

by all who have seen it. Shortly after its arrival at Ottawa it was, by request of His Excellency the Governor-General, conveyed to Rideau Hall where it was viewed by Lady Lisgar, who warmly expressed her admiration of its beauty of design and excellence of finish. The Cup was taken to the Hall by Cols. Powell and Macpherson and Major Futvoye.

CORRESPONDENCE.

EXPEDITION AGAINST QUEBEC, 1759.

To the Editor of the "CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS."

DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for giving insertion to my communication of 16th ult. Will you now permit me to say, that though the narration by Mr. Thompson is both authentic and unexaggerated as you have termed it, its chief value at the present day is, that it is independent testimony strongly corroborative of the well-known Journal of Captain John Knox, published immediately after the events, in two volumes quarto, and of the equally authentic and interesting journal of Col. Malcolm Fraser, also of a Journal by another officer also an eye-witness, both of which will be found among the manuscripts published by the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. There are two points in the Thompson Journal especially worthy of attention; he is more clear than any other writer, on the course taken by the French army on its retreat after the battle of the Plains, and it gives the fullest account of the action at the Fords on the 26th July, which was a more serious affair than many suppose. As you have published the Thompson Journal so far, I send you the two concluding pages, which are not contained in the copy in the Royal Engineers' office. I think they add to the completeness and value of the narrative.

I remain faithfully yours,

WM. JAS. ANDERSON.

Quebec, Grande Allée,
5th February, 1872.

FRENCH FORCE.

The Quebec Brigade commanded by Colonel de St. Ours, on the right	- - - - -	3,500 men.
The Brigade of Three Rivers, commanded by M. de Borne, on the right	- - - - -	900 "
The centre, to be composed of regular troops, commanded by M. de Senzarque	- - - - -	2,000 "
The Montreal Militia on the left, commanded by M. Prudhomme	- - - - -	1,100 "
The Brigade of the Island of Montreal, commanded by M. Herbin	- - - - -	2,300 "
The Cavalry, chiefly regulars	- - - - -	350 "
Light troops, chiefly Canadians and Acadians	- - - - -	1,400 "
Indians, exclusive of the scouting and scalping parties	- - - - -	450 "
Total	- - - - -	12,000 "

This force was ranged in order of battle from the Bridge of the River St. Charles, to the Falls of Montmorenci, to oppose the landing of the British in that quarter.

The garrison of Quebec was defended by the Militia and a few regulars, under the command of De Ramsay.

The battle was more remarkable for display of courage, than for scientific manœuvre, and was chiefly decided by the bayonet and broadsword, the agile Highlanders serving in a manner to supply the want of Cavalry, while the steadiness of the English Fusiliers rendered the want of Artillery less felt; General Wolfe bestowed his whole attention upon the steady advance of his right division (right to the St. Lawrence) injudiciously exposing himself in the front of the line. He was repeatedly wounded (one of the wounds being through the sword-arm), and at length mortally, at the moment the French were giving way, and were pursued by the Highlanders, who, for the purpose of indulging in their national mode of attack with the less constraint, had thrown away their fuses, and the broadsword soon told a dreadful account of slaughter that took place on the view taken of the ground after the confusion of the retreat had somewhat subsided. The pursuit of the Highlanders was across the slope in a direction towards the General Hospital, but a great part of the retreat was through the town, by St. John's and St. Louis' Gates, and out again through P. Jace Gate, along the Beach towards the ferry at St. Charles river.

The two Thompsons, father and son, occupied successively, for more than a century, a large space in the public eye in Quebec, where they were known and respected for their integrity, intelligence, and veracity. And being links connecting the present with the most important points in past Canadian history, they were generally sent for, consulted, and patronised by the successive Governors of the Province. Mr. Thompson, senr., made his last public appearance at the laying of the Wolfe and Montcalm monument on 15th November, 1827. He was then in his 95th year, and was present at the special request of Lord Dalhousie, who, turning to him, said: "Mr. Thompson, we honour you here as the companion-in-arms and a venerable living witness of the fall of Wolfe, do us also the favour to bear witness on this occasion by the mallet in your hand." Lord Dalhousie had the highest respect for Mr. Thompson, and finding that he was living in a confined house, on 25th June 1821, addressed the following note to Lieut.-Col. Durnford, then commanding Royal Engineers.

