

The elasticity of walls and piers of masonry has been shown in the great bridge at St. Louis. There is a center span of 520 feet in the clear, and two side spans of 502 feet each, with heavy stone piers and abutments. The spans exert a thrust on the abutment and piers, the effects of which were accurately noted in a recent experiment. Fourteen locomotives were run on one of the side spans, and the crown of the arch over the middle span was observed to rise one-quarter of an inch. It returned to its former elevation when the load on the side span was removed. The horizontal deflection of the pier is estimated to have been one-twelfth of an inch. This deflection must have taken place between the spring of the arches and the part of the pier firmly imbedded in the river bed or in a body of solid masonry 36 feet wide on an average and 65 feet long.

The Legislature of Nova Scotia was opened on the 11th inst., by Lieut. Governor Archibald. In the speech from the Throne, his Honour alluded to the happy escape the Province had enjoyed from the extensive depression of trade which has prevailed elsewhere, owing to Nova Scotia's varied resources and industries. He congratulated the country on the success which attended the holding of the Agricultural Exhibition and its results. Among the Government measures promised is a bill for amending the election system and for the trial of converted elections. His Honour alluded to the new co-operative arrangements for promoting immigration and to the subject of eastern railway extension, which matters are commended to the special attention of the Legislature.

New Brunswick has just set a noble example of political amenity and good feeling. Messrs. ELDER and CLARK ran for a seat in the Legislature. The former, who is the able editor of the *St. John Daily Telegraph* was elected by a majority of 263. Immediately after the declaration of the poll, Mr. ELDER proposed a vote of thanks to the presiding High Sheriff, and Mr. CLARK seconded the motion. Then both the elected and the defeated candidates made speeches distinguished for courtesy, good humor, and the kindest feeling. We believe this is the first time that such an imitation of the good English practice has been attempted in Canada, and it deserves to be noticed in consequence.

Congress has revived the Franking privilege to some extent. It has provided that all public documents now printed or hereafter to be printed by order of Congress may be sent free through the mails until the first day of next December, on a personal frank of a Member of the present Congress. It is also provided that the Commissioner of Agriculture may hereafter send through the mails, on his frank, copies of the Agricultural report and such seeds as he has for distribution. The number of books printed since last December, to which each Member of this Congress will be entitled is about 500, the average weight of which is two pounds, or for the Senate and House about 375,000 pounds.

In the Insolvency Committee, clause 67 was so amended as to provide for the sale by the assignee, of small debts, which would cost more than they were really worth to collect without the authorization of a Judge. Clause 69 was amended to dispense with the notarial notice to debtors in the Province of Quebec, in case of the sale of their accounts. Clause 71 was amended to provide for three months notice instead of one, in case of creditors wishing to retain leased property for the use of the estate, if the case permitted the extension of time.

Civil Service reform has again collapsed in the United States. At a late Cabinet

session, the President called attention to the statement in his last annual message, that if Congress adjourned without legislation on the subject of Civil Service Reform, he would regard such action as a disapproval of the system, and would abandon it so far as competitive examinations were concerned. Agreeably to that notice, he stated his intention to abandon it, and officers were requested to give notice of the fact accordingly.

In referring to our brief biography of Hon. Mr. SCOTT, in the last number of the *CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS*, the *Ottawa Times* calls attention to what it characterizes as at least one of the greatest achievements of Mr. Scott's life—the Separate School Law of Upper Canada, a measure which, through him, if not through him alone, was, after years of struggling and heartburning on all sides, finally carried through the old Parliament of Canada, and became the law of the land.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE has not a very favorable opinion of our Boards of Trade. He said some of them were merely political clubs, and many of them were without even commercial intelligence. One Board of Trade with which he was acquainted, undertook to black ball all members who belonged to a certain political party. They then proceeded to discuss political questions, and their utterances were sent abroad as those of an influential body.

A letter from Yokohama, says that now the danger of war with China is over the Japanese Government is devoting all its energies to internal affairs. The Emperor himself directs the policy of his Ministers, and is especially desirous of completing the re-organization of the army and navy, which is to be carried out after the Prussian model.

SIX MONTHS IN THE WILDS OF THE NORTH-WEST.

BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST AND CORRESPONDENT.

VIII.

DEER OR DEER HILLS. THE LEGEND OF OLD WIFE'S LAKE. MEDICINAL WATERS. AMERICAN GAME. PEMMICAN. SIOUX CAMP. BEGINNING OF THE POW-WOW.

On the 6th August, we reached an elevation which bears the fragrant name of Deer Hill, formed by a succession of hillocks. The ascent was quite easy, and we found there good pasture and water. On the north side of the mountain there was plenty of wood of which we took in an ample supply, as we were certain to meet none before reaching Lake La Vieille. Near a spring of cold water in the same locality, we saw a few big huts, where half-breed hunters winter every year, for this is the entrance to the buffalo region. We saw some antelopes in the vicinity, but did not succeed in killing any.

