

# The Dominion Illustrated.

\$4.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED PUBLISHING COMPANY (Limited), Publishers.

GEORGE E. DENBAKATIS, MANAGER,  
73 St. James Street, Montreal.

GEORGE E. MACRAE, WESTERN AGENT,  
36 King Street East, Toronto.

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Agent for Manitoba and the North West Provinces.

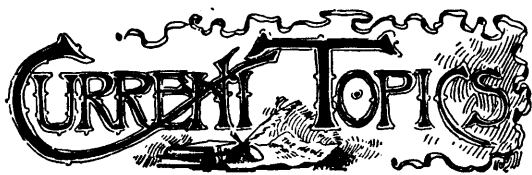
London (England) Agency:

J. H. HADDON & CO.,  
3 & 4 Boulevard Street, Fleet Street, E.C.  
SOLE AGENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

4th JANUARY, 1890.

## A WORD TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We wish you all a Happy New Year. We wish that results may equal your expectations. We pray that your enemy may not sow tares and thistles among your wheat; that God's sunshine and rain may be propitious to each of you; that His Providence may watch over your families, and your flocks, and your ships; land ships and water ships; real ships and ideal ships. May you meet with that forbearance, toleration, good will, kindly feeling, brotherly love, substantial help, at the hand of your fellow-creatures, which we trust you are ready to extend to them. And all we ask in return for these good wishes is that you should pay your subscription promptly without waiting to be asked, and that each of you should send us one new subscriber.



Though American furs sold well at the London sales last spring, it appears from the *Commercial* that there has of late been a falling-off in the demand, the foreign varieties being just now more in favour. This is especially the case with the finer furs, what demand there is being mainly for the cheaper classes. Russia, the destination hitherto of a large proportion of the American, is dilatory in buying, and the profits of dealers have materially decreased. Shippers have, therefore, been warned against paying too high a price for skins, and to give careful attention to the state of the market.

The question of defence has been discussed pretty thoroughly of late both in the Mother Country and in the Colonies. It was mainly through the very plain representations of General Edwards, after his inspection of the military force in the Australian Colonies, that the federation movement assumed its present urgency. In England the employment of the volunteers, not merely in case of actual invasion, but on the first menace of aggression by a foreign power, is now occupying attention. According to existing arrangements, they are only liable to continuous service when the invader is assuming a clearly threatening attitude. But it is maintained by military authorities that to wait till the last moment before offering their services is to invite the very risk which their organization is intended to keep aloof. It is argued that if it were known that from 80,000 to 100,000 men, effectively drilled, were actually available, along with the Regulars and Militia, the coming foe would pause in his advance and very probably retreat; whereas, the knowledge that they had still to be got ready for resistance, when he was near enough to strike, would impel him to lose no time in taking advantage of the delay. The *Broad*

*Arrow* does not hesitate to pronounce 100,000 volunteers already brigaded with the Regulars and Militia more valuable for defence than 250,000 "under mythical liabilities."

The suggestion of Mr. Charles Hancock that an international postage stamp, valid in any country belonging to the postal union, should be adopted in all of them, is likely to receive attention from the departments. Such a stamp could be used for small remittances between one country and another, and for enclosing in letters requiring answers. The proposal is so practical and would meet the wants of so large a population all over the world that it is almost certain to find favour with the respective governments.

If Canada has a share in the North Pole, our fellow-colonists in the South Pacific are determined to avail themselves of their comparative nearness to the antarctic regions. An expedition was contemplated a couple of years ago, when application was made to the British Government for coöperation. The Council of the Colonial Institute passed a resolution in approval of the undertaking, and hoped that the Colonial Office would give it favourable consideration. Copies of the resolution were sent to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the First Lord of the Treasury. An appeal was also made to the Royal Society and the Royal Geographical Society and to the Board of Trade. In reply to the Under-Secretary of the Colonial Office, the Secretary of the Treasury said that the department best able to judge of the commercial advantages of the expedition (the Board of Trade) did not think the interests involved sufficient to justify the proposed Imperial contribution, and that the communications from the scientific bodies regarded the enterprise as on too small a scale to be of much service to scientific investigation. In view of this testimony and of many other pressing calls for Imperial aid, the Lords of the Treasury did not feel themselves warranted in asking Parliament to provide a contribution. The Australian Colonies did not, however, for that reason, abandon the scheme, and according to recent accounts, the conduct of the expedition is to be entrusted to Commodore Foy, by birth a Norwegian. He proposes to combine business with scientific research, as a portion of his time is to be devoted to spermaceti whaling.

