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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

Montreal, Saturday, Oct. 23rd, 1875.

OUR INSANE.

A case of the most painful interest has been brought to light in this city, which cannot be passed over without serious animadversion. An insane girl, only sixteen years of age, was found by Mr. ALFRED PERRY, lying almost hopelessly ill, in one of the dark, narrow cells of our common gaol. HANNAH HILL is one of Miss McPherson's youthful immigrants, and has no home, relatives or friends in this country. By swift and energetic appeals through the telegraph, MR. PERRY, zealously seconded by MR. OGILVIE, M.P.P. for Montreal Centre, procured the release of the girl from the prison, and her transportation to the Asylum of Longue Pointe, pending her recovery and ultimate removal to Beauport.

The peculiar hardship of this case is that, being a Protestant, HANNAH HILL it seems may not be housed at Longue Pointe, which is an institution conducted by Roman Catholic nuns, but must perforce reside at Beauport, a Government institution under secular management. When the Asylum at St. Johns was broken up in the month of June, the Roman Catholic patients were transferred to Longue Pointe, and it was left optional with the Protestants to follow DR. HOWARD, their medical superintendent, thither, or go to Beauport. The almost totality elected to go with DR. HOWARD, and the arrangement appeared altogether satisfactory, when suddenly, and on the very eve of separation, an order was received from Quebec that all the Protestant patients should be removed to Beauport. We can quite understand this decision of the Provisional Government. It was with the view of obviating all objections which Protestants might have to being under the control of the nuns at Longue Pointe. MESSRS. ROBERTSON and CHURCH must have acquiesced in this decision, if they did not prompt it. In so far, therefore, the Government are not to blame, for they merely attempted to conciliate all interests. Their only mistake was to make that obligatory, which should be optional. Now that the Longue Pointe Asylum is established, and especially since leading Protestant gentlemen of this city, including REV. MR. CHAPMAN and MR. JOHN DOUGALL, have visited it and praised its management, thus partially removing the natural prejudice entertained by Protestants in regard to it, we think the Government would act wisely in not insisting on moving all Protestant lunatic patients to Beauport. The Longue Pointe Asylum is intended for the Montreal district, and we think the inhabitants of the district have the right to demand that their unfortunate relatives or friends who may require treatment for mental disease, shall be kept near them at Longue Pointe, where they may be easily visited, instead of being exiled down to Beauport. The exception judiciously made by Attorney General CHURCH in the case of HANNAH HILL will, we trust, be the inauguration of a change of system.

In stating his case to the public, MR. PERRY has taken occasion to utter some pretty unpalatable things to Young Men's Christian Associations and other Protestant public bodies. Barring some asperities of expression, we are very much inclined to side with MR. PERRY. Instead of speeches and meetings, if there were more active zeal and charity, Protestants would succeed better in forcing a provision for their infirm, their bereaved and their insane. And considering the vast amount which they yearly contribute to the public revenue, it would be a matter of comparatively little difficulty to achieve a great deal in this direction.

With regard to the Longue Pointe Asylum, we must repeat what we said months ago, when there was first question of its establishment. We did not approve it then, and we do not approve it now. Of course our objection is not sectarian, but purely scientific. We have full appreciation of the saintly lives, the beautiful disinterestedness, and the tireless charity of the ladies who conduct the Asylum. But the system of "farming" lunatics which obtains with them, as at Beauport, is an old experiment abandoned nearly every where, and which has received the almost unqualified disapprobation of every specialist. DR. HOWARD himself, who is certainly one of the best authorities in America, is opposed to it. The example of Beauport should certainly have opened the eyes of the authorities to the propagation of the system. However, we must now take things as they stand, and as the Longue Pointe Asylum is a Government institution, we claim that Protestants should be allowed to make use of it without hindrance, and without the remotest feeling of being under obligation to any body in doing so. We may refer to this subject pictorially in our next number.

THE LECTURE SEASON.

