# THE PAVORITE

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1878.

# "THE FAVORITE"

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#### THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

To Judge ordinarily from the way party papers talk of "a crisis," one may almost be permitted to imagine that when so dire an event takes place, the world must of necessity cease its revolutions, and all animate and manimate creation be destroyed: but a most curious and remarkable state of affairs exists in England at the present moment, and get the world goes on fts ordinary way, and the " bright little, light little isle" was in its usual place when I st heard from. Indeed altho' Her Majerty has no ministry, and strange to say ne one appears to want to form one, yet there is no excitement whatever outside of political circles and not very much there. Mr. Gladstone's resignation after his defeat on the Irish University Bill on 12th inst was only to be expected, but one would naturally have supposed that the conservatives would have endeavored to form some sort of Gover-ment. Mr. Disraeli was sent for by Her Majesty and asked to form a ministry; he took a few days to consider the matter and consult with Lord Derby, Lord Cairns and other prominent conservatives, and after consultation he declined undertaking the responsibility of forming a ministry while the liberals had so large a majority on general questions. Mr. Gladstone was then invited to resume office, but has not yet replied, we think it highly probable that he will comply with Her Majesty's wishes, and, possibly he has again assumed the premiership while we write. The vote on the Irish University bill was by no means a party question, forty-four radicals voting against it, and it would be an impossibility for a conservative ministry to held office for any time while the radicals have a majority of about ninety. Wr. Dimaeli showed that he believed discretion to be the better part of valor wher, he refused to form a ministry which would, in all probability, have heen defeated on the verv first measure it proposed, but his forced exhibition of weakness will not be a very good card for the conservatives to go before the country with at the next general election.

### ANOTHER WARNING.

- Montreal has received another warning from the FireKing, and this time a large portion of one of our finest hotels, and two human lives have been sacrificed. When will our authorities have their eyes opened to the importance of providing an adequate fire department, and proper appliances for the preservation of human life from the destroying element. It is a disgrace to a city of the size and pretentions of Montreal, that its safety from destruction should be entrusted to thirty-three men, who — however brave and daring they may be — cannot reasonably be expected to grapple with a huge conflagration with any chance of success.

The fire department ought to be at least qua-Montreal, that its safety from destruction

drupted, and half a dozon good steam fire engines provided, together with proper ladders and fire-escapes; as it is, it is a mournful spectacle to see half-a-dozen men struggling for fifteen or twenty minutes to erect a ladder, and when it is finally got up, it proves to be ton, or fifteen feet too short. The lesson taught by the fire at the St. James' Hotel on the morning of 18th inst. should be taken to heart, and our Council should at once adopt some plan for putting our fire department on a respectable basis. In another column will be found a description of the fire, taken from the Montron! (lazelle.

#### OWNER WANTED.

We have already had occasion to refer to the careleaness of clubbors, and subscribers generally, in forwarding their subscriptions and not giving proper directions as to where the paperis to be sent . the latest instance of this sort occurred a few days ago, when we received thiroon dollars and a very flattering letter from a contleman who had raised a club of eight; so far, so good, but, unfortunately the gentlemen forgot to eign his name to the letter, and omitted the lit of names, so that we are entirely at a loss to know where, or to whom to send the papers. We trust he will see this notice and renair his omission at once. We again repest our suggestions to intording subscribers. first, write the same, or names, plainly and intelligibly; second, give the Post Office to which it should be addressed, and, thirdly give the Province in which the P. O. is situated. We are constantly receiving subscriptions that we can searcely locate at all: often the nostmark is the only guide, and that is frequently so illegible so to be no guide at all. A little trouble at the time of sending the subscription will save both the subscriber and ourselves a great deal of trouble, and insure a prompt delivery of the paper

## LITERARY ITEMS.

The current issue of Lippincott's Magazine is highly attractive in respect to both its articles and its illustrations. The most striking feature is the opening portion of M. Black's charming new serial novel. A Princess of Thale." The style of this story is more popular and engazing than the of the authorities. than that of the author's iast work, Strange Adventures of a Phaeton," and gives avery indication of being one of his best productions, fully equalling "The daughter of Hoth," a novel of rare interest from the same and gives Hoth," a novel of rare interest from the same pen. "The Roumi in Kabylia," which forms the initial contribution, describes a tour through modern Algeria, and is replate with interesting delineations of a country which, although abounding in natural beauties and historical associations, is soldom visited by travelers, and but little known to the general reader. The entrancements which are the arms and the arms and the arms and the second country to the second country to the second country and the seco hut little known to the general reader. The engravings which accumpany this article are beautifully executed. "The National Trans-Alleghany Water-Way," by professor Thommson B. Manny, describes the method by which it is proposed to connect the waters of the Alisaisrippi with those of the Atlantic Ocean, and thus establish direct communication between umaka and the ports of Europe. The almost incalculable advantages which would result from the realization of this scheme render the present tablet not only interesting but, profounds imtener not only interesting but profoundly important. Reversal views and explanatory diagrams accompany the text. "New Washington, by Chauncey Hickox, is a sketch of the systhetic, social, and political condition of the National Capital. It contains many shrewd remarks and pertinent suggestions, and deserves a careful reading from all who feel a proper interest in the good order, beauty and dignity of the representative city of the land. In the ar-ticle entitled "Cuba,"the main points of the difficulties which have arrayed the inhabitants of that country against the Spanish government are presented in a clear and succinct manner. "Un-settled Points of Etiquette" dwells upon the unfortunate diversity of opinion which prevails in elevated circles of America society regarding the propriety or impropriety of certain polite observances, and which frequently causes much annovance to polished and sensitive persons, espacially foreigners. The remedies suggested are both simple and reasonable. "Chateaubriand's Ducks" is a very captivating sketch of an inci-dent in the later career of the famous states.

