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NOTICE.

The index of the last volume of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS has been printed, and is now ready for delivery. Those who preserve and bind their copies, and we invite all our subscribers to do so, may have the index by sending us a post-card requesting it. It is chiefly in bound volumes that the permanent value of such a publication as ours becomes manifest. The amount of information on all topics, with the pictorial treasures, is then found to be far beyond expectation.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, January 27th, 1877.

DEATH BEFORE DISHONOR.

These may appear strange and sarcastic words in the mouth of a Turk, but whoever wonders does not understand the Ottoman nature. Indeed, it is too much the fashion to regard the Mohammedans as a barbarous, effete and ignorant race, void of domestic virtues as well as national sentiments. The result is that simple justice is not done the Turks in their present difficulties with Russia and the Western Powers. The manner in which the Grand Council of the Porte has received the ultimatum of the Conference, providing for foreign supervision of the internal affairs of the Turkish Provinces in the Valley of the Danube, ought to correct the misconceptions to which we allude, even though the wisdom of such action is doubted. There were present at that Council two hundred and thirty-seven officials and dignitaries, of whom sixty were Christians. The Grand Vizier, MIDHAT PACHA, alluding to the difficulties concerning funds and alliances, which would hamper Turkey in the event of war, pointed out that the many millions of cartridges which the Turks would require must come from America at the risk of capture by hostile privateers, and he concluded by declaring that the situation was unfavourable for war. SAVVET PASHA, the Turkish representative at the Conference, dwelt upon the peril of braving Europe, and remarked that Russian gunboats now in the waters of the United States might stop the transmission of arms and ammunition which had been ordered in that country for Turkey. And yet the Council replied with loud shouts, "War rather than foreign interference." The only dissenting voice was that of the Armenian Protestant Bishop, who suggested that the decision should be left to the discretion of the Government. Later on, MIDHAT insisted on the gravity of the situation, spoke of the departure of the plenipotentiaries, the possibility of war and the horrors attending it, the injury it would do the internal affairs of the country, the impossibility of procuring funds, and the fact that Turkey could not rely upon any alliance. Several speeches followed; all the speakers repelled the idea of accepting the European proposals. After hearing all the speakers, the Council unanimously

rejected the proposals amid shouts of "Death before dishonor." After the proposal of the European Powers had been unanimously rejected, MIDHAT asked whether the Porte might not, nevertheless, enter upon negotiations with the Powers respecting the rejected points? The Council answered No, and declared that the Turkish counter-proposals were the only subject upon which the discussions of the Conference could be further carried on.

ENCOURAGING NATIVE LITERATURE.

While public men and members of Boards of Trade are discussing the knotty question of protection to our native manufactures and industries as against the broad doctrine of free trade, those who like to turn away from the materialism of life and spend an occasional hour in the enjoyment of intellectual food, have their attention forcibly drawn to the necessity of a further encouragement of literature in our midst. The first great need is that literature should be popularized and made attractive to a young population, which naturally has not the hereditary and acquired tastes of older civilizations. In order that it may be so popularized, it must be comparatively cheap. Hence, wherever Canadians can get their reading cheapest, they are justified in resorting to that source. But when they are informed, or when they discover that their cheapest market for good popular literature is furnished by Canadian publishers, they have the additional motive of patriotism to patronize these native publications. Only a few years ago, we were entirely dependent on the United States and Great Britain for our books and pamphlets, and we were compelled to submit not only to the price of cost, but to the further charge of importation. To-day, it is quite different. We have our own publishers in our principal cities. Montreal has several firms which turn out good work. Toronto, through her publishers, has earned the title of the Athens of Canada. These publishers do more to advertise Toronto and Montreal than all their traders put together.

The same state of things exists in regard to journals and periodicals. Canadians have no reason to patronize American papers—at least exclusively—when they have their own published at even cheaper rates. The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, for instance, aims to be a national institution, representative of Canadian thought, aim and spirit. Its pictorial department is devoted to the elucidation of our scenery, monuments, history, and the pictures of our public men. Its letter-press is almost entirely original, and a reflex of native culture. Such a paper should therefore be supported generously, if only to show that Canadians are able to hold their own in every walk of letters. The same strain of reasoning applies, of course, to all departments of current literature.

