

TORONTO VIEWS.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The Bank of British North America has always held a high position among the banking institutions of the country and possesses to an extraordinary extent the confidence of the public. It enjoys the reputation of being a long established, sound, safe, and pre-eminently respectable bank,—its respectability being perhaps enhanced by its unobtrusiveness, and its connection, not only with the mother country, but with many of the principal cities of the United States. Few banks, perhaps in the whole world, have so many agencies, scattered throughout North America from Halifax to the Pacific coast.

The building of the Toronto branch of the Bank of British North America stands on the north-east corner of Yonge and Wellington Streets, within convenient distance of the business centre of the city. It was erected in 1845, at a cost of about \$20,000, from the designs of J. G. Howard, Esq., of Toronto. The building is 50 feet square, and three storeys high, built in the Grecian Ionic style, and faced with cut stone from the Thorold quarries. The principal entrance is up three circular steps under a four column portico, surmounted by the royal arms of England in bold relief. There are two private entrances—one for the manager on Wellington Street, and another for the clerks on Yonge Street. The façade of the angle of the building is carried up with pilasters and cornice, surmounted by a bold scroll and scallop shell, being a facsimile of those on the Bank of England. The interior is very roomy, and handsomely fitted up. The Tellers' office measures 43 feet by 23. The vault enclosing the iron safe is built of stone in large blocks two feet thick.

THE BOYS' HOME.

A great credit to the City of Toronto is the Home provided by the generosity of its citizens as a refuge for homeless boys. A condition—and a wise one—is attached to the reception of destitute boys, which requires that they should be "not convicted of crime." The Institution has been the means of rescuing hundreds of street Arabs from a life of misery, and only too probably of crime, and of placing many of its protégés in honourable positions, with the means of earning their living honestly, and of becoming in time respected members of society.

The Boys' Home, a plain substantial building in the Gothic style, of red and white brick with stone dressings, was erected by the liberality of the citizens of Toronto, aided by the Burnside trust, on a plot of land, situate on the east side of George Street, which was purchased from the Hon. G. W. Allan. The building is 73 by 30 feet with a projecting portico in front. The basement contains dining-room, kitchen, and offices; on the ground-floor, to the right of the entrance hall, is the school-room, with reception room and board room to the left. The two upper floors contain the dormitories. The cost of the entire building, which was erected by Messrs. Gundry and Langley, was about \$5,000.

The Home was erected for destitute boys of the Province of Ontario, whether orphans or otherwise, and without distinction of creed, and each boy is allowed to attend any place of worship which either he or his friends may choose. There are at present about sixty inmates, of ages ranging between five and fourteen.

THE GORE BANK, HAMILTON, ONT.

The "ambitious little city" as Hamilton used in former days to be called, is one of the, if not the prettiest to be found in the Upper Provinces. It has no wealth of grand scenery and historic monuments to compare with Quebec, nor of architectural magnificence to challenge contrast with the commercial capital of the Dominion; neither can it pretend to the ownership of important public institutions nor the vast expanse of street, avenue and structure, and the great outflow and inflow of trade which give such preeminence to Toronto. It is unique in its situation; on a gently sloping plateau, bordering on Burlington Bay, it rises from the low grounds on the east to the more pretentious heights of the Crystal Palace, and of Dundurn on the west; and from the wharves and busy G.W.R. Station on the north, a like gentle slope carries it to the foot of the mountain on the south. Its streets, running at right angles, mark the four points of the compass and cut it up into very regular blocks. Many of the streets are planted with trees and give an admirable shade in summer. But its most attractive ornamentation, in the very heart of the city, and the centre of its business, is the enclosure on the Gore of King street, which Gore is formed by the street being widened to about three times its ordinary extent (on the south side) from James street eastward, gradually narrowing until, in the length of two or three blocks, King street, (which is the central street east and west as James street is north and south) resumes its normal breath. Upon this "Gore" are a couple of fountains, and a handsome enclosure of shrubbery, &c.; and on the S.W. corner of King and Hughson streets, fronting the "Gore," stands the Gore Bank building, an illustration of which appears in the present number. There is nothing specially attractive in the building itself. When compared with many of the other architectural adornments of Hamilton it may be fairly put down as utterly unworthy notice; but the view from the Gore, southward, with the building on the right and the mountain in the distance, makes a pretty urban scene, though it is but one, and by no means the finest of the many which Hamilton can boast. In future issues we shall take occasion to illustrate some of the prominent architectural and scenic attractions in and about the ancient "Port Burlington" (via Ancaster!!!)