of fiction are the concluding chapters of Probationer Leonhard," by Caroline Chesebro', and "Her Chance," by S. W. Kellogg, "In the Cradie of the Deep," by Charles Warren Stodard, is a well-writtensketch of an experience of maritime life gained during a long and tempestuous voyage, "Our Monthly Gossip" contains tuous voyage. "Our Monthly Gossip" contains some very discriminating criticism upon the acting of Miss Neilson, some amusing anecdotes of the late General Robert E. Lee, and a variety of entertaining notes and comments. We notice that the publishers of Lappincot's Magazine offer an elub premium one of the most ningni-ficent chromo-lithographs ever executed in this country, and upon the production of which eight thousand dollars have been expended.

#### GREAT FIRE.

RT. JAMES HOTEL IN FLANKS -ALMOST A REPR TITION OF THE PIPTH AVENUE CATASTROPHE—ORIGIN OF THE PIRK—THEER MEN PALL FROM THE WINDOWS—MIRACULOUS ESCAPE OF ONE WOMAN—INCIDENTS.

At a quarter to one o'clock this morning the niarm sounded, and the cry rang through the treets that St. James Rotel, the splendid fivestorey building on Victoria Square, was on fire No. 1 reel was almost immediately on the spot No. 1 reel was almost immediately on the spot, followed by No. 5, No. 2, and others. At first the finnes seemed to burn low, but soon they broke out in sheets, and the whole heavens were illuminated with a ghastly, furid light. It seems that the confingration originates in a little building behind the hotel, and communicated treat the formula the language into a present the second of the sec

nicated fiself through the laundry into a pas sage of the fourth flat, and at nee attacked the stairway leading from that storey to the fifth. In the fifth flat the servant-maids of the establishment, five or six in number, were accepting. The sent of danger was immediately discovered by the firemen, who introduced a hose up through the building and directed their branch to the blazing at mass. To act with due efficiency, the hose was found wanting, and while cience, the hose was found wanting, and while fifty additional feet were being sent for. Ahe Anderson lay prone on his face, holding hyperito his branch and almost suffocated by the smoke. The extra hose being soon attached, two firemen bent their energies towards the stair, when suddenly the water was unaccountably cut off for a few minutes, leaving them to day with homes, the moments of the females. with horzor the progress of the flames while the shricks and screams of the p above sounded to their ears like the cries of

Seeing their hope of escape cut off temporarily from the stain, the women turned in despuir to the windows, and three of them three themselves headlong on the sidewalk, where their fall was only partially broken by mattrasses and other soft material. They were transported to the General Hospital, where they lie in a very precarious state.

Another girl named Matude Saya, hong out

from the window, with the points of her feet lightly resting on the wall, and remained in that terrible position for they twenty minutes. It was a fearful speciacle. At every moment she was expected to drop down. Mattrases were was expected buttop town.

antimases who
spread out for her, and many cried out to her
to let m. But, in her desperate battle for life,
she clung on, till, after many useless efforts,
owing to detective indem, the firemen succeeded in reaching her and bringing her down safely, amid three rounds of cheers from the excited multitude.

The names of the heroic firemen deserve to be recorded. John Nolan was on the ladder, and Jack Beckingham took poor Matil le in his arms. These scenes were enacted in the windows of the fifth flat facing Bonaventure street. on the side facing the square, a man jumped down to the parement below, and was so badly hort, that he must be dead at the moment we write (\$\frac{1}{2}\) a.m.), or very near his ond. He and Manide Saya were immediately cared for.

Matilde Saya were immediately cared for. Matilde was insensible, but beyond the shock to her nervous system is propadly uniqueed.

Having thus saved life, the brigade devoted itself to sundning the flaines. Notwithstanding their barbers—and they worked with rapid energy and shill—they could not save the roof nor the fifth and fourth flats. The fire was checked by flooding the other stones, and was checked by flooding the other stones, and hy the firemen going into the biazing furnace within doors with their streams. The Salvage Corps, under McRobie, likewise did efficient work, by spreading canyass upon the roof of Winks' buildings which was in danger. The St. James Hotel was insured to a large smount, but how far covered we cannot ston at this late hour of the night to detail more fully.