If the latest news from Washington can be relied upon, a solution of the Presidential problem would seem to have been arrived at. We are told that a bill has been agreed upon providing that the Presidential count be made in the hall of the House on February 11th, the President of the Senate to open the returns, and two tellers from each House to certify the list to the former, who shall announce the result. If objection is made to any single certificate the Senate shall withdraw and objections shall then be decided without debate. The vote shall be counted, unless the objection is concurrent. Where more than one return is presented from a State, such returns shall be referred to a commission of five Senators elected by the Senate, five members of the House elected by the House, and four Associate Justices of the United States Supreme Court (for the First, Third, Eighth and Ninth Circuits), and these four shall elect a fifth Justice, who shall not be Chief-Justice. The Senior Associated Justice shall pre-

side. The decision of the tribunal shall be in writing, and shall stand unless rejected by the concurrent action of both Houses. The commission shall immediately convene to determine the questions referred to it. The *Herald* says the bill will pass both Houses, and announces positively that the President will sign it. The count of the vote will not wait until the usual time, 14th February, but will proceed at once. Should this tribunal decide that there was no election by the people, the House of Representatives will elect the President.

Her Majesty the Queen has sent a gracious letter acknowledging the reception of the album of the Canadian and Indian Lacrosse teams, which was sent to Her Majesty at her command. She specially commends the execution of the photographs—an approval highly deserved by Mr. Notman, whose artistic workmanship is constantly increasing in perfection.

The members of the Civil Service advocate pensions on superannuation. Our Civil Service is a very deserving and creditable body, and their claims should receive fair consideration.

Stringent regulations have been issued prohibiting the importation of sheep and goats into England from the Continent, in consequence of an outbreak of rinderpest there.

It is reported Germany will reconsider her original decision and consent to be represented in the Paris Exhibition of 1878. It is to be hoped that this will be the case.

A deep sensation prevails throughout the Basque Provinces in consequence of the promulgation of orders for beginning the military conscription on March 1st.

Coral fishers from Italy are fitting six large vessels for an expedition to a newly discovered coral reef between Bermuda and Nova Scotia next spring.

So far, the British Mail service from Halifax is a decided success, and the average time is better than that made from Portland last year.

Metz and Strasbourg are being fortified with great dispatch, and immense quantities of provisions are being daily poured into them.

The repatriation of Frenchmen is allowed by Government, with some conditions. We trust this is the last we shall hear of it.

The large sum of \$10,000 is to be appropriated by the City Council of Montreal for the removal of snow.

The Dominion Board of Trade has pronounced for protection to native industries by a decided majority.

A Victoria, B. C., dispatch says the Indian difficulties at Chemainus have been amicably settled.

MARGINALIA.

OTTO OF ROSES.—The most delicious of all perfumed essences is obtained by the simple distillation of rose-leaves. In our climate roses are not sufficiently highly scented to produce the properly odoriferous essences or oil; and all that the druggists can produce from rose-leaves is rose-water, which in fact is water slightly impregnated with the essence or oil, which is to a small degree soluble in it. The most favorable country for the production of the most highly-scented roses is the middle portion of European Turkey, at the base of the southern slope of the Balkan Mountains, where the

roses are grown in localities where they are protected against all winds except those from the south; and the flowers thus attain a luxuriance in perfume and in growth, as well as in size, of which those who have not visited these regions can hardly form any idea.

A SINGER GONE.—The death of Mr. P. P. Bliss, one of the victims of the Ashtabula disaster on the Lake Shore road, has elicited throughout the country many expressions of sorrow. He was on his way to Chicago to follow up the work of Messrs. Mooly and Sankey in that city. Mr. Bliss was but thirty-eight years old at time of his decease, and had only in the latter years of his life become proficient in music. Ten years ago he entered the music store of Messrs. Root & Cady, in Chicago, and remained there until the great fire of 1872. Since then he has been an active evangelist, and with Major Whittle has made long tours through the country. Some of his best-known pieces are, "Hold the Fort," "Pull for the Shore," "Jesus loves even me." His songs have done much to popularize the religious movement of our day, which has so visibly affected the masses of the population of England, Scotland, Ireland, and the United States.