On the 8th, after traversing a very hilly country, we reached the shores of Lake La Vieille, or Old Wife's Lake. This is a sheet of water of more than usual importance. Its dimensions are ten miles in length by thirty in breadth. The lake and the creek are historical. Many years ago, a party of Assiniboine passing here had in their train an old woman who was unable to work and even to walk. Proving a hindrance to the progress of the party, she was left on the margin of the lake by her own children. Rations for a few days were laid beside her, but when these were expended, the poor forlorn creature died a lingering and frightful death from starvation. This barbarous habit of abandoning the aged and infirm to their fate is too frequent among the Indians of the North-West, more especially among the Assiniboine, who seem to surpass all other tribes in deeds of heartlessness. About twenty miles from the camp, Colonel French found a human skull, which must have lain on the prairie for ten or twelve years. He could not be positive whether it was that of an Indian or a white man.

The water of Old Wife's Lake is deeply impregnated with sulphate of soda. It emits a disagreeable smell to the windward, as of decayed woods steeped in brine. The effect of the odor is very nauseating, and one cannot stop long upon the banks. Men and horses were actively purged by it. This sulphate of soda is found as a thick deposit on the shores of most of the small neighbouring lakes. No grass grows in the neighborhood. It is a Dead Sea country. Shooting, however, was very plentiful. Pelicans, ducks, geese, and bustard plovers were in abundance. The Colonel killed a pelican of immense size and all white, measuring eight feet from tip to tip.

About five miles onward along the shore of the lake we met Major McLeod who had that morning arrived from the special mission to which I referred in a previous chapter. He brought with him 1,000 pounds of pemmican and a cart load of dry meat. He did not succeed, however, in getting horses, on account of the exorbitant prices demanded for them. Two hundred dollars were asked for a small pony.

Travelling about four and a half miles, we got near the bank of Old Wife's Creek, where we found plenty of good water and feed, with wood at a short distance. The water of the creek itself is not good, as it holds more or less sulphate of soda in solution, but the branch falling into it is very good and cool. It is fringed with high bushes bearing huckleberries and cherries. The former were rather dry, as it was late in the season for them, but they were very acceptable all the same and the men feasted on them.

There was a camp of Sioux Indians near us. They struck their wigwams, about seven in number, to camp about three quarters of a mile from us. They numbered about thirty men, women and children. We were to have a pow-wow with them on the following day. At La Vieille we were 475 miles from Dufferin.

On the 13th August, the great "pow-wow" took place. The Indians and wives came half way to camp at an early hour and waited with great patience for the appointed hour. At 10 a.m., they were informed that the Chief of the Red Coats was ready to receive the Red Children of the Great Mother who lives across the big waters. They came marching in line, their wives behind, the Chief holding in his right hand the insignia of royalty in front, chanting something in a dirge-like monotonous tone, almost drowned in the clarion notes of our trumpets belching forth glad sounds of welcome. They were conducted to a sort of pavillion made by putting two large square tents into one. There they were introduced to Lieutenant Colonel French, and a general shaking of hands all round took place, with a "how" in a low guttural tone from each warrior. We at first met them with closed lips as we did not know what to say. The usual how-do-you-do would have sounded ridiculous, and the happy-to-see-you would have been a lie on our lips, as they were a most wretched lot of the grand and proud Sioux. However, we soon got into the "how" of our red brothers, and "how," "how" in higher tones was heard all round.

(To be continued.)

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

CANADIAN MONTHLY. The March number of this excellent magazine has been published in due time, though we still urge that the numbers should issue before the 1st of each month, rather than a few days later. The system of antedating publications may have its disadvantages, but it is so much in vogue on this continent, that it becomes a necessary element of successful competition. The contents of the present number are quite satisfactory in point both of excellence and variety. The summary of Canadian history in the appendix is a capital feature.

BEEHIVE AND TELEGRAMS. Parts fourth and fifth of the great trial are published and with the previous parts, form a fine octavo volume, containing seven or eight portraits, and the whole of the plaintiff's case. The work is handsomely produced, is furnished at the reasonable rate of fifty cents a part, and is invaluable to all who wish to keep an authentic record of this important case. Our legal friends and readers cannot do better than supply their libraries with copies of this useful work. They should apply to McDevitt, Campbell & Co., 111 Nassau St., N. Y.

HANS ANDERSEN.

His is a simple nature, easy to read in his every-day relations with his fellows. I was charmed with him as a companion. Living in the same house with him, in the free, unrestrained intercourse of the country, I spent many a delightful hour by his side, drinking in the wondrous fancies of his brain, and listening to his quaint talk, which seemed to come from some far-away world into which he alone, of all I had ever met, had gained admittance. In the cool of the afternoon he liked to walk in the fields with any of our party who were so inclined. For the first quarter of an hour he would not talk much, but shamble along, peking his stick into every hole and corner, or touching with it every odd thing that lay in his path. Then something would attract his attention—a bit of old glass, a faded flower, or a half eaten insect—no matter what it was, he would stoop and pick it up, touch it tenderly, bend over it caressingly, and then, in a kind of low, half-regretful tone, he would begin and tell the story of its life, its joys, its sorrows, and the sad destiny which brought it to the spot where he had found it, till I would stand listening in hushed awe, looking at the thing in his hand, and then at the dreamy face speaking so earnestly, and wonder if the man had really a soul and body belonging to the same earth that all the rest of us dwell in so prosaically, or if he would presently vanish into the spirit-realm whence he gathered his fanciful ideas, and be no longer by our side.