Public lectures follow the fluctuations of all public amusements. They are regulated by a certain fashion. Some seasons they succeed very fairly. At other seasons, they prove a notable failure. This varied experience has been displayed even in Montreal. Three winters ago, the University Literary Society had a very remunerative series of lectures. The next winter was a constant drag, and at its close the Society found itself considerably out of pocket. This year the lecture season opens under favorable auspices. Instead of engaging a number of British celebrities who, whatever their talents as writers, were deplorable mediocrities as speakers, such as YATES, WILKIE COLLINS, GEO. MACDONALD, KINGSLEY and others, the American Bureau has secured the services of professional lecturers, men trained to the business, and who adapt themselves to the superficiality of the average audience, and the consequence is that it is likely to do pretty well by them. Available mediocrity in literature, as well as in politics, is, we are sorry to say, the standard of excellence and success with the American and Canadian people. In Montreal, we have already heard two of these lecturers. DE CORDOVA was well relished because he is a true humorist, with an artistic eye to fitness, a pleasant style, an unambitious range of observation and very considerable mimetic powers. His lectures if printed and perused in the critical scrutiny of the closet, would not stand the test, but read aloud or declaimed, they strike the fancy and help to spend an evening quite pleasantly. DE CORDOVA will not live in literature, but he is well up in the requirements of the lecture profession, gives the full worth of the money which he asks, and deserves, as we are pleased to learn is the case, to make an ample living by his profession. JOSH BILLINGS proved an unmitigated fraud. Every body who heard him here last week was disappointed, and one journalistic friend left the hall with a splitting headache. His lecture was not a connected whole, but a fragmentary jumble, a pell-mell of the old jokes published in the New York Ledger and other periodicals.

There is no redeeming feature in his delivery which is cold, dull, monotonous, and made additionally unpleasant by his ostentatious New England twang. JOSH will never draw a second audience in Montreal, and it is a wonder to us how Toronto should have wanted him to return to it. THEODORE TILTON is one of the many who will follow him. TILTON is a man of unquestionable ability, but his success, here as elsewhere, will be mainly one of curiosity, growing out of the late Beecher trial. We fancy that only the want of means could induce a man of TILTON'S talents and character to subject himself to so questionable an ordeal.

Lecturing as a system has everything to commend it. It is an admirable mode of popular instruction. It is an easy and pleasant way of acquiring a great deal of useful information, through the agreeable channel of entertainment. We believe it will be found that the Canadian public is as ready as the American people to patronize this species of amusement. That, of course is satisfactory and creditable. But it would be more creditable if we could devise the means of encouraging purely Canadian lectures. We have a number of men, prominent in science and literature, who would take pride to address their countrymen on topics particularly relating to Canadian history, politics, and sociology. On no subjects do the people of this country more sorely need information than on those which affect their own nationality. We venture to say that politicians alone will never succeed in infusing that national spirit about which we read so much in the newspapers. Literary men are imperatively required for the task. And literary men will not come near accomplishing this until they are largely encouraged by public sentiment.

POSTAL PREPAYMENT.

In our last number, we fully explained the provisions of the new Postal Act; but there is one point upon which it may be well to insist again. We have before us a printed circular from the Post Office Department, Ottawa, containing the following:—Sir, I have the honor, by direction of the Postmaster General, to inform you that a letter to your address, unpaid, posted at—and chargeable with the rate of three cents, has been received at this department. As the present postal arrangements prevent the forwarding of any unpaid correspondence, I have to request that should you wish the letter to be forwarded to your address, you will remit the above amount in Canadian postage stamps, Canadian coin, or its equivalent, to this department, together with this notice.—This circular is intended to show the necessity of prepaying all letters from one portion of the Dominion to the other. Under the new postal arrangements prepayment is not optional, as formerly, and failure to observe the rule will consign all correspondence between different parts of Canada to the Dead Letter Office. The failure, therefore, to prepay letters must entail a great loss of precious time, and in some instances, may result in positive loss either to the writer of the letter or to the party to whom it is addressed.