"SIR—In consideration of the very long and faithful services of Mr. James Thompson in the Cheque office of the Royal Engineer Department, and as a mark of respect to one of the only surviving companions of the immortal Wolfe on the Plains of Abraham, the Commander of the Forces has sanctioned, and I am to desire by his Lordship's command, that you will cause to be executed in the course of the summer, certain repairs to the house he now occupies, and which appears to his Lordship in a dangerous state.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. C. DARLING,
Military Secretary."

A palace like Aladdin's did not immediately arise, but

before the advent of winter, by this wonderful lamp, Mr. Thompson's uncomfortable, one storied cottage was converted into a commodious house of two stories, in which he spent the remainder of a cheerful and green old age.

W. J. ANDERSON.

ST. PETER'S R. C. CATHEDRAL, MONTREAL.

There is usually a wonderful substantiality about the fanes devoted to Roman Catholic worship. Their projectors appear to have in most instances planned them to fight against time if not to last for all time. The old Cathedrals of Europe are amongst the most interesting objects to the traveller of æsthetic taste, and their associations make a whole volume of history. Montreal, for a modern city, is not destitute of handsome and solid architecture, but the building now being erected as a Roman Catholic Cathedral will, no doubt, when finished, take the foremost rank among the architectural adornments of the city.

The following very full and accurate description of the Canadian St. Peter's, which we copy with a few alterations, appeared in the Montreal Gazette some time ago:—

"Few cities on this continent can boast of as handsome and substantial buildings as Montreal. The Church of Notre Dame has long been the admiration of travellers from all parts of the world; Christ's Church Cathedral is, perhaps, one of the purest, as well as the most beautiful types of Gothic architecture on the continent; of more recent date, the Church of the Gesu attracts much attention for the beauty and magnificence of its interior; while St. Andrew's, St. Patrick's, St. George's, and a host of others, add much to the attractiveness of our good city. All, however, are destined to be thrown into the shade by the superior magnificence of the new cathedral now in course of construction by the R. C. Bishop of Montreal at the corner of Cemetery and Dorchester Streets. It is now about nineteen years since the old Bishop's Cathedral and Palace on St. Denis Street were burned down, in the terrible conflagration of 1852; and during that time, a new edifice, a Parish Church, has been erected on the same site. The Bishop, however, removed his See-house and Cathedral to their present situation in Cemetery Street. Scarcely had the old church been destroyed, before Monseigneur Bourget conceived the idea of erecting a cathedral which should be worthy of the city of Montreal. His Lordship decided to reproduce, though on a smaller scale, as far as the climate would permit, a model of St. Peter's at Rome, and he intrusted Messrs Bourgeault and Leprohon to make the plans after those of that far-famed Basilica. In 1857 the subscription for the building was begun, but not till 1869 was the actual work of building commenced. Our illustration of the Montreal St. Peter's as it is to be, is copied from a model in wood made by Mr. Michaud of the congregation of St. Viateur. The model, which is now in the possession of the Bishop, is in itself a work of art. Every detail possible, including the most trivial ornaments, both outside and inside, is worked out with a minuteness perfectly marvellous, and it would be impossible more exactly to represent the glorious Cathedral.

