

The Canadian Spectator.

VOL. I., No. 46.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1878.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

CONTENTS:

THE TIMES.
ENGLAND'S PERIL.
THE UNMARRIED ONES.
WITTICISMS.
CERTAINTIES IN RELIGION.
CANADIAN CELEBRITIES.
SANITARY ENGINEERING.
POETRY.

THE FUTURE RELATIONS OF CANADA WITH
THE UNITED STATES.
THE BALLOT-BOX CASE.
NEWS SUMMARY.
CORRESPONDENCE.
CURRENT LITERATURE.
DOMESTIC ECONOMY.
MUSICAL, &c. &c.

THE TIMES.

Mr. Tilley has gone to England to negotiate a new loan to replace maturing obligations. Whether it is true or not that he has been compelled to act in this precipitate way on account of Mr. Cartwright having neglected to make earlier provision for the debentures falling due, certain it is that Mr. Tilley has got a difficult task to perform. He has to visit where Mr. Cartwright visited when over on a similar mission, and to consult those whom Mr. Cartwright consulted, and it is more than likely that they will remember some of the criticisms passed upon them in the House by the Conservatives. This would tell against Mr. Tilley if everything else were favourable. But everything else is unfavourable. The complications in the East; the Halifax Fishery dispute; the panic caused by the failure of the Glasgow Bank, and the general depression of trade, will make it hard for Mr. Tilley to persuade English capitalists to invest in Colonial bonds. It would be foolish to expect that so good a bargain can be made now as was possible when Mr. Cartwright undertook to negotiate a loan. Then the times were good, money was freely ventured and confidence was firm; now the whole case is different, and Mr. Tilley will find it so. Let us be careful not to expect too great things from those we have put in power.

Our leaders are at Ottawa giving form to the great National Policy. We are most anxious to see it put to work, for the prosperity promised has not begun to appear.

The result of the late elections in the United States will hardly help to make things smooth for Sir John A. Macdonald and his protective, or retaliatory, tariff. The increased strength of the Republicans means more effort against the interests of Canada.

The Municipal Corporation of Montreal is likely to lose the bit of respect we have entertained for it. The Mayor charges the City Auditor with having over-accepted warrants in favour of the Road Committee at the rate of \$80,000—and the Treasurer with having paid the same. The City Auditor denies, putting in a statement which looks correct and clear; but the Mayor persists in his accusation. Now the Mayor's charge is a serious one, and should either be proved or withdrawn with apologies. The City Auditor and the City Treasurer should demand an investigation.

But many of us would like to know what Alderman Clendinneng meant, when he said he "believed there were men in the city whose names were very bright, but who ought to hang their heads low for the part they took in this and kindred contracts." It is evident that between "bright names" and heads hanging low there is a considerable difference, and it must mean that if we knew all we should despise the men to whom we now give honour. Come, Mr. Alderman, let us know what you mean, and to whom you refer. "Bright names?" and they have had to do with "this and kindred contracts?" that is almost personal. Tell the whole thing out, Mr. Clendinneng if you mean to "clear" your "skirts."

We have fallen upon strange times. Awhile ago the Montreal *Witness* took to preaching on eating and exercise as man's highest good—then the *Globe* took up the pious rôle, which the *Witness* had got to despise, and lectured the Conservatives for their general lack of religion, as shown by the fact that they have put off the day of thanksgiving. The *Globe* hints that the piety of the Tories is of a poor

sort, and that they want to offer thanks for their own political triumph rather than for the good of Providence to the country. Then uprose the *Gazette* in great anger, and said to the *Globe*, "you're another." I agree with the *Gazette*. The Tories put off—or did not bring on—the day of thanksgiving for fear it might be construed "into a national glorification of their own accession to power;" and because they thus yielded to the impulse of modesty, and also desired to wait until our new Governor-General should be with us to share in our thanksgiving, "they are told that their piety is inferior to that of the Liberals." The *Gazette* is right in combatting the charge; it is shameful. I would suggest arbitration.

And so, the national thanksgiving is waiting for the coming of the new Governor-General. We are to have flunkeyism after all, it appears. Our praises wait for the Marquis and the Princess, so that the religion, or rather, the ecclesiasticism of the Dominion is already paying homage. Throughout the country elaborate preparation is going on for the reception. At Halifax the authorities are quarrelling over it already. Some want to spend a great deal of money, and some are opposed to that; Lieutenant-Governor Archibald invited the illustrious comers to stay at the Government House—but he took the old-fashioned method of writing, while Vice-Admiral Sir E. A. Inglefield offered the Admiralty House, by telegraphic message, which last reached the Marquis first, and was accepted. Where the Marquis shall land is another question which those in power find it difficult to decide; indeed, they cannot decide who is in power at Halifax. At Montreal there will be an address, a general holiday, a torchlight procession, &c., &c. We had better have the day for thanksgiving soon after the arrival of the Princess and her husband, just to remind us that there is a God who feeds the people and Governor-Generals.

The experiences of an editor are many and varied. I have conducted this journal now for nearly a year without any remuneration whatever, except the insight I get into the character of the people. Here is a specimen of one day's mail: A card—a *postal card*, for all to read—of date Nov. 11, 1878, Toronto,

DEAR SIR,—Although I have paid for the SPECTATOR for twelve months, or up till April next, yet I would rather you would not send it any longer. I regard it as a lot of unmitigated twaddle, sometimes little else than poor, conceited drivel. I consider the editor an ass. R. L. PATTERSON.

By the same post as that which brings me the brave postal card of Mr. Patterson, I get a letter from

THE GRANGE, TORONTO.

"I am glad to see that your SPECTATOR makes way. It is a most wholesome addition to the Canadian press," &c., &c.

And this from a clergyman in Kingston, whom all who know respect:

We are all pleased with your brilliant and witty short pieces ("the Times") in the SPECTATOR. The sermons, too, are very good, especially the Prodigal Son. We all and Miss M. read it with pleasure and discuss it well.

J. A. ALLEN.

I hope Mr. Smith and Mr. Allen will pardon me for the use I have made of their letters, and that Mr. Patterson will be looked after by his friends.

The *Canadian Independent* has been moved to "insert reluctantly" "a communication in regard to an article in the CANADIAN SPECTATOR on 'Ministers Wives,' and which the editor of that journal has declined to publish." Now I think it would have been just as well if the *Independent* had stated that I declined to publish the letter of "A Layman," because the said "Layman" refused to send his name, and I simply observed a rule adopted at the first, and kept until now. I presume the Editor of the *Independent* would have declined to publish the letter if "Layman" had not sent his name along with it. But this I can promise: I will at no time allow any man, lay or otherwise, to say over a *nom de plume* that the Editor of the *Independent* only required the name of the writer of a letter "to make him the mark for the next mud-throwing." The writer must be what the *Independent* says of "Quien Sabe," or else he is aware that the giving of his name is not safe for himself.