In attempting to explain how literature runs the risk in Canada of being crowded out by other more engrossing and essential pursuits, an English paper expresses the opinion that "it is in one sense higher work to clear a virgin forest and make it bright with the corn that will feed thousands than to write the most brilliant and successful novel or drama that a Scott or Shakespeare ever produced." The writer acknowledges, however, that "the many who can do the one can no more attempt the other than Caliban could produce 'Paradise Lost,' or that higher poem of more enduring human interest, Goethe's 'Faust.'" But Canada has passed the stage of mere pioneer toil, and her five millions of people ought to yield something more than the "bread that strengtheneth man's heart." And happily, there are signs of the intellectual harvest. Already she can point with pride to gifted sons and daughters that old France or old England might not disdain to own.

The December number of *Canadiana*, which completes the first year of that now well established magazine, contains contributions of value from Messrs. Ernest Cruikshank, J. M. LeMoine,

"W. B. L." (initials not unknown to our readers), and W. F. Ganong. Mr. Cruikshank, in some "Reminiscences of Col. Claus," who was Deputy Superintendent-General of the Indian Department during the period of the War of 1812-14, based on his letter-book, corrects the statements of United States historians, and especially Dr. Benson J. Lossing, as to the death of Lieut. Eldridge, who was slain while in command of a foraging party near Fort George. The correspondence quoted clearly brings out the fact that the British commanders had laid strict injunctions on the Indians and those who had charge of them not to kill or ill-treat the prisoners. As for the impetuous lieutenant, it is recorded that his sad fate was due to his own provocation in firing on one of the Indians, after his capture. Mr. LeMoine reproduces from some of those dusty memorials of the past to which he holds the key a "Chanson de Guerre de l'année 1775," written in commemoration of the Blockade of Quebec, a ditty which he has often heard said and sung by the patriotic lips of the late Hon. Louis Panet, who had received it from his father, the first Speaker of the Quebec Assembly. Mr. Ganong cites the late Rev. Dr. Rand in confirmation of the view that Quebec is an Indian word, meaning "narrows"—a view also held by the Rev. Abbé Cuoq. The editor calls attention to the interesting fact that the great-grandfather of General Gordon died at Halifax in 1751, while his grandfather was at the siege of Louisburg and the capture of Quebec. This information is due to Col. Butler, through M. J. G. ("At Dodsley's") in the *Montreal Gazette*.

The year on which we have entered is to have its exhibitions, as well as its predecessors. One of these—the National Exhibition of electrical engineering, general inventions and industries, will take place in Edinburgh next May. It will be presided over by the Marquis of Lothian, and the executive council comprises some influential names. The Lord Mayor is chairman of the London committee. Decorative art, music and other liberal arts, educational appliances, chemical and allied industries and machinery, paper and leather-work will be represented in the exhibits. The Jamaica Exhibition will give Canadians an opportunity of showing what Canada has to exchange for West Indian products, and that of Buenos Ayres will enable them to push their interests in South America.

Complaint is made of the shameful recklessness with which moose are slaughtered along the wooded shores of Lake Winnipeg, carcass after carcass of these animals being, it is said, met with, intact, save for the removal of the hide. Capt. Bergman, who gives this information, adds that last winter two hunters, to his knowledge, killed fifty head, eight of which were left to decay in the bush. At this rate moose would soon be as scarce as buffalo. It is to be hoped that something will be promptly done to prevent this extermination of the pick of our larger game.

Mr. R. W. Baxter, who visited Paris during the Exposition season, chiefly for the purpose of studying the lithographic and kindred work on exhibition there, says, in the *British and Colonial Printers' and Booksellers' Circular*, that the work turned out by Parisian firms is as good as, and sometimes better than, what is produced in London. The materials employed and the methods in use are generally the same. No process depending on any new principle is employed, so that