"Having acquired the necessary information, the Bishop at once began the work of building, and it is now but a few days more than a year ago since the first foundation stone was laid one Sunday afternoon, in the presence of a vast multitude. And now, a year having passed, some idea may be formed of the greatness and the form which the building is to take. The main building, from the entrance to the farthest extremity, is 300 feet long; the greatest breadth, which is at the transept, is 225 feet, while the average width is about 180 feet. To be added to the length, however, is the portico, which gives 30 feet more. The building is cruciform in shape, the arms of the cross being represented by three rounded expansions, or, as they are denominated in French, *ronde points*, two of which give the great width at the transept, the third springing from the rear wall, midway from each end. The average height of the walls will be 28 feet from the bottom course; at the transept and at the basis of the minor domes they will be 50 feet in height, while the apex of the main roof will reach a height of 80 feet. And here it may be as well to remark that it has been impossible to copy, in this edifice, exactly the style of St. Peter's. There the climate permits of a flat roof; here it has been necessary to adopt the pointed one. The main dome, the most magnificent feature in the structure, will rise from the transept, being supported on four oblong columns, 30 feet thick, and will, when completed with lantern, ball and cross, reach a height of 250 feet. This dome will be the only one of the kind on this continent. Its diameter on the inside will be 70 feet, and outside 98 feet. It will, except in size, be an exact copy of St. Peter's. Just above its junction with the roof, it will be surrounded with sixteen sets of Corinthian pillars about 24 feet in height, surmounted by pilasters, the spaces between the pillars being occupied by large windows, with highly ornamented sills and cornices. Above this the dome gradually bends to its apex, from which rises the large open lantern. Like the dome the lantern is surrounded with pillars, though of lesser magnitude. Above the lantern is the great ball, and at last the gilt cross 12 feet in height. About half way in the descent to earth will be four smaller domes, surrounding the great one in the centre. These will be in everything but size almost exact copies of the one just described. A fair idea of their size may be gained from the domes on the City Hall and Hôtel Dieu. A portion of the building as yet unmentioned is the portico. This will not be finished, nor will it probably be begun for several years to come. It will extend 30 feet beyond the main walls, and will rise to the height very nearly of the main roof, or about 75 feet; its length will be in the neighbourhood of 210 feet. Unlike the church proper, the walls of which are exceedingly plain, being built of uncut limestone and devoid of the slightest ornament, the facade of the portico will be of cut-stone, and finished in that rich, composite order of architecture, which allows of a very great variety of ornamentation. There are to be five entrances to the vestibule, which is to be about 200 feet long, from 18 to 20 wide, and 40 to 45 feet high. The walls of the main building are, at their base, about 10 feet thick, and will vary at the top from 4 to 6 feet. On entering the church there is an unobstructed view down the nave, which is 40 feet wide, to the grand altar, situated under the great dome. On either hand are large pillars supporting the roof, and dividing the aisles from the nave; at each pillar, two chapels will be placed, so that, in the church, there will be, besides the grand altar, about twenty chapels. The immense pillars (four in number)

which are to support the dome, will rise from the transept, their shape will be rather oblong than square, and their greatest diameter 30 feet. A good idea of their size may be formed when it is stated that at each pillar will be two altars. Light will be furnished exclusively by the five domes and six lanterns placed in the roof. To make up for the lack of ornament outside, the work of beautifying inside will be done with a lavish hand, for besides the ordinary architectural ornaments the walls will be further embellished with frescoes. The interior is designed to be an exact copy of the interior of St. Peter's at Rome. As to the exterior the plan presents two different sides, one resembling St. Peter's at Rome, the other as it will be constructed to suit the climate.

"So far, the work of building has progressed pretty rapidly. The walls are, most of them, up to quite, perhaps more than, half the height which they are intended to reach; and already about \$25,000 have been expended. Next season the collections will be devoted to the construction of the pillars inside the church, on which so much depends, that it is necessary to allow them to settle with the main building. The money raised in the year following, it is anticipated, will all be required for the purchase of the wood that may be necessary. It will, therefore, be nearly five years before the roof is put on, and some two or three years longer before the Cathedral will be entirely completed, as the bishop intends to complete the work without getting a copper into debt."

ROCKPORT, N. B., AND THE GRINDSTONE TRADE.

