *des confiseurs*, or sugar bakers, is all that is demanded or acted upon; and it is expected to run from Christmas to New Year's Day. The partial elections for the renewal of one-third of the Senate will not consent to any truce, hence a kind of twilight agitation in the political atmos-

phere. The public does not give much attention to the matter, save to the candidature of M. Floquet, who, after his extraordinary decadence in public life, now wishes to re-enter on the scene with "bated breath and whispering humbleness." Years ago, when in full pride of place, he refused to become Senator unless the voters unanimously invited him to do them the honor of representing them. And now he has to sue: what a fall is there, my countrymen; what a strange thing is popularity. The Chamber of Deputies has its deputy who always dresses in a blue frock to typify the working, the *proletaire* classes. His name is Thivrier. Electors solicit him to become a candidate for the Senate, and so King Demas can have a patrician in a blue blouse sitting amongst the fathers in broadcloth. But Thivrier has now an opponent who offers not only to wear a blouse if elected to the Senate, but to wear also wooden shoes.

People somehow do not like the situation at Siam, and conclude that China is destined to play an important part therein. Why, says a neutral observer, ought not John Chinamen seize one-third of Siam, and let England appropriate the rest! Others assert that if France raises any new difficulties about the execution of the treaty, that Siam will demand to be taken over as a "protectorate," under English guidance. That might not be the worst solution; it would be as difficult then to get the British out of Bangkok as out of Cairo, or say, as the French out of Tunisia.

The French conclude that the agitation in England for the increase of war-ships, men, artillery, and extra docking accommodation has been successful, in the sense that public attention has been awakened to keep its eyes on these matters and will henceforth keenly follow the outputs from the Russian and French dockyards. To keep ahead every year of the united strength of the Franco-Russian squadrons is deemed to amount to the same thing and to arrive at the same end as if to set all the dockyards at work in the United Kingdom immediately. England is now on the *qui vive* so that it will be no easy matter to steal a march upon her. She is viewed as being decidedly in earnest, and that alone is an important fact which weighs with the intelligent foreigner.

Perhaps some Russians presume too much on the sentiment of the Franco-Russian alliance. A troupe of Russian wandering minstrels and dancers arrived a few days ago in Paris to exhibit their accomplishments; they hired one of the secondary theatres for 1,000 fr. per night. The usual trumpet of fame was blown to invite citizens to walk in. Nobody, it may be truly said, came. It was a complete smash. The owner of the theatre, not having been paid his evening rent of 1,000 fr., banged the whole troupe into the street, for philo-Russian though he may be, he wants his rent. A journal relates that the unfortunates have had to sleep on the seats along the Boulevards and are starving; they have only "two boxes of sardines in their commissariat." The impresario complains of the exorbitant price asked to put his advertisement in one paper—for ten lines, one insertion, he was to be charged 500 fr. Call you that backing your friends? A whip is being made to obtain 7,000 fr. to send the Tartars back to Moscow. Parisians states they do not understand Russian. To this the troupe replies, "In our own land, we are not understood either when we sing"—a common difficulty when words are wedded to music.