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NOTICE.

As the year is now verging to a close, we think it opportune to make a call upon such of our subscribers as are in arrears with us. The rule of payment in advance ought to be applied everywhere, and it was made one of the chief recommendations of the Quebec Press Association, lately organized in this city. All our friends should understand that an illustrated paper which requires so great an outlay, must, as a matter of business protection, insist upon this rule. For those who do not pay at once, the price of the NEWS is \$4.50 per annum, the extra half-dollar being intended to cover the interest on delay and postage. But as a further inducement, however, and in order to regulate our books and accounts with the opening of the new year, we will charge only the regular rate of \$4.00 to such of our subscribers as will settle with us immediately, or between this and the close of December. We are glad to know, from the reports of our patrons and the notices of our contemporaries of the press, that the efforts we have made to improve the paper are duly recognized, but with proper encouragement we are prepared to improve it still more. Our readers can help us in this, first by prompt payment of their subscription, and by inducing others to subscribe. Let each reader of the NEWS send us at least one subscription besides his own, and by thus doubling our circulation, we shall be enabled to give them a paper second to none in its special sphere. Canadians, all over the Dominion, should take pride in supporting an illustrated family and literary journal, and making it a truly national institution, the reflex of Canadian life, progress and thrift.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, 18th Nov., 1876.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

We openly stated, last week, that the armistice agreed upon between the Turks and the Servians was by no means an indication of peace. The latest news received, as we go to press, unfortunately gives color to our surmise. We have two official announcements which are full of meaning. That of Lord BEACONSFIELD is graver in what it implies rather than in what it declares. That of the Czar is almost tantamount to a challenge.

The British Premier stated emphatically, at the Mansion House, that the efforts of the British Government had been guided by the principle of maintaining the independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire, which were guaranteed by the Treaty of Paris. He upheld this principle as best adapted to secure the peace of the world. He strongly repudiated the doctrine that the Treaty of Paris ought to be considered obsolete. With regard to the last proposal for an armistice, as England had proposed a month as the minimum of armistice, and as Russia had herself proposed three months, the English Government considered the Porte had completely and adequately met its proposal by granting five months, and, therefore, withdrew from the negotiations when the Porte's offer was refused, but was greatly gratified that an armistice had been at last obtained. He considered the Russian ultimatum unnecessary. Immediately the armistice was agreed to, the English Government proposed a conference. He thought this conference should not merely consist of the Ambassadors at Constantinople, but should be participated in by statesmen who would be likely to have broader and less local views. England has nothing to gain by war. She covets no cities nor provinces. Her proudest boast is that the British Empire subsists as much upon sympathy as force. But if a struggle should come, it must be remembered that there is no country so prepared for war as England, because there is none whose resources are so great in a righteous cause, and England will never embark in war except in such cause—a cause which concerns her liberty or empire. England is not a country which will have to inquire whether she shall enter into a second or third campaign. If she commences, she will not finish until right is done. These words, it will be allowed, have the proper ring in them. They are not boastful, nor menacing, but they express a national confidence which will find an echo in the hearts of Britons throughout the world.

Within two hours after the Russian Czar had read this speech, reported to him by telegraph, he pronounced what must be considered a reply, to a meeting of the citizens of Moscow. He declares that all Russia joins him in sympathizing in the sufferings of their brethren and co-religionists in Serbia and Montenegro. His wish to the uttermost was to spare Russian blood; therefore he had striven, and will still strive, to obtain a real improvement of the position of Christians by peaceful means. In a few days negotiations will begin at Constantinople. His most ardent wish is that all may arrive at a general agreement. Should this, however, not be achieved, and should he see that he cannot obtain the guarantees necessary for carrying out what he intends to demand from the Porte, he is firmly determined to act independently. He is convinced that the whole of Russia will respond to his summons should he consider it necessary, and Russia's honor require it. Moscow will lead the van by its example. "May God help us to carry out our sacred mission!" We repeat that this discourse is fraught with gravity, and the religious issue invoked by the Czar is most perilous under the circumstances. We shall await further developments with real anxiety.