OIL WELLS OF JOHN D. NOBLE, ESQ., AT PETROLIA, ONTARIO, CANADA.

The Oil business of Canada has assumed such proportions, and has become such an important element of Canadian commerce, that we have sent our special artist to the Oil Regions of Petrolia in the county of Lambton, Ontario, for the purpose of obtaining a sketch of some of the principal Oil Wells there, one of which we submit to our readers with the present number. The sketch on another page represents the Oil Wells of Mr. John D. Noble, who is one of the most enterprising Oil Producers in Canada, and who has done very much towards lessening the cost of the production of Crude Oil by consolidating the machinery and appliances therefor, under one building, for the purpose of pumping several Wells with the same amount of labour and fuel which is ordinarily used in the pumping of one, as will be seen in the illustration

These Wells are situated upon Lot 12 in the 11th Concession of the Township of Enniskillen, and near the Petrolia branch of the Great Western Railway of Canada.

The deposit of oil lies in a strata of rock supposed to be about forty feet thick, and imbedded in the earth about five hundred feet below the surface. The earth is pierced with a small hole about five inches in diameter, by means of a drill, down to this oil-bearing rock, and a long tube is inserted in this hole, which is screwed together in fifteen feet lengths as fast as it is lowered down; the oil and water is pumped up through this tube by means of a steam engine and is forced into a large wooden tank on the top of the ground, the oil immediately separates from the water and floats on the top, and is run off into a second tank alongside of the first one, from whence it is barrelled up and shipped off to the different refineries where it is manufactured, deodorized and prepared for market. Mr. Noble employs about thirty men a day at his works, has fifteen steam engines in operation, and about 20,000 feet of tubing or iron pipe for conveying the oil, and about 30,000 barrels of tankage capacity for holding the same. He has a large wooden tank erected at the Railway Station, into which he pumps all the oil from his different wells, and from here it is delivered free on board the tank cars of the Great Western Railway. The item of cartage alone, the saving of which is effected by this means, is a large profit of itself upon his year's business. Mr. Noble estimates the total production of his wells to be about 700 barrels per week, which is about 1-10th part of the total production of the oil wells of Canada. The wells at Petrolia have been in operation about six years and produce now about 7,000 barrels of oil per week.

LABRADOR VIEWS.

No. 1.—DRAWING FIREWOOD IN DOG SLEDGES.

The interior of the Labrador country is almost a terra incognita, though its coast has been frequented for centuries on account of its valuable fisheries. Mr. A. J. Russell describes it as extending a thousand miles from east to west, between Cape St. Charles at the Straits of Belle-Isle, and James's Bay (an extension of the Hudson's); and eight hundred miles from north to south, that is from Cape Wolstenholme, its northern extremity, to the height of land between the waters of Rupert's river and those of the Saguenay. Labrador so defined, forms a vast Peninsula, bounded on the south-west, between James's Bay and the Mouth of the St. Lawrence, by Rupert's River up to its source, Mislassimic Lake, and thence eastward by a line to Seven Islands. This, however, describes a territory which, though geographically, as well as in many other particulars, is sufficiently distinguished from the rest of British North America to entitle it to a distinctive name, yet embraces what is usually called the East Main of the Hudson's Bay Territory, as well as Labrador proper. Mr. Russell says these regions exceed in extent Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Lapland taken together; the boundaries he describes taking in an area of four hundred and eighty thousand square miles. But it is only the southern part of this Peninsula, as far eastward as Ance Blanc Sablon, about ninety miles west of the entrance to the Straits of Belle Isle, and backwards about one hundred miles north of the Gulf (to the sources of the rivers falling into it)—which part is now under the jurisdiction of Canada, as also that portion on the west coast of the Atlantic which is under the jurisdiction of the Newfoundland Government—that constitute Labrador in the usual acceptance of the term. Still, more strictly speaking, it is only the Newfoundland portion of the territory, i. e. from Ance Blanc Sablon eastward along the Straits of Belle Isle, hence north-west on the Atlantic coast to Hudson's Straits, with Ungava Bay on the west, that is called Labrador, and on the maps this is the region that is so marked, its western boundary being left a matter of conjecture, just as "East Main" is written on the Hudson's Bay side of the Peninsula with the same disregard of exact limits, though with far more pretension to dimensions. "Labrador," says Mr. Russell, "was first discovered in A. D. 986, by the Northman Bearnie, the 'son of Heseielf, who called it 'Hellu'and it Mikla' or 'Great Slate Land' from the stratified rocks (secondary lime-stone) seen on its coast. It was rediscovered by Sebastian Cabot, and five years afterwards, in A. D. 1501, it was visited 'by Corte Real, who, with less accuracy, called it 'Terra 'Labrador,' Cultivable or Labourer Land, believing it to be 'so from the growth of trees he saw upon it.'"