The grindstones are procured by manual labour from the reefs at Cape Meranguin, Westmoreland County, N. B., and shipped from Rockport by Read, Stevenson & Co., to the amount of 1,200 tons annually in schooners owned in this place. The stone is quarried out of the reefs near low water mark, and then a stone boat is hauled on to the great junk, which is secured by chains to a pole laid across the boat, the rising tide then lifts the boat and the pendent mass, which is thus floated to a convenient place for making the stone; the pole is then cut away, and the boat springs sometimes clear out of the water, when relieved of its load. It is curious to see the empty boat sunk almost to the gunwale in the water. In the illustrations, a pole may be seen standing in the eye of a grindstone,—this is to mark the place where the stone is to be dropped, as seen in the sketch of floating. The stonemakers are generally comfortably housed, but the men live in slab camps at the Cape during the season, which lasts from May to November; they return home (about 3 miles) on Saturday evening, in time to attend "Clear Grit" Lodge of British Templars. The manufacture of the stone has to be carried on while the tide is out. Two men working together will make about three large stones or about 20 tons per week, and one of these will be used up in one of the edge-tool factories in about 10 days. The least flaw condemns the stone, as human life depends on mounting perfect pieces. In the picture may be seen the Lower Cove Steam Grindstone and Scythe Hone Works on the opposite shore of Cumberland, N. S., and to the right the Joggins coal mines; between these places is seen one of the most remarkable geological exposures of the coal measures in the world; the perpendicular cliff of over 100 feet shows the dip of the strata, cross-marked by almost perpendicular ridges, rich in curious fossils. The fishing boats seen drifting down the bay indicate another profitable industry—the shad fishery, which is here of considerable importance, keeping the coopers constantly busy. Rockport and Cape Meranguin lie between Cumberland Basin and Shepody Bay at the head of Chignecto Bay in the Bay of Fundy, 16 miles from Sackville and 12 from Dorchester.

"CHOICE SPIRITS."

Our artist, impressed with the beauty of the two groups of Angels that recently appeared in our pages, copied from engravings of the celebrated paintings by Correggio, took a fancy, last week, to get up another group, which we reproduce in this issue. They may not probably be "Angels" according to Correggio's ideal; but we will back them against the great Italian master's conception for life-like expression characteristic of some of the types of that important link in the chain of creation which we are told by high authority was made "a little lower than the Angels." There is no irreverence in occasionally looking at the comic side of human character or physiognomy, and we think our group of "Choice Spirits" is calculated to give a little pleasant study and amusement. The characters speak for themselves; any explanation of them would but spoil the reader's relish for the picture.

MINERAL COTTON.—At the last meeting of the Franklin Institute, says the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, Mr. Coleman Sellers exhibited a sample of a material which is now for the first time to be manufactured and applied to useful purposes in the arts.

The product possesses a general resemblance to cotton, for which it may doubtless in certain cases be substituted with advantage, but on closer examination seems more like spun glass, which in reality it is. It is formed by allowing a jet of steam to escape through a stream of liquid slag, by which it is blown into the finest threads, sometimes two or three feet in length. These threads, though somewhat elastic, readily break up into much smaller ones, and, the colour of the substance being white, the appearance of a compacted mass of it makes the name under which it has been described a very appropriate one. The admirable non-conducting property of the material for heat, as well as that of the great quantity of air which it retains in its interstices, would seem to fit it very well for a non-conducting casing to steamboilers and pipes, an application for which it is at present being tested.

The secrets of the war are oozing out one by one in Paris, at the rate of a dozen per diem. The last is that relating to the preparations actually going forward at the time of the Emperor's downfall, in view of the coronation on which he had set his heart. This ceremony, for which designs had been already executed by more than one great artist, was to have taken place at Notre Dame. The Pope was to have officiated, and after the ceremony of crowning the Emperor and Empress, the Prince Imperial was to have been anointed as Co-Regnant of the Empire.