

THE SATURDAY READER.

VOL. I.—No. 2.

FOR WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 16, 1865.

FIVE CENTS.

CONTENTS.

THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET	JEANNIE'S BLUE EYE (poetry).
PRETTY FANNY'S WAY.	FLOWERS, SWEET FLOWERS. (poetry).
INFLUENCE OF CLIMATE.	WAITING. (poetry).
CAN YOU FORGIVE HER?	HAZ-BEN-ADN TO HIS TYPE. (poetry).
CANADIAN LITERATURE.	THE PORTRAIT A TRUE BILL.
DAWN OF CANADIAN HISTORY.	DIAMONDS AND ROSES HOPE-RASHLEIGH (con'd).
LOPES.	PASTIMES.
ZIG-ZAG PAPERS.	WITTY AND WHIMSICAL.
WORKING MEN'S CLUBS.	
NAPOLÉON'S LOVE AFFAIRS.	
ACROSS THE ALPS.	

Continued from week to week, the NEW STORY,

"HALF A MILLION OF MONEY,"

written by the author of "Barbara's History" for
All the Year Round, edited by CHARLES DICKENS.

THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET.

WHEN it was ascertained that there was no falling-off in the trade of the country for the last twelve months, as compared with former years, the interest in Mr. Galt's financial statement ceased to a great extent. We had been told that the existing tariff was to remain unchanged; and when we learnt that the excess of the annual expenditure over the annual revenue was only a few hundred thousand dollars, instead of several millions, as feared and predicted, we learnt all that was really of importance to us in connection with the matter. That the tax on Promissory notes was to be extended to sums below \$100, and that a bill was to be passed for the protection of the revenue against fraud,—these, though important facts were scarcely sufficient to constitute the staple of a three or four hours speech. However, Mr. Galt had to speak. Is he not our Chancellor of the Exchequer? And a Chancellor of the Exchequer who would dare to introduce his budget unheralded by a long speech would be an abomination in Opposition eyes and a mark for the invec tives of Opposition eloquence. Had Mr. Galt neglected this standard task, Mr. Holton would have stormed against so flagrant a breach of British Parliamentary practice, and Mr. Dorion moaned over the ruins of Responsible Government and the Constitution. The Minister of Finance, then, we say, had to speak; and well he did it, considering the materials at his disposal. His remarks on the Reciprocity Treaty are chiefly interesting to the public as expressing the views of the Canadian Government on the question. He declares in the first place, that the portion of our trade depending on reciprocity does not exceed \$10,000,000, per annum; and in the second place, that if the Treaty were not continued or renewed, we could survive the misfortune, and find other channels for our products. We have always been of opinion that the benefits conferred on Canada by this Treaty have been exaggerated. The war with the South has added to the prevailing delusion in that respect, by the exceptional demand it created; but when affairs among our neighbours have settled down into their normal

condition, it will, we suspect, be found that there is little we have to send to them which they have not got themselves abundantly and to spare. Our lumber they must have, in the long run, tax it as they may; but it strikes us that the privilege of sending our agricultural produce into the American market bears some similarity to the proverbially unprofitable speculation of sending coals to Newcastle. The United States export largely almost every article with which we can supply them; and nature has been more bountiful to them, as regards both soil and climate, than she has been to these Provinces. The inference is evident; the advantage to be derived by us from reciprocity with the States is, under ordinary circumstances, far from being what many imagine it to be. The demand for our products during the late war offers no criterion by which we can judge of the future. The farmer, however, but especially the farmer's wife, is strong in the conviction that if deprived of the American market, their fowls, eggs and vegetables would lie rotting on their hands. Statistics tell a different tale; for from 1854 to the second year of the war, the exports to the States of the lighter products of our farms were comparatively of trifling value; and the loss of the traffic would be scarcely of consequence in a national point of view, nor do we believe that any class of our people would suffer from it to the extent they suppose. Of one thing we feel certain, namely, that a temporary treaty would be worse than none at all. If we cannot arrange one for all time, or at least, for a long period of years, we had better go on without it. If ten years hence we should be obliged to find new channels for our commerce we should have reason to curse the day that we entered into such close relations with our neighbours. This point will we trust, be kept in sight in any new treaty, for it is undoubtedly of vital importance. As regards the enlargement of our canals we cannot agree with the views expressed by Mr. Galt on that subject. He insists that the enlargement much depend on the action of the American Government in granting or withholding reciprocity. He remarked: "We have no trade ourselves which required such enlargement, no trade which of itself would justify, us in enlarging these canals. We would only be repaid for such improvements by obtaining the North American trade, and making it pay toll or otherwise contribute to our revenue. If, then, the Americans do not want to have any trade with us it would clearly be the greatest mistake in the world to enlarge our canals, which should only be done in the event of the Americans being desirous to send their produce by our route." We cannot perceive how the course to be followed by the Americans in this matter ought to govern us in regard to the extension and improvement of our inland navigation. Reciprocity or no reciprocity, we may still secure the carrying trade of the West, if our channels of communication with the ocean be found cheaper, safer and better than other routes. It was with that object in view that our canals were constructed, and we should

not be deterred from consummating that policy by the selfishness, the ignorance or the necessities of others. It is not likely that the Americans will impose export duties on their products seeking a market by the way of the St. Lawrence, and we do not see how otherwise they can prevent us from having a portion, at all events, of "the North American trade and making it pay tolls and contribute to our revenue." When our canals were designed, we had no Reciprocity treaty with the United States and Mr. Galt's definition of their intent and use are not warranted by the facts of the past or the present. We were much pleased with the Hon. gentleman's observations on the trade with the West Indies, which, like him, we trust to see increase at a more rapid rate than has been the case for a long time past. Formerly, Canada carried on a large trade with the West India Islands and British Guiana; in fact, was the largest consumer of their products, next to England. But that was some thirty or forty years ago. Several of our most respectable merchants, both in this city and Quebec, were engaged in the trade; but one by one they withdrew from it, either in consequence of heavy losses, or from finding a more profitable investment for their money. In 1827 the West India markets were partly opened to American enterprise; more facilities were granted to them afterwards, until gradually they drove our people out of the field. They were enabled to do so, chiefly because they were nearer by many hundreds of miles to the West Indies, and partly because our intercourse with the country was limited to one half the year, while they could make their trips to and fro at all seasons, circumstances of great importance in connection with a tropical climate, and its destructive effects on provisions and flour, of which our supplies in a great measure consisted. Still, we think that this trade could be revived, and that it might be made a profitable one. The Americans have a shorter voyage to make; but from the other advantages we command, especially in the cheapness and variety of all sorts of lumber, we ought to hold our ground against them and something more. Mr. Galt, in our opinion, has therefore done well in drawing attention to this old branch of Canadian commerce, and we hope he has not spoken in vain. We shall only further say that, take him all in all, Canada has reason to be anything but ashamed of her Minister of Finance.

"PRETTY FANNY'S WAY."

IT seems to be in the nature of things, at all events in the nature of things Canadian, that every public man who aspires to the position of a political leader must undergo the baptism of abuse. He must become the martyr of his party before he becomes its chief. The wounds he has received in battle, like those of the Roman candidate for office, constitute his claim to the popular suffrage. Mr. Baldwin, Sir L. H. Lafontaine, Mr. Draper, Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, Mr. Car-