We purpose, in due course, to give a short series of Labrador Views from sketches made by Mr. N. Tetu, who has spent many years in the country. In the present number will be found a view of the dog sledge at work in the useful employment of drawing in the firewood, consisting mainly of spruce and fir stumps, branches and "brush" as the scanty vegetation affords. The dogs used for this service are called "wolf dogs," said to be a crossbreed between the Newfoundland dog and the wolf. They are kept in order by an immense lash in the hands of the driver, as shewn in the sketch, and it will be noticed that the empty sledge is stopped at a safe distance from the loaded one going in the opposite direction to prevent the risk of a fight between the "teams."

THE FIRE ON NOTRE DAME STREET, JAN. 28.

A little after midnight of Saturday, January 28th, a fire was discovered in a millinery store, No. 262, Notre Dame Street, which resulted in the death of three human beings, the other inmates of the premises above the shop only escaping destruction by jumping from the second storey window. Such human sacrifices occur but seldom now-a-days, on account of the improved construction of buildings, but No. 262 was one of a block of old stone houses, two and a half storeys high, divided into two stores by a wooden partition with no other communication with the upper flats than a narrow spiral stair-case, and no means of ingress or egress but by the front door. These circumstances favoured the sad catastrophe, and ought to suggest the necessity of enforcing better precautions against fire, in the interior arrangements of buildings. The shop of Miss Paradis, in which the fire originated, was closed at 10 o'clock, and at midnight the fire was discovered by Constables Benoy and Chevallier, and the alarm at once sounded. The servant girl, living with the family of John Caro above the store, was also aroused by the smoke and gave the alarm to the inmates. A carter, named David Gleeson, who was driving past, was hailed by Constable Barnett and immediately backed his sleigh under the second storey window, from which were heard the shrieks of the affrighted inmates. The children, an infant seven months old, a boy of three, and two girls aged respec-

tively five and nine years, were dropped down into the sleigh. Miss Paradis, Mrs. Caro, and lastly Caro himself jumped down and were safely rescued from the flames; but the poor man shouted in the wildest distraction for his "poor boy!" This boy, a lad of 13, slept in the third flat with his uncle, Henry Caro, who had just come from New York a few days previously on a visit to his brother. The body of the boy was found partly dressed huddled under the blankets, showing that the little fellow had tried to escape, but overcome by the smoke, sought relief under the clothes, where he was suffocated. His uncle, Henry Caro, aged 40, was found on the stairway, a charred and blackened corpse. In another room of the third story was found the dead body of the girl, Fanny Burgess, aged 23. She, too, had been smothered by the density of the smoke while endeavouring to make her way to the window as the fire had not reached the room she occupied. She had emigrated from Ireland about six years ago, though she was only in the service of the Caro family a week before the fire. The fire is supposed to have originated at the end of the counter from the extreme heat caused by the stove which stood very near, and in which a large fire had been placed because of the coldness of the night.

