

1874.

## THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

The month of December of this year closes the eighth volume of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, under the most favourable auspices. The paper has not only retained the success which it enjoyed from its inception, but it has gone on adding to its popularity, and, at the beginning of a new year, finds itself with a large and

## STEADILY INCREASING CIRCULATION.

This state of things is so far satisfactory that we have been encouraged to introduce new and important improvements both in the management and editorial composition of the paper. Henceforward, particular attention will be given to

## REGULAR DELIVERY.

so that newsdealers in all parts of the Dominion will be punctually served, and readers may rely upon having their paper in good time, every week. Experience shows that, while this country is well provided with a daily press, there is an ample field for the development of weekly family papers, which shall embrace, besides the usual amount of literary matter, a comprehensive account of the current events of the day. It is our ambition to take rank with the best weekly papers of Britain and the United States, in both ability and influence, and our new arrangements to compass this end are complete. Our political course will be, as usual, independent and non-partisan.

## LITERATURE.

in its lightest and most attractive phases, such as serials, short stories, sketches, and poetry, will receive unremitting attention; and an immense variety of miscellaneous matter will be furnished in every issue.

The specific character of the paper will be maintained in the department of

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

We have every facility for producing them in a style that defies competition. Besides the pictorial representation of interesting incidents all over the world, we shall continue our gallery of PORTRAITS of male and female celebrities. Occasionally an ART-PICTURE from one of the masters will be produced, and the periodical FASHION PLATE will appear at appropriate seasons. It is intended also to make a specialty of

## CARTOONS.

setting off leading events of the day. These will be finished in a style of high art, and, from their historical interest, will form a collection worth preserving.

In addition, then, to a summary of current events, political intelligence, religious news, literary, scientific, and artistic progress, the readers of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS will have a weekly series of pictures and sketches so disposed as to promote, in the highest degree, the great desideratum of art culture.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1873.

The result of the Bazaine trial has not caused any very great surprise. It was only natural that some scapegoat should be selected to bear the sins of the nation; that some victim should be sacrificed to the ill-timed vanity of the French people. Who more likely than the general who after the most dogged resistance, sustained the most disastrous defeat? To such a trial, of such a man, there could have been but one end, viz: a conviction, with a strong recommendation to mercy. Opinions differ greatly as to the justice of the verdict, though the feeling of pity for the ex-marshal of France is shared by all alike, outside of his own countrymen. We are told that the verdict of the court was received with applause. There is nothing new in this. A discomfited general, like a fallen minister, is always held in ill-favour by the vulgar crowd. It was something at all events to be told, even by a court of unknown officers, that the grand defeat which laid France in the dust was due more to the want of ability and patriotism on the part of the French leader than to any military skill on that of the enemy. And so the nation goes its way hugging the idea that had MacMahon, or Douay, or Faidherbe, been in Bazaine's place at Metz, the glory would never have departed from the French arms. And yet throughout the whole of the evidence, so much of it as has reached us *in extenso*, the most critical observer can find nothing which seriously inculpates Bazaine. He was simply overpowered by stronger numbers, hedged in in a position from which, knowing only what he did, he could see no outlet. Had he followed the line of conduct for neglecting which he is now so strongly condemned; had he gathered up his forces and made a last attempt to escape when it was too late, the result would only have been a tremendous slaughter that would have raised an outcry from one end of the land to the other against his wilful waste of French blood. We regret extremely to see that some of our Canadian journals have not refrained from decrying the services of the fallen warrior. We are told that Bazaine is not a commander of whom great things could ever be expected; that his high rank was due more to his tried fidelity to the Imperial *regime* than to any implicit confidence in his military talent. It is only at the unfortunate that such stones are thrown. Unless he had been possessed of true ability Bazaine could never have risen, as he did, from the ranks to one of the highest positions in the French army, that of Marshal of France. As to his services to his country it is not too much to say that he can lay claim to having seen more hard fighting, and done more to advance the military glory of France than any of the Algerian warriors who sat in judgment upon him.

The secession of Bishop Cummings from the Protestant Episcopal Church has created not a little stir in religious circles. And well it might. The novel manner in which the schism arose, the unusual circumstances connected with the case, and the rapidity with which the departure was effected are new things in ecclesiastical history. Of the advisability of the movement opinions are naturally much divided, while as to its effect there appears to be but one voice. By members of the Church to which the seceders belonged—a Church which has always upheld as one of its fundamental principles the heinousness of schism—it is very generally condemned and regretted. To that party especially in the Episcopal Church whose darling object is the promotion of unity in Christendom, it will be a deadly blow—a cruel awakening to a truth which they have long persistently ignored, viz., that before directing their efforts to the formation of an alliance with other religious bodies it would be well for them to concentrate their energies on the healing of the divisions that already exist among themselves. By the section known as the Evangelical party the secession of Bishop Cummings will probably be less deplored, for the simple reason that it will tend to check the so-called 'Anglican' extravagances of the extremists on the other side. It has ever been the pride of the Protestant Episcopalians that their church is based on broad enough lines to embrace widely different shades of thought. Whether this is an advantage or not is open to question. It has indubitably given rise to much licence which was never contemplated by the founders of the Church. And the undoubted effect of the new movement will be to bring about considerable modifications in the doctrine and discipline of the Church, and to do away with much of the liberty in which its members of both extremes have hitherto been able to indulge. Regarding the matter from a totally unbiassed point of view we cannot too strongly deprecate the schism. But it is not the mere separation—on which the majority of writers on the question have laid the greatest stress—that is chiefly to be deplored. It is the fact that the leader of the movement, not satisfied with withdrawing from the Church, has established a new religious body with himself as its leader, that calls most for regret. Why did Bishop Cummings not content himself with entering the Methodist Episcopal Church, where he could have enjoyed all the advantages without what he looked upon as the drawbacks of the Protestant Episcopal Church? Surely he thus had it in his power to effect his object and satisfy his conscientious scruples without adding another to the

