



PARADISE GROVE, NIAGARA.—The whole of the Niagara district so abounds in charms of scenery that there is virtually an *embarras de richesses*, both of the sublime and the beautiful. Of one spot in the vicinity of the Falls Miss Murray writes in "Picturesque Canada" that it is "richly wooded, interspersed with rocky mounds, leafy dells and moss-grown willows, shut in by great lichen-covered rocks—a perfect epitome of wild, natural beauty. . . . Beautiful even in summer, this favoured spot in spring is a perfect paradise of wild flowers and blossoming shrubs." To merit such a name a locality must be exceptionally rich in all that gives pleasure to the eye. But our readers will not deny that the scene in our engraving—even if we allow for the exaggeration of partiality—is extremely picturesque.

THE HIGHLAND CADETS AT DRILL.—The Highland Cadet Corps, composed of two companies of 50 rank and file each, was raised by the Adjutant of the 5th Battalion Royal Scots at the request of a number of youths and with the consent of their parents.—No. 1 Company to be composed of youths from 16 to 18 years of age, No. 2 of boys from 15 to 16 years, all of whom are engaged in offices or other business. The object of forming this Cadet Corps was with the hope of being attached to the battalion, and forming, as it were, a recruiting ground, from which eventually the ranks of the Royal Scots would be filled by well drilled young men. The conditions of membership are that each applicant must be of Scottish parentage or the sons of members of the Royal Scots. Each boy on joining has to sign a temperance pledge, agreeing to abstain in every way from liquor. He is expected to pay a monthly subscription of 10 cents and a deposit of \$5 towards the cost of uniform. The uniform is light grey tweed doublet, with black trimming, knickerbockers of the same material for winter or undress wear, brown leather pouch and belt, waist belt, frog and sling and brown leather leggings, forage cap and Glengarry with diced band. Full dress will be the kilt of the same material, sporran of grey wolf with black tassels, full hose of heather mixture, shoes and silver buckles. Black cock tails to be worn in Glengarry for full dress. The corps are at present negotiating to arm themselves with carbines and sword bayonet, as, unfortunately, there seems to be no provision to supply arms by the government to any but school organizations. At present No. 1 are using borrowed rifles, and No. 2 wooden guns bought by themselves. The corps are drilled in battalion drill as well as the use of arms. They are also well trained in physical drill and gymnastics. The corps had the honour of appearing before General Middleton in Ottawa on the 8th of March, and he expressed himself delighted with their efficiency. The question why the government should devote their attention to the drilling of youths in schools and utterly neglect them by giving them no chance of keeping up their knowledge of what they learnt there after they have left school is a mystery to most military men, for it is a well known fact that most youths leave school at 16 years of age, and for two years at least are unfit to join the active militia, while by being able to join a cadet corps belonging to some regiment, his interest in drill would be kept alive and he would be almost sure to join the active militia when old enough and with the advantage of being well drilled and fit for duty. It is to be hoped the authorities will yet be able to see their way clear to recognize cadet corps that are willing to attach themselves to the regiments of active militia. At present there are no acting commissioned officers. An examination for qualified cadets commenced on the 15th of this month for the positions of two captains and four lieutenants.

NORWAY HOUSE.—This engraving shows a scene that is not without historic associations. Commerce has a romance of its own, and seldom in its changeable annals has it been accompanied with such romantic incidents as those which mark the record of the fur trade in our Canadian North-West. Norway House has for generations been one of the most important posts of the Hudson Bay Company. It is situated about twenty miles down the Nelson River. Its white buildings and palisades have many a time been hailed with delight by the officers of the Company returning from their arduous and sometimes perilous journeys. Nor has the red ensign floating from the flagstaff been greeted with less satisfaction by the explorer of other services, weary after long canoeing and portaging; for, on seeing it, he knew that a hospitable welcome and the best that the post afforded awaited him without money and without price. The Nelson, on which the post is situated, is a great river, having an irregular course of some 360 miles. The scenery is often grand in its ruggedness, and at some points presents peculiar features, owing to the network of channels that take the place, in its upper course, of the ordinary river bed. This part of the country is not destitute of timber, a grove of Banksian pine giving grace to the north side of the post.