There is a light in which the steamship question has now come properly to be regarded, and that is—in the view of the responsibility of the general Government of the Dominion for putting safe-steamers upon the Atlantic stations. The Government takes upon itself to spend the people's money for what is termed postal subsidy to the larger of these lines between Canada and Europe. The subsidy is really given to keep the vessels running, more than with reference to the value of the postal work performed. Now, MR. MACKENZIE is a practical man, and he is also First Minister. He knows as well as we do that these ships ought not only to be safe against ordinary hazards of the open seas, but able also to meet the special contingencies of the impact of ice, rocks and ships, and they

should be so unfortunate as to incur either of those calamitous chances. He knows the calamity can be taken out of the chances, at least so far as it has been done in the British Arctic Expedition now wintering amongst the Icebergs of the North. He cannot overlook a question that involves in the future, as it has bitterly affected in the past, the safety of the lives of Canadians and travellers, either as a Minister or as a man. And so for the present we leave the issue in his certainly not unable hands, in the assured confidence that the wishes of thousands of good citizens and subjects will receive more than a passing attention from him upon a question which yields to no other in importance. The safety of the public is the highest law.

The shocking railway disaster near Sorel recalls forcibly the well-established rule of the great impropriety of ever allowing cars of any sort to be driven in front of the locomotive. At the slow rate at which the train was moving, no serious consequences might have ensued had the heavy engine and tender been the first to meet the opposing obstacle, and it was the weight of that engine and tender behind them that drove the platform cars one over another. The train, of course, ought to have had the additional security of the powerful head-light of the engine over the track, to assist the driver in his lock-out. On the absence of watchfulness in other respects we are not now remarking, and can only trust the authorities will do their duty in the circumstances. We are concerned to have to record another loss of life at the Wellington street level crossing, in Montreal. Government action is our only hope in these cases.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

OUR CARTOON.

The Cartoon on our front page so correctly depicts the situation that it may be said to explain itself. The question of effectual protection to native manufactures has at length forced itself to such an extent on public opinion, as to be made a distinct political issue. A remedy must be devised to secure the country against American competition.

THE MICHAEL ANGELO CELEBRATION.

We offer a further series of beautiful views descriptive of the great celebration of the fourth Centenary of Michael Angelo, at Florence. One of the views is the illumination of the Michael Angelo Square, seen from the old fortifications. Another is the inauguration of the colossal statue of David, in honor of the great artist. A third is the procession forming in the square Dei Signori. A fourth is the room in the Parisian Museum of Antiquities dedicated to the works of Michael Angelo.

AUTUMN.

A charming and original fancy of the well-known artist Hamon, copied with rare perfection from the original steel engraving. It is a picture to be studied and preserved.

THE LAST DAYS OF MOZART.

This picture is by the celebrated painter Kaulbach and represents the memorably pathetic scene of Mozart's last day on earth. All the adjuncts are there—the resigned musician dying prematurely in the blossom of age, the disconsolate wife, the faithful but impotent physician, the artistic friends sorrowfully grouped in the distance. As we gaze upon the sad details, we fancy we hear the opening strains of the immortal Requiem just finished by the dying master and which was destined to be first performed over his grave. *Pie Jesu, Domine, dona ei requiem!*

THE VOLUNTEER CAMP, LONDON, ONT.

The Camp was 2½ miles from Richmond Street on Dundas Street, or Governor's Road, on the property adjoining the Asylum, known as Carling's Farm. The 7th London Battalion, being the local corps, were first on the Camp ground and took their position on the extreme right, followed by the London Artillery and Cavalry. The 22nd, "Oxford Rifles," under Mayor Cowan, formed next, and the 27th, "St. Clair Borderers" (Lieut.-Col. Davis), marched in shortly after. Then came the 26th, "Middlesex Light Infantry," from various parts of the County, some by waggons, others by train, &c. They were commanded by Lieut.-Col. Atwood, of Strathroy. Two other battalions followed from the Western and Southern Railway, the 24th, "Kent Battalion," under Lieut.-Col. Smith, and the 25th, "Elgin Battalion, commanded by Lieut.-Col. Charles O'Malley. The Mooretown, Kingsville and St. Thomas Troops of Cavalry followed next in succession and took up their quarters in rear of the Artillery—picketing their horses in the low grounds that marked the division between