The Colorado potato beetle, or potato bug, as we generally call it, has at last found its match in the shape of a fast parasite. Prof. Riley, at a meeting of the St. Louis Academy of Science, exhibited a potato bug which was so completely covered with a mite parasite that the point of a needle could not be on any part of the beetle's body without touching one of the parasites. He estimated the number of mites at 800. The bug had been attacked by these enemies and killed. The potato bug seems to have a number of natural enemies, such as the toad, the crow, the rose-breasted grosbeak and domestic fowls. There are no less than twenty-three insect enemies that attack and kill

it. The bug has also been migrating eastward across the continent for several years, until it has now reached the Atlantic ocean. We hope it may find a watery grave, and let the waves sing its requiem.

Some days ago, Premier MITCHELL, of the Nova Scotia Government, asked Mr. WEEKS to resign the Attorney-Generalship and his seat at the Council Board. The latter requested time for consideration, when he declined to resign, and thereupon the Lieutenant-Governor, on the advice of the Government, removed Mr. WEEKS from office. His successor has not yet been named. The cause of removal is of a personal nature, and not for any malfeasance in office.

The most astonishing bet on the Presidential election is that of two old Springfield toppers, one a true Bourbon Democrat, and the other a dyed-in-the-wool Republican, that the loser shall go without his daily drinks—a perfect tectotaler, in short, for the remainder of the year, and that the other shall have the privilege of tantalizing him to any extent.

Subscription amounting to \$100,000 cash and \$50,000 Centennial stock was made recently towards the formation of a new company to purchase the main Centennial building and preserve it for exhibition purposes. The capital stock of the new company is \$600,000.

Reliable information from St. Albans states that the rumor of the proposed Fenian raid and missing of war material at or near that place is not sustained by facts. No trace of such a movement can be discovered there.

NICKEL-PLATED SHAMS.

II.

The nickel-plated sham is not by any means an outgrowth of the present day, or of the conditions of modern society. He has existed in every age, from Balaam down to Stowe, and has more or less played a part in every social and political revolution. The men of sham feelings, sham thoughts, sham professions, sham principles, sham actions and sham examples have been so numerous that to begin to recount them would require a digest of the history of the ages. The sham I wish to deal with is the variety of the species found in our more immediate every-day life.

I have said that in our artificial society, character is apt to be taken far less for what it really is than for what it can put upon its back and display in its rooms. The experience of most men who are not nickel-plated shams in some sense will teach them this. A man can easily commence a figure in society by attempting to show of refinement which is rich enough to be attractive. Many have established a footing by exciting the inquisitiveness, if not the curiosity of the classes above them in social rank with whom they ambition to mingle, and inquisitiveness is a wonderful lever. The application of money judiciously may set it working, and bring about quite remarkable effects. There may not be much behind the money nor underneath the painfully acquired and agonizingly assumed refinements; indeed the disburser of the money and the assumer of the culture may be in terrible straits to keep up the supply of the one and maintain the pose of the other, but society only knows that there is an imposing outward show, and the sham is safe. So long as the brass holds out firmly, the nickel will adhere, with its accustomed glitter, when the backbone gives out, the illusion flies, and the sham is exposed. It is to be feared that society has been becoming calloused to this sort of thing latterly, and only gently shrugs the shoulder as social asteroids disappear. The taste for glitter and glare having been engendered deeply, mainly through the example set by sham, is not easily eradicated, and when extravagance sweeps off the victims of the sort of management which drove the insolvent I mentioned in the first portion of this paper to a species of comfortable exile, scarcely a gap is considered as having been made in the social arena. The great breeder of sham is discontent. People are seldom satisfied with appearing as just what they are. They are proud, but as pride is a vice, they hide it under a veil of modesty; they are ambitious of position and place, but as it would not look well to be openly grasping and pushing, they affect to prefer to be placed by others to placing themselves. They are anxious to be regarded as learned, and they assume a want of information; they would like to be considered authorities, and they pretend to make a Solomon of you. They are poor, and would be thought rich; they are rich, and would be social leaders; they have a dim idea of religious truth, and would be considered as pillars of the Church. The heart of man inclines him to sham, because he would