already numberless sects that are the reproach of Protestantism. We do not wish to be understood as imputing unworthy motives to the reverend gentleman, but we must remind him of the recommendation to avoid giving to unbelievers an occasion for scandal.

There was a dramatic scene in the United States House of Representatives, the other day, which offers a subject for the pencil of the historic painter, similar in character to some of those old Venetian canvasses which are the subject of so much admiration. In the debate on the salary bill, Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, formerly a leading member of Congress, subsequently Vice-President of the Confederate States, made a speech which no one will be surprised to learn was the ablest effort of the day. While addressing the House, he is described as standing behind his seat and leaning upon his crutch on one side, while partly supporting himself upon the other by placing his hand upon a desk. The peculiar effect produced by his feeble and emaciated form, and his sunken, parchment-like cheeks, and keen, dark eyes, was heightened by his sluggish costume. Upon his head he had a black velvet skull cap, from under which fell a thin fringe of white hair. His hands were incased in loosely-fitting gloves, and he wore a suit of the blackest of black clothes. His voice was sharp and penetrating, and at times had a shrill falsetto quality, while at others, when apparently fatigued by exertion, it sank to a lower tone, and became with difficulty audible. The members thronged around him, leaving the distant seats to congregate in dense masses where they could best see and hear. Some compared him afterwards to a picture of an old Spanish "inquisitor," and others saw a resemblance to Booth's *Richelieu* in his bearing and gestures.

Science has experienced an almost irreparable loss in the death of Professor Agassiz, who departed this life at Boston, on the 15th inst. He was one of the boldest and most successful naturalists of this or any other age, and his discoveries have immensely enlarged the domain of science. This illustrious man was born in Switzerland, in the year 1807, so that he was only in his sixty-sixth year at the date of his demise. He studied medicine and the experimental sciences at Zurich, Heidelberg and Munich, occupying himself more especially with comparative anatomy. Even at this early stage of his career, Ichthyology became his favourite study. In 1839, he published "Natural History of the Fresh-Water Fish of Europe," "Researches on Fossil Fishes," and "Description of Echinodermes." The work by which he attained his great European reputation is "Studies of Glaciers," in which he advanced a theory tending to change the prevalent views of geologists as regards the incoherent and post-tertiary formations of the globe, and the dynamical causes by which those deposits have been affected. In 1846, Mr. Agassiz quitted Europe for the United States. After teaching for a few seasons in the medical school of South Carolina, he settled in Boston and became attached to Harvard University. There, through the liberality of friends and his ceaseless activity, he gathered a splendid collection of fossils and other curiosities of natural history, which he used to pursue and perfect his classifications of the lower marine animals. He surveyed the Lake Superior region, and subsequently made a long tour of the Pacific Isles with a scientific view. His last work was the establishment of a school of science at Penikese Island, on the Massachusetts coast, where his labours were so assiduous as to bring on the attack of paralysis to which he has succumbed. Mr. Agassiz was member of all the learned societies of Europe, and was decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honour.

The third Annual Report of the Protestant Institution for Deaf-Mutes has been laid upon our table. This institution, situated on the Cotedes Neiges Road, is interesting to the philanthropists and humanitarians of the Province, from the difficulties by which it has been surrounded since its inception, and from the truly noble efforts which have been made, in spite of these obstacles, to provide a comfortable home and adequate instruction to the unfortunate Protestant children who have been deprived of speech and hearing. While the language of the report is generally encouraging, we are concerned to learn from it that the wants of the Institution have gone on increasing and are, at present, very urgent. As it is, the building is overcrowded, although it affords room for only thirty persons. Considering the wants of this particular class, there ought to be accommodation for at least one hundred pupils. In consequence, the Board of Managers earnestly appeal for liberal donations to the Endowment Fund. These are the more needed because a balance of \$4000 is due on the property, and for the maintenance of the Institution there was, at the end of the last financial year, a deficit of \$454.50. The number of pupils who attended the school during the past session was twenty-one, viz: seventeen boys and four girls. Of these fifteen were free pupils, four paid full fees, and two paid only in part. This is the largest number of pupils in the Institution since its inauguration. We learn further from the report that, according to the Census of 1871, there are in the Province of Quebec, 1,689 deaf-mutes, of all ages and creeds, of whom 883 are males and 786 females. This gives an increase of 805, or nearly a duplication on the preceding decade. Judging by the relative proportion of the Protestant and Roman Catholic populations of the Province, there are probably