The west of ladders was clearly demonstrated.

The want of ladders was clearly demonstrated at this great fire, and the Corporation will be guilty of criminal nealigence if it delays any longer providing the Brigade with a full set of

At the last moment, we learn that three gen-At the last moment, we learn that three gen-tlemen have been transported to the General Ecspital. Mr. Thomas, of the Ontario Bank, made a ladder of quilts, which broke, and no fell to the ground. Mr. Belcher, of Nield & Co., did the same and met with a like fate. Mr. Heildrich elimbed from one window pane to another, dropping down, and finally slipped

We noticed also a decided want of steam-fire engines to rump direct f. m the hydrants and to throw streams not only on the roof, but also into the rooms on fire. They would serve also to protect the neighboring buildings, for the water pressure of the city is totally inadequate for fire work and the saving of surrounding property.—Gasette.

#### PASSING EVENTS.

A NEW Turkish ministry has been formed, PERR HYACINTHE is preaching at Geneva.
OGDENHUURG, N. Y., has been visited by a

Tire Digby. N. S., light-house has been de-

THE Digby, N. S., light-house has been destroyed by fire.

AMADRUS has been appointed a Lieut.-General in the Italian army.

PORTUGAL requires an explanation from Brazil for an insult to her figs.

The bill convoking a Constituent Cortes on the lat May has been definitely cancioned.

THIRTY-ONE new steamships are being built for come line running from United States.

for ocean line: running from United States

THE Carlists have repulsed the Government troops, who had attacked them near Pampa-

THE French Assembly has adopted the constituent project submitted by the Committee of

Thirty.
The treaty providing for the evacuation of the French provinces by the Germans has been rigned.
THE John Bull says a match between the Duke of Edinburgh and a Russian Princess is

on the topic.

Governor Dix, in a letter to Dr. Tyng, save that justice and public sa "ity require the exocu-

tion of Foster. A REPUBLICAN demonstration in Rome on the anniversary of Mazzini's death threatened to end in a riot. Shrung efforts were being made, according to the Portuguese press, to form a republican party

in that country.

A MEDICAL commission has examined Geo.
Americal commission has examined Geo.
America Train, with a view to ascertaining his
mental condition.
DETECTIVES on the track of Warron, the for-

ger of the Bank of England five-pound notes, have arrived in New York. THE Carlist bands, which had formed a junc-

tion near Pampeluna, have been defeated by

tion near Pampelina, navo ocen descated by the troops opposed to them. The Atlantic cable of 1865 is out of order. Steps will be taken immediately to ascertain where the "fault" is situated.

The military commander opposed to the Modos Indiansis of opinion that the entire band could be captured without much loss.

It is said that, on account of id-health, John Bright will not present himself for re-election if

The German Geographical Society will send an exploring expedition to the west coast of Africa to complete the discoveries of Dr. Living-

SEVERAL engagements are reported as hav-ing taken place between the Carlis's and the

Government forces without any very decisive ALTHOUGH Captain Jack sont in his submission, he has not yet mut the Peace Commis-sioners, who appear to entertain doubts as to

his since...ty. modenee hands of the New York, Bos-

ton and Montreal Railway, amounting to £8,250,-000, were offered at New York on 16th tost and all taken at a premium of 2 per cent.

An inspection of the Tomba in New York, ordered by the Board of Health, reveals the fact, it is said, that this celebrated prison is onice unfil for habitation.

A SANGUERARY episodo in the Cuban insur-rection is the reported summary execution, prumpted or revenge, of a rebel chieffain who was well known as a poet and a journalist.

A FINANCIAL convention between France and Germany provides for the payment of the nat instalment of war indemnity on the 5th September next, when the evacuation will be completed.

THE German Parliament was opened on 12th inst. In the speech, the Emperor said he be-sered that negatiations now in progress would result in the evacuation of French territory by the Germans sooner than had been expected.

The meeting in Hyde Park in favor of Home Rule for Ireland and amnesty to Fenian prisoners passed off quietly, with the exception of an attack on a Guardsman by an infuriated Hibernian, which resulted in the breaking of the soldier's arm.

TIE Mexican Government refused to accorde
to the demand of the British authorities for

to the demand of the British authorities for paymont of damages in consequence of the raid of Yucatan Indians on the territory of Honduras. An insurrection was feared, and the religious troubles were reviving.

M. Thiers proposes to pay the fourth milliand of war indemnity, one-half in April, the other half in July, the Germans withdrawing from French territory in Saptember. Of the balance, an instalment of 250 millions will be paid, and security given for the rest.

It is not expected that Governor Dix will make any communication to Sheriff Brennas in Poster's case, as it is the duty of that officer, in all such cases, to exercute the contends of the court at the expiration of the time fixed in the

court at the expiration of the time fixed in the reprieve. It is supposed the Governors decision in the matter will be made only to the friends of Foster, who have applied for the exercise of Executive clemency.