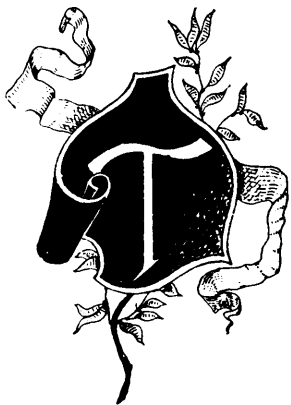




TORONTO, 12th December, 1891.



THE Christmas Number of the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED has just come into my hands, and I beg to congratulate the publishers on it. Canadians may be proud that Canada can produce, "all by itself," as the children say, so excellent a piece of work. Neither Germany, France, London, nor New York, have been called upon to contribute either lithographs, designs or letter-press, and the result is just as good as if they, with all their im-

mense resources of talent, opportunity, mechanical skill and machinery had been drawn upon.

If Canada only believed more in herself she would soon attain an equal footing with her elder compeers, and by no other means will she ever attain it.

The best thing in the number is "The Whiskey Still in Golden Valley," always, of course, excepting the higher flights of the poetic muse, where Roberts, Campbell, Lockhart, Lampman and Fidelis lead the way.

"M'sieu Smit" shows that Canada may boast her humourists; to such as, like myself, love a little wholesome fun-poking, this clever supplement is worth the price of the whole number.

I was amused by a story I heard lately of a young university graduate who set up for being much "culchawed," and also for a Canadian of high patriotic soul. This young gentleman was in the society of several young ladies who were Canadians, too, and sought to impress them after the manner of the old time with his superior knowledge. After some high criticism of various poets by this youth, one of the ladies asked his opinion of Roberts' poems. "Roberts! Roberts! Never heard of him." "Then, do you know Lampman?" "Who is Lampman,—some scribbler, I suppose?" "Perhaps you know Mair better, the author of 'Tecumseh'?" "O, of course, everybody knows of 'Tecumseh,' but I never heard of Mair before." "Well, these are three Canadian poets, and perhaps if you read their works you would have a higher opinion of Canadian gifts than you seem to have."

But this is only one, and a fair specimen of people who presume to run down their native country, simply because they do not know it. A magazine or a periodical that would and does introduce its readers to Canada's genius is not for them, because it is Canadian. It is so easy to take up a cry, particularly if it has issued from some prominent quarter, and adopt it because it has so issued. And then to use it as a basis of criticism, save the mark! Such base imitators should not call themselves Canadians any more than critics, for they do not know what they are talking about, and in too many instances do not want to.

I am glad to see that the Young Men's Liberal Club of Toronto are about to give an evening of Canadian readings, to be given by the authors themselves. This is excellent, but what is to become of the poor authors who cannot read their own works?

Mrs. Harrison, "Seranus," read portions of her poems before the Young Women's Literary Society of Toronto University a week or two ago, which were highly appreciated.

Professor Alexander's lecture on "Poets and their Art," as one of the Toronto University Extension lectures, was well attended, and awakened quite an enthusiasm for the poets among his hearers. Professor Alexander has a pleasant style and manner and "is one of our pet lecturers," as a graduate remarked, "for he always gives us something to think over."

"The Victorian Poets," in Professor Alan Pitman's hands, in continuation of the extension course at Trinity University was well attended and greatly enjoyed.

A lecture on some Canadian poets, embracing Reade, Heavysege, Kirby, Dewart, and others of our earlier poets would be well in order from either university.

I am glad to see that Mr. Benjamin Sulte is coming to lecture before the Canadian Military Institute on the eastern battlefields of 1812. Mr. Sulte is such a careful historian and so entertaining a writer that his audience will have a rare treat.

It will be welcome news to Mr. Sulte's readers that he is about to publish a volume of his articles, among which will be found his "Origines des Canadiens-Francais," which appeared in the *Revue Francaise*, Paris, last year.

The fourth number of the *Quarterly Register of Current History* (Evening News Association, Detroit), has a fine portrait of Edison and an interesting sketch of his life. It is a wonderful record of the struggle of genius with difficulty, and happily a record of complete success.

This magazine appears to be a fair *resumé* of current history over the civilized world, and as such forms a useful accompaniment to the editor and writer's desk.

Rev. Canon Bull writes to me, "I have something more to tell you as a result of 'The Holy Task' in the DOMINION ILLUSTRATED. This week I have received a letter from Pictou, N.S., with words of commendation; also a rare document, the despatch written by General Drummond on July 26, 1814, to the commander of the forces at Montreal.

Drummond reports the battle and its issue, the names of brave men, etc."