MR. JAMES JOHNSON, COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS.—Mr. James Johnson, Commissioner of Customs, was born in Cork, Ireland, 20th May, 1816, and was educated there. He came to Canada in 1831, and was fifteen years in the Bank of British North America. He was accountant of construction of the European and North American Railway of New Brunswick (Government road) from August, 1857,

until its completion in November, 1860, when he was appointed Chief Clerk of the Provincial Audit Office, New Brunswick. He became Acting Auditor-General of New Brunswick January 1865; appointed Auditor-General 1866, which office he resigned November, 1867, to accept the Assistant Commissionership of Customs at Ottawa. Conjointly with the Auditor Generalship, he held the offices of Assistant Provincial Secretary and Registrar of the Records of New Brunswick. Previous to entering Government service, he was Mayor of Moncton; was Acting Collector of Port of St. John, N.B., for some months in 1872. He was appointed Commissioner of Customs 1st January, 1875. Mr. Johnson, although never taking a very open and decisive part in party politics, has frequently exerted a quiet but effective influence, through the press and public advocacy, in the great questions occasionally agitating the constituency; notably, on the question of prohibition of the liquor traffic and the confederation of the provinces. In connection with the latter, his course was unhesitating from the commencement and consistent throughout in favour of the measure.

THE CANADIAN R. E. GRADUATES, CHATHAM, ENGLAND.—This is a group which must be gratifying to Canadian patriotism and loyalty. These young soldiers of more than promise are the sons of prominent men in the public, business and social life of the Dominion. They have already done honour to their native land, and, like their older colleagues, are prepared to answer that expectation which before and since Nelson's day England's soldier and sailor sons have never disappointed. In the last report of the general officer commanding the Canadian militia, the graduates of the Royal Military College are referred to in terms of the highest praise. We have already quoted his language with regard to the services of Lieut. Stairs, R.E., with Mr. Stanley in Africa, and of Local Captain Mackay, R.E., on the same continent. "I continue," proceeds General Middleton, "to hear privately most gratifying accounts of the other graduates who have joined the Imperial Army and of those who have entered civil life. All this tends to show the value and excellence of the Royal Military College, and I trust that Government appointments in the Dominion will be bestowed as much as possible upon those who have fully graduated and wish for them." What seems to us specially satisfactory is that the young gentlemen whose portraits we present, and who have done so much credit to Canada in winning distinction in competition with candidates from the whole empire, belong to both sections of our "dual" population. The record of 1775-6, of 1812-15, of 1866, 1870 and 1885 has proved with what manly patriotism they both stand shoulder to shoulder in the day of peril, and the honour list which we have the pleasure of presenting to-day tells the same proud story to the world.

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY.—Our readers see here the portraits of gentlemen who have deserved well of their city and country. No enterprise undertaken for the promotion of the intellectual and moral advancement of our people has had a more gratifying record than the Toronto Public Library. Its origin and development place it beyond question that where an earnest desire to carry out any scheme for the general well-being is accompanied by a corresponding effort, urged on with patriotic unanimity and intelligent grasp of the relation between means and ends, there is no reason in the world why it should fail. The task which the management of this now prosperous library set before them was no easy one, but, aided by the judgment, experience and public spirit of Mr. Bain, the Librarian, they have succeeded even beyond the most sanguine expectation. The Toronto Public Library was first opened to the public in 1884. By gradual additions, the number of volumes has increased from about 35,000 at the commencement, to about 55,000 to-day. It is divided into a Reference and a Circulating Library—the latter consisting of a central and branch establishments. The circulating department occupied the attention of the management during the first two years, but during the last four years they have laid a fair foundation for a Reference Library. The Catalogue, published a year ago, is a model of what such a work should be, and an examination of its well arranged contents furnishes satisfactory evidence of the spirit, at once comprehensive and patriotic, on which the choice of books has been conducted. In giving so large a share of the shelves to works printed in, or pertaining to, Canada, the Managers and Librarian have set an example which we would like to see more generally followed.

KAKABEKA FALLS.—This characteristic Canadian river scene has been fully described in the reports of Dr. Bell and other officers of our Geological Survey. The word "kakabeka," according to the Rev. Dr. Grant, is a corruption of "kakapikank," meaning "high fall," which our readers will admit is not lacking in appropriateness. The fall has no superior on this continent, according to the same authority, for natural beauty. "The river meets a vast barrier of slate, over which it tumbles into a chasm cut out of the rock by the unceasing flow of ages. At the top of the cliff the water, illumined by the sun, comes to the edge in a band of purple and gold. Thence it descends a height of more than a hundred feet, a mass of creamy, fleecy foam, not to be described by pen or brush. * * * One may sit by the hour spell-bound and study the motion and colour of this wondrous creation. The foam is softer than alabaster, and behind it the more solid mass of falling water is seen, by gleams and flashes, in colour and transparency like the purest amber. The spray from the foot of the fall does not rise, as at Niagara, in a slumberous