VANDERBILT.—The following characteristic anecdote is related of the late Commodore Vanderbilt. At the beginning of the panic of 1873 a reporter of a New York journal waited upon the Commodore to get his views of the situation. The experienced journalist plunged into the subject as soon as he was shown into the Commodore's presence.

"Good-morning, Commodore," said he. "What do you think of the panic?" "I don't think about it at all." "What do you intend to do about it, then?" "I don't intend to do anything." "Well, haven't you got anything to say about it?" "No, Sir, not a word."

The poor reporter was just leaving the room in despair, when the Commodore turned full upon him and said, "Look a-here, sonny, let me give you a little advice. Pay ready money for everything you buy, and never sell anything which you do not own. Good-morning, sonny."

WATERLOO GIRD.—There is now staying at Goldstone, England, an old lady who was actually present at and took a passive part in the battle of Waterloo. Madame Van Cutsen, now the farmer of Hougoumont, was at that time the gardener's daughter at the Chateau de Hougoumont, and aged 5 years. Her father, the gardener, stuck to his post, retaining his little daughter as company. The chateau itself was occupied by the British Guards, and was throughout the whole of the memorable 18th of June, 1815, the grand and principal object of attack. Madame has a very vivid recollection of the kindness of our soldiers, who treated her as a pet, and kept throwing her bits of biscuit out of their haversacks wherewith to amuse her. At last the chateau was shelled and set fire to by Jerome Bonaparte. Madame was then conducted by a sergeant of the Guards to a back gate, and her retreat secured into the forest of Soignies. Madame is a widow, of course advanced in years, but hale and hearty, and now visiting England for the first time in her life.

POPULATION OF THE WORLD.—The annual account of the population of the world, prepared by Drs. Behem and Wagner, has been published. It appears that the population of 1876 may be taken at one billion, four hundred and twenty-three millions, and nine hundred and seventeen thousand (1,423,917,000). Of these nearly one-fifth, or 309,178,000 reside in Europe, and probably 100,000,000, or less than one-third, belong to the European civilization. Four-sevenths of the world's people, or 824,000,000, reside in Asia, and half of these are Chinese. The population of America, natives included, in both divisions of the continent, is only 85,000,000, of whom we imagine about half are of pure-blooded European descent. The population of Africa, arrived at, of course, by more or less careful guessing, is set down at 190,000,000, of whom scarcely 1 per cent. can be fairly set down as civilized men, and little more than 10 per cent. as semi-civilized. The Turkish Empire is estimated at 46,000,000, including 20,000,000 in Egypt and its dependencies, with Tunis and Tripoli; but the population in Europe is only 8,000,000, and in Asia, 13,500,000. Half the European population of Turkey at least is Bulgarian, and if we add the Greeks and Slavs, we shall find that the dominant caste does not exceed one-fourth of the whole, to whom the other three-fourths are sacrificed.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

HENRY IRVING proposes to visit America on a professional tour next season.

THE name of Rose Eyttinge is pronounced Ating, not Atinj or Etinj.

A WALTZ composed by Count Benst, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at London, on the occasion of the Prince of Wales' return from India, and entitled, "Le Retour des Indes," is about to be published at Vienna.

THE violinist Wilhelm is about to make a concert tour in the United States, under the management of Bernard Ullmann.

THE obsequies of Tamburini, the singer, were celebrated lately at the Madeleine. A large number of people were present, and among them the principal artists of the Paris Lyric theatres, the family of Gardoni, General Chablin, the Italian Ambassador, and an old man with a white beard, who was for twenty years the colleague of the deceased—namely, the celebrated tenor, Mario de Candia.