He seemed to me to live in a world peculiarly his own, all his ideas, thoughts, and actions, differing from those around him, and his fanciful interpretations of the every-day incidents of life often made me smile, and made me envy the dear old man the power he had of drawing pleasure to himself and giving amusement to others, from many of the small vexations which are apt to oc-

cur in the best-regulated and most orderly households.

Andersen cannot only weave and tell a story well, but he is a rare reader. Often in the evening, when the drawing room was full of guests, when the fun and laughter were beginning to decline, or when there was a pause in the exquisite music always to be heard at Madame H—'s charming *soirees*, I have noticed Andersen quietly rise from his corner, take a paper from his pocket, draw near a lamp, and propose to read a story. Of course, it was one of his own, and voices would be hushed in eager expectation, for all knew that, whatever it was, old or new, it would be sure to be worth listening to. Then, with a few words explanatory of the story, he would begin softly, as if to insure and command the attention of all around, and then gradually grow louder and louder, till his voice, always melodious and full of feeling, had reached the pitch fitted for the room. As he read on and on, and the story unfolded itself, one seemed to forget the society around, and to live in the troubles and sorrows or pleasures of those he was describing. His story done, he would rise from his chair, and, with a low, awkward bow, and a slight wave of his hand, retire to his corner, and shut his eyes and rest.

Once when I was telling him how intensely I enjoyed these delicious impromptu readings, and how pleasant and novel such a procedure was he smiled, and answered in his frank way, "If a lady can play, she likes to let others hear her talent; an artist shows his pictures—why should not I tell my little story, for that is my gift from God?"

Andersen must be seventy years of age now. He stoops much when walking, but his hair is not very grey, nor is the thin, slight beard he wears under his smooth-shaven chin. His eyes are small, but bright and good-humored, and his forehead remarkably high; and, although he is by no means a handsome man, yet his pleasing winsome manners and genial smile unconsciously prepossess one at first appearance. His mornings he devotes to writing, but he would often come and join us in the veranda, and read to us, as he worked the outline of a new story or a fresh idea about an old one.

ON LONG LIFE.

Lord St. Leonards, in a letter dated "Bayle Farm, Nov. 6, 1871," wrote as follows:—"My own great age—in my 91st year—is singular in this respect: its operation on the two classes to which I belong. I am the oldest peer in the House of Lords, and therefore I am called the father of the House. I am the oldest member of the bar, and therefore I am called the father of the bar. After so long a period, never withdrawing from the duties attached to the position which I have occupied, I have ultimately retired from public life, but still find myself called upon to exercise the faculties of which a kind Providence has left me in possession. I lead a life which seems likely to extend itself. I enter into no speculation, and have nothing to agitate me. I avoid all luxurious living, and limit myself to a moderate quantity of wine. I go early to bed, and my moderation is rewarded by a good night's sleep. I get up early, and am always down to a nine o'clock breakfast. I pass much of my time in reading. I live a happy life, for which I thank God, and submit myself to His grace and mercy. This, then, is all the secret which I possess of long life."

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

ADELAIDE PHILLIPS is to have a week of operas in May, at the Boston Theatre, before bidding a last long farewell to the American stage.

It is said that Manager Strakosch lost \$75,000 during the season of Italian opera so abruptly brought to a close by the fitting of Alhambra.

It is said that Rose Eytinge will create the leading rôle in "Rose Michel" in this country. The drama has been the greatest success in Paris since the "Two Orphans."

Mlle. GHANASSI, a Parisian ballet girl, undertook to enter a den of wild beasts recently. Armed with such softening implements as a whip and a bouquet of violets, she went in and conquered.

MRS. PHILIP READE, who has achieved success at Milan, Italy, will return to her home in Topeka, Kansas, ere long. She has already appeared in several operas.

MRS. JENNY VALLEY SCHERENBERG, a lady of musical culture, and who obtained, it is said, a prominent place as a singer in Germany, is now residing in Chicago. She is said to be a star.

It is dawning upon the minds of the *capricci* that singers at from one to two thousands dollars a night are too costly to carry around the country during a season of reflection and common-sense.

It is troubling the *impresario* just now to find a system of mathematics, by which a salary of \$2,000 per night can be deducted from \$1,900 receipts, and leave a balance sufficient to pay traveling expenses.

JULIUS E. PERKINS, the basso, died recently in London. He was a native of Vermont, and visited this country last summer, bringing with him his bride, Marie Boze, the *prima donna*. Mr. Perkins was master of a very proud position.

Mlle. FAUVAUT has created a sensation at the Théâtre Français by her superb acting of the *raison* scene in "Adrienne Lecouvreur." She makes *Adrienne* die in horrible but more artistic agonies than those with which Croizette illustrated the "Sphinx."

MISS NEILSSON is to act shortly in St. Louis, where she will give *Isabella* in "Measure for Measure," a part which she assumed for the first time in Philadelphia. There have been few, if any, actresses who have attempted it since Miss Glynn.