cloud. It shoots into the air at a sharp angle with immense velocity and repeated shocks of thunder, giving the impression of a series of tremendous explosions. * * * As our lingering gaze rests upon the fall at some distance, the soft, white thing looks a different order of being from the surly rocks to which it is chained. Doomed to dwell in a rocky prison, which it decks in verdant beauty with myriad cool fingers, it is sister to the rainbow, which ever and anon comes out of the unseen world to visit it." The Kakabeka Falls are situated on the Kaministiquia river—a stream famous in the history of the fur trade, about thirty miles from Lake Superior. The banks of the river, which rises in Dog Lake and has a very sinuous course of over sixty miles, contracts at the Falls to a width of about fifty yards. Its banks for nearly half a mile below rise perpendicularly, at many points overhanging their bases. The Kaministiquia enters the lake in the famous Thunder Bay.

C. P. R. ELEVATORS AT FORT WILLIAM.—There is no spot in the Western country that has more stirring memories clustering around it than Fort William, once the headquarters of the powerful and enterprising Nor'-West Company. To relate its story worthily would be to write one of the most interesting chapters in Canadian history. Times have changed, however, and with them the old metropolis of the fur kings. The fur house is now used as an engine house for the great coal docks, and overshadowing the whole is one of the largest grain elevators in the world. This is shown in our engraving, and there could be no more suggestive or impressive sight than this evidence of the new order of things that has taken the place of a dispensation which some of our readers can doubtless remember.

THE GATE OF THE SELKIRKS.—The fine view in our engraving is one which tourists have been taught to look for with wondering expectancy. After leaving the charmingly situated town of Donald—which is the headquarters for the mountain section of the road, and has its shops and other equipments for needed repairs—the railway crosses the Columbia to the base of the Selkirks, and, a little further on, the latter range, crowding close upon the Rockies, forces the river through a narrow gorge, into which the awed traveller may look shudderingly down from the slopes far above. Emerging from this gorge, the road, turning abruptly to the left, enters the Selkirks through the Gate of the Beaver River. This passage is surprisingly narrow, being comparable in this respect with any of the steep gorges of the Rockies further south, or even of the Andes in South America. A felled tree serves as a foot bridge at this point, just where the Beaver makes its final desperate plunge to the level of the Columbia.

THE RUINS OF FORT SELKIRK.

In the notes furnished with the picture of the ruins of Fort Selkirk in No. 83 (February 1), some mistakes were made in dates. They were written from memory at the time, and it is desirable to substitute the following for them:

Pelly River was discovered by Robert Campbell, then a clerk in the Hudson Bay Company's service—since risen to the rank of Chief Factor—in the summer of 1840. But such were the difficulties in the way of travellers, and the length of time taken in communicating with the outside world, that it was 1848 before Fort Selkirk was established at the confluence of the Pelly and Lewes, which Campbell discovered in 1843. In 1850 Campbell made the descent of the Pelly to the confluence of the Porcupine, which was discovered by Mr. Bell, of the Hudson Bay Company, in 1846. Mr. Campbell always believed the Pelly and the Yukon to be identical, and proved in this way. In 1852 the Indians from the coast in the neighbourhood of the head waters of the Lewes river, ancestors of some of those whose pictures have been published, finding their profits from their *peculiar trading* with the interior Indians were decreasing, determined on forming a "combine" with the traders at the fort, which they did by coming down the river in force, and arranging the preliminaries in the early morning of the 21st of August, 1852. So eager were they to arrange the matter, that they called upon Mr. Campbell while yet in bed, presented their credentials, and in a very short time the whole matter was settled to their entire satisfaction. They gave Mr. Campbell the privilege of going down the river, or the alternative of being killed. He took the former. They then pillaged the place; but whether or not they burned it then seems to be a matter of doubt.

In two days Mr. Campbell returned with a number of friendly Indians he met down the river; but the robbers were gone. He then ascended the Pelly to the head, descended the Liard, and reached Fort Simpson on the 21st of October, whence he proceeded to the nearest communication with the outside world—then Crow Wing, Minnesota. Thence he went to London and reported the loss to the company; but they declined to rebuild, though Mr. Campbell was very desirous of doing so.

A TRIOLET.

I heard a robin chirp to-day;
There's scarce another sign of spring,
But straight I felt as though 'twas May,
I heard a robin chirp to-day.

It sweeter seemed than any lay
That full-voiced, summer songsters sing.
I heard a robin chirp to-day;
There's scarce another sign of spring.