THE VILLAGE OF ROBINSON.

Robinson is a small thriving village in the Township of Bury, Compton County (Eastern Townships), in the district of St. Francis, P.Q. It is twenty-one miles distant from Lennoxville, and forty-two miles from Lake Megantic. In Lovell's new Directory for the Province of Quebec full particulars will be found as to its distance from surrounding towns and villages, the rate of fares, &c., as well as a complete list of the business and professional men and principal residents of the village. It has at present a population of about three hundred inhabitants.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE WAR.

AT THE FOUNTAIN IN METZ.

After the capitulation of the garrison of Metz the first care that devolved upon the victorious army was to supply the wants of the starving inhabitants. Accordingly large quantities of provisions were sent into the city, and by the strenuous exertions and the liberality of the Prussians the misery that always prevails in a besieged town was speedily reduced. But once all fear of starvation being dispelled, both Prussians and French found themselves beset by a new danger. It was found that by some defect in the waterworks the supply of water was beginning to fail. Prompt measures were taken to remedy the defect, but in the meantime all the fountains within the city were placed under strict supervision, the water was turned on only at stated hours, and a limited quantity was allowed to each person. Our illustration will give some idea of the scene at the "hour of drawing water." The usual assemblage of chattering old women, of tattered urchins, and natty, smiling grisettes are to be found at the fountain, presided over by two Prussian officers, who are doing their best to make themselves agreeable to the pretty girls.

THE MARKET PLACE AT THIONVILLE.

Our two-page illustration gives a very fair idea of the appearance presented by the interior of a fortified town after a long bombardment. On every side ruin and destruction—battered walls, destroyed houses, crowds of peasants, and gaunt, hungry-looking citizens gazing eagerly at the unaccustomed plenty which surrounds them after so many weeks of privation and danger. The market place shows a scene of life and activity such as it has not presented for months. On the one side the victorious troops are entering the city, slowly defiling along the main street, arms and accoutrements clashing and the wheels of the artillery rumbling over the stones in grim discord with the shrill cries of the haggling buyers and sellers in the market. In one corner some bourgeois are squabbling over the high prices asked by the peasants, while behind them a couple of Prussian guards are galivanting with a pair of bouncing paysannes. Further on two more Germans, in front of a victualler's wagon, are pressing their hospitality on some French troopers, while their comrade is giving a half loaf to a poor woman with a couple of hungry children. The sad state of the walls shows the effects of the vigorous bombardment carried on by the Germans.

Among the officers sent to Versailles by the neutral Powers for the purpose of watching the bombardment of Paris are eight or ten Russian officers of various grades, and several English officers. Nine Japanese officers have also been sent by the Emperor of Japan, in order to gain an insight into military matters.

Temperature in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Monday, Jan. 30, 1871, observed by John Underhill, Optician to the Medical Faculty of McGill University, 299 Notre Dame Street.

	9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
Tuesday, Jan. 24	—18°	—10°	—8°
Wednesday, " 25	—10°	—11°	—13°
Thursday, " 26	—17°	—10°	—12°
Friday, " 27	—3°	2°	10°
Saturday, " 28	—2°	2°	1°
Sunday, " 29	5°	16°	20°
Monday, " 30	20°	26°	18°
	MAX.	MIN.	MEAN.
Tuesday, Jan. 24	—8°	—26°	—17°
Wednesday, " 25	—10°	—14°	—12°
Thursday, " 26	—10°	—24°	—17°
Friday, " 27	12°	—16°	—2°
Saturday, " 28	4°	—8°	—2°
Sunday, " 29	24°	—7°	8° 5
Monday, " 30	28°	14°	21°

Aneroid Barometer compensated and corrected.

	9 A. M.	1 P. M.	6 P. M.
Tuesday, Jan. 24	30.47	30.42	30.46
Wednesday, " 25	30.88	30.96	31.05
Thursday, " 26	30.96	30.85	30.64
Friday, " 27	30.14	30.06	30.24
Saturday, " 28	30.58	30.62	30.59
Sunday, " 29	30.28	30.15	30.13
Monday, " 30	30.40	30.50	30.48