have his neighbour hold a better opinion of him than his talents, his wealth or his merits really warrant, and thus we see this perpetual struggling after successful mutual deception which does not always deceive. Nickel-plated shams abound because this is such a busy world that people have not time to stand still and analyze the characters of those whom they casually meet. They have, except in certain rare cases, where intimacy of association is possible, few means of studying out the natures thereof, and thus they are, even where the desire to acquire a knowledge of the kind, which is indispensable to all well-cemented friendship does exist. The rush and bustle of life to-day is too great to permit of character study, and the methods of pulling along in life are so complicated, and so diversified, while the advantages of learning airs and graces are so extended, that sham is enabled to flourish almost in defiance of Whately's philosophy, where he says, "It is worth noticing that those who assume an imposing demeanour and seek to puff themselves off for something beyond what they are (and often succeed), are not unfrequently as much underrated by some as they are overrated by others. For, as a man (according to what Bacon says in his Essay on *Discourse*) by keeping back some knowledge which he is believed to possess, may gain credit for knowing something of which he is really ignorant, so if he is once or twice detected in pretending to know what he does not, he is likely to be set down as a mere pretender, and as ignorant of what he does know."

Silver gilt will often pass, Either for gold or else for brass.

Lavater's doctrine is as good as any. The more honestly a man has, the less he will affect the airs of a saint; and Burke sums up the moral of the folly of nickel-plating a sham in the pithy words, "Those who quit their proper character to assume what does not belong to them, are for the greater part ignorant of both the character they leave and the character they assume."

W. LESLIE THOM.

OUR PICTURES.

S. J. TILDEN.—The biography of this gentleman was published in July last, at the time of his nomination.

CATHOLIC VIEWS.—These are four in number and they complete what we have previously published in connection with this fine village. These views are the Registry Office, High and Common Schools and the Roman Catholic Church. This church was commenced last August, has a seating capacity of five hundred and cost \$5000. Rev. Stephen Wadell is the pastor.

BLUE POINT.—This post sitsuate on the west of Lake St. John was rebuilt several years since. There are traces of the ancient post where Mr. Toche, Seigneur of Kamouraska, carried on the fur trade for many years. The Canadian Government has reserved to the Montagnais, at the extremity of Blue Point, about 3,000 acres of land, a good portion of which is cultivated by the savages under Mr. E. Ousse, Government Agent. Forty or fifty Montagnais families visit this post, as also several groups of Abnakis, Algonquins, Montachines, and some half-breeds.

RAILWAY TERMINUS.—This is a sketch of the northern terminus (Lake Erie division) of the Hamilton and North Western Railway. At this point a fine large elevator is in course of construction which will be shortly completed. From here this road is being extended northward, via Burlington Beach. The bridges over the neighboring inlets are approaching completion. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the right of way to cross the Great Western Railway at Wellington Square. Power, however, has lately been obtained and the work of constructing the road is being rapidly pushed forward.

METABETCHOUAN.—The trading post of Metabetchouan is the most picturesque spot on the south shore of Lake St. John. The river which bears this Montagnais name, meaning "Do you see the rapid?" debouches into a magnificent bay, the best harbor of refuge on the Lake, where its porous waters derived from the river Jacques-Cartier, St. Anne, Batiscan and Bostonsnais. The port was established, two centuries ago, by the French, for the trade in furs. The Jesuits were the pioneers of colonization in this fertile valley. The fruit trees planted by these missionaries are still to be seen. The Hudson's Bay Company continued here the profitable traffic opened in the first days of the colony and its exports everywhere are such as to keep it in a flourishing condition. At this spot the Montagnais Indians hold their annual meeting. These peaceable and inoffensive Indians live as their fathers live, hunting, fishing, along the great rivers which feed Lake St. John.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

Mlle. de BRIOCCA has left the country.

Miss Genevieve Ward, the American actress, has decided to appear in a French part, and is now studying under M. Rénier. In the meantime, Miss Ward has played, in Italian, Elizabeth to Mme. Ristori's Marie Stuart, at the Salle Ventadour.

A strange affair happened at the Theatre Royal, York, lately. Tom Taylor's "Ticket of Leave Man" was performed before a crowded pit and gallery house, and in the audience was a detective sergeant from London, with a warrant to apprehend the very man who was playing the part of "Hawkbaw," the detective. The play was allowed to proceed, and at its termination "Hawkbaw" was handcuffed and handed over to the city police. On Sunday morning the detective sergeant conveyed by train to London "Hawkbaw," to answer the charge against him. The charge is not stated.