"The Commander, Aug. 4, issues his General Military Order, printed by the government printer at Montreal, and therein praises Gen. Drummond's 'brilliant achievement,' and grand success in withstanding the large forces of the enemy and in driving him away from Lundy's Lane, etc."

Rev. Canon Bull also informs me that this document which "will make up four pages of pamphlet size," will be reproduced by the L. L. H. S. in a few days.

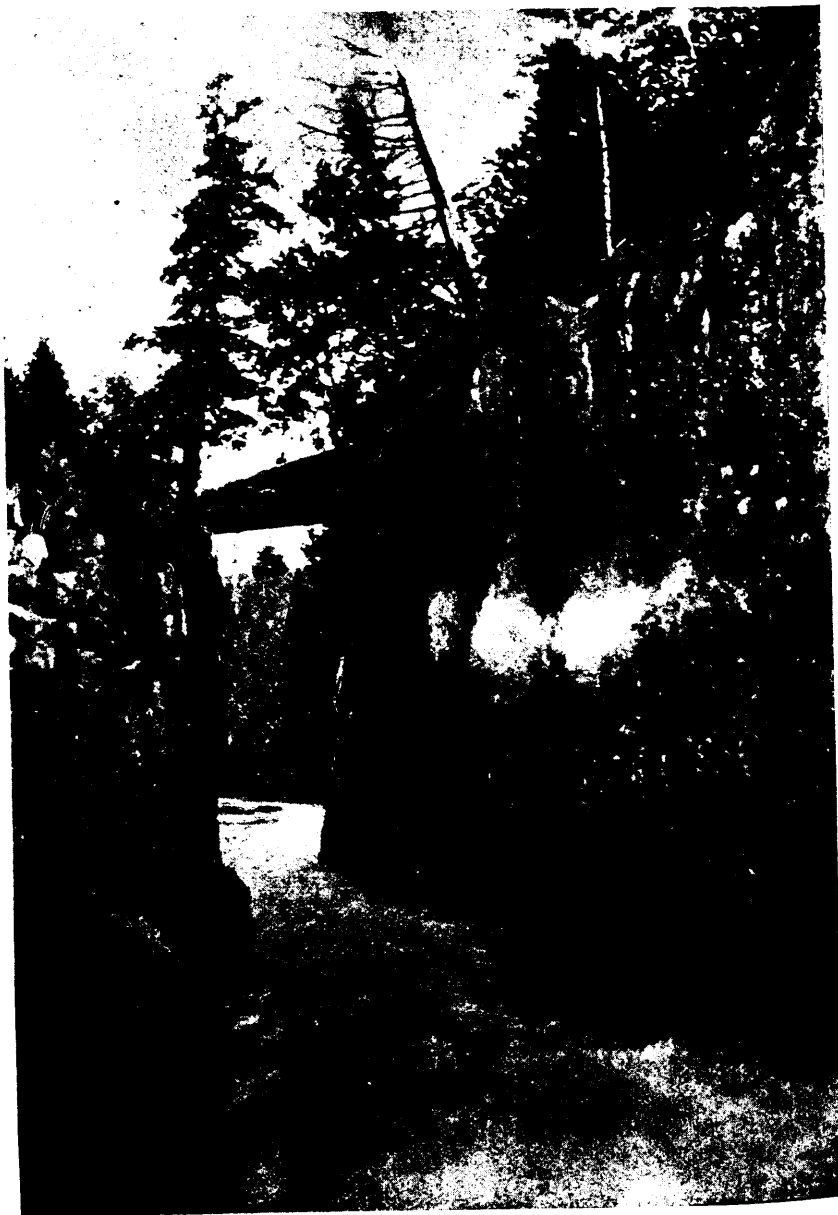
I am sure every one will be eager to get a copy of so interesting a record.

Further, the same letter says:—"In addition to this valuable document, I have received a printed sermon on 'Patriotism,' a vigorous production, a heartfelt exhortation for the times.

The sermon was preached on the 3rd of June, 1814, being "the day appointed by His Honor the President, etc., of Upper Canada for a provincial thanksgiving in the Presbyterian Church, Stanford, U.C., by the Rev. John Burns" (father of the two Judges of that name, one of Toronto, and one at St. Catharines), and was "published by request." The text is taken from 24th chapter Proverbs, v. 21, "My son, fear thou the Lord and the King, and meddle not with them that are given to change." Montreal, printed by Nahum Mower, 1814.

Such prominence given anew to documents, incidents, etc., connected with our history are sufficient proof of the value of our historical societies.

S. A. CURZON.



A NOTCH IN THE MONTREAL RIVER.
SCENES ON THE UPPER OTTAWA.