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ONLY ONE.

All we ask of each subscriber of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is that he will procure us ONE additional subscriber. This can be easily done, and it will go far towards increasing the efficiency of the journal. We are doing our best to put forth a paper creditable to the country, and our friends should make it a point to assist us. Remember that the Dominion should support at least one illustrated paper. Remember too that the "NEWS" is the only purely literary paper in the country. We invite our friends to examine carefully the present number of the paper and judge for themselves of our efforts in their behalf.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Feb. 24th, 1877.

JUSTICE TO CANADIAN AUTHORS.

Several years ago, there was published in this city a dramatic poem, of ambitious character, entitled "Saul." It fell dead upon the public. A few congenial critics, men employed on the press for the most part, discerned its beauties and gave it such praise as they could in the columns under their control. But the great body of readers remained incurious of the book, and the gifted author was allowed to plod on in his career, without the encouragement of pecuniary remuneration or the solace of merited fame. After a long interval, a copy of the book having strayed across the Atlantic, fell into the hands of no less a man than NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE, who was so struck with its genius that he brought it to the notice of a literary friend, and thus an extended and appreciative review of it appeared in a British periodical. Then all at once Canadians woke up to the consciousness that they had a great poet among them, and for a time CHARLES HEAVYSEGE rose to the prominence of a public man. But it was only for a time. Gradually he was suffered to fall back into the shadow, and he died with the sad feeling that he was comparatively unknown among his own people. A thoughtful writer in the *Canadian Monthly*—we believe—lately suggested that a monument should be erected to his memory, and that that monument should consist of a complete library edition of his works. But the suggestion has met with no echo.

About two years ago, Mr. S. C. WATSON, a writer well-known in the narrow circle of cultured journalism, published "The Legend of the Roses" and other poems. Its appearance was certainly noticed at the time, but not with that heartiness which its merits deserved. We have not ourselves had the pleasure of seeing the work, but from extracts in a late number of *Belford's Magazine*, we feel justified in giving it the highest character. Yet this

work would never have met its due unless it had been reviewed as it deserved in an American journal. It required this extrinsic sanction to obtain recognition among ourselves.

We suppose that the day will come also in this way for Mr. JOHN READE, as it came for HEAVYSEGE and WATSON. How few of our people, even among those who pretend to literary accomplishment, are aware of the existence of the "Prophecy of Merlin" from the pen of Mr. READE. We had occasion some months ago to say, and we now repeat that, if that work had been published in London or New York, it would have set its author alongside of the BUCHANANS, the ROSSETTIS, the ALDRICHES and the BAYARD TAYLORS.

The truth is that the Canadian mind needs a stimulant from within. Its provincialism is a bane and a reproach. While platitude should never be encouraged because it is of native growth, mediocrity might be treated with indulgence, and where there is real excellence, it should be acclaimed precisely because it is Canadian.

THE "NORTHERN LIGHT."

We take credit to ourselves for having done our best towards bringing the merits of the steamer *Northern Light* before the public. We gave pictorial views of her when she was built, with full description, and to-day, we present her again as she appears battling with the ice-floes of the Straits of Northumberland. Our object all along has been to make the artistic resources of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS subservient to the wants and resources of the country, and as the winter navigation of our rivers and arms of the sea is a subject of national importance, we have given unusual prominence to this scheme of an effectual ice-boat. We are glad to see that Parliament has busied itself with the matter, and that the opinions of prominent members from Prince Edward Island and elsewhere are, on the whole, favourable to this new solution of the problem of winter navigation. In the House on last Friday, Mr. PERRY declared that the *Northern Light* was doing good service and he was satisfied that she is not a fraud. She made ten trips through the ice, from eight inches to two feet thick, in three hours and a half. Hon. J. C. POPE did not look upon the boat as a great success as an ice-breaker. Through some ice, however, she would do well. She drew too much water, and if she got caught at certain points would be destroyed. Mismanagement gave the boat a worse name than she deserved. He referred to her first, second, and third attempts to get out of Charlottetown in seven inches of water. He was then satisfied that her shape was wrong for breaking fixed ice. She should have an overhanging stern like the Newfoundland sealers, whereas she could with very great difficulty run upon the ice. Though there was boat service this winter, the mails had not been carried by her *via* Cape Tormentine, but had gone by ice boats. The route to Georgetown was about forty miles, while by Cape Tormentine it was only seven miles, and the boat would be much safer on account of board ice. Mr. DAVIS believed that the vessel could not break solid ice, but had far surpassed their expectations in other respects. He spoke favourably of her shape and held that the boat was as strong and durable for working among drift ice as she was admirable. But for smooth and fixed ice she was not so good. Mr. MCINTYRE spoke from personal experience about the vessel. She would go straight through six inches of ice without stopping. On one occasion she had been lifted by the ice clean out of the water, and had it been any other boat, there is little doubt that she would have been wrecked. Hon. Mr. SMITH was gratified that his hon. friends had spoken in this strain. The Government had been severely criticised for the attempt to make the steamer available, and failure was predicted; but time had removed all that, and he held that there had been no waste

of money in her construction. He was aware that few of the inhabitants of the Island had not much experience in winter navigation, but was gratified to find that the people had appreciated the effort made in their behalf.

THE HANSARD.

We confess that we could never appreciate the motives which led to the suppression of the *Hansard* at the close of the last session of Parliament. There was a certain by-play about the incident which appeared frivolous, not to say mysterious. We were, therefore, not surprised to find that, at the very opening of the present session, steps were readily taken, at the initiative of Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, to revise this mode of official report. Mr. HOLTON withdrew his objections, and the committee came to a satisfactory agreement with the stenographers of the Gallery. Messrs. RICHARDSON and BRADLEY, who assume the contract, have no superiors as shorthand writers, while they have full training in all the varied branches of journalism. They have associated to themselves three able colleagues, and we may now look for an accurate and intelligent report of the whole proceedings of the session.

The advantages of the *Hansard* are manifest. The bound volumes of last year, and of the year before last, are the best available political histories of the country, free from that insidious coloring and from those unfair amplifications or retrenchments which are found in the reports of partisan papers. When properly indexed, as we trust they will be, the future volumes will prove the best of references for the political or historical student.

We apprehend that the work of condensation is the most important which the editor of the *Hansard* will have to set before himself. Fully one half of the debates are of only transient moment, and more than two-thirds of the speeches are worthy of only brief record. Repetitions form the staple of most Parliamentary discourses, and these should be rigorously eliminated, while the conversations across the House, which are often full of significance, should as far as possible be preserved. We believe that hereafter the *Hansard* will become a permanent institution, and it rests with the present management to give it that character which shall win for it the confidence both of the House and of the public.

We invite attention to our portrait of Albani on another page, as also to the accompanying history of this great artist, which is the fullest and most authentic that has yet appeared in English. But Ontario now vies with Quebec in the production of a cantatrice. Miss ELISA CELLINI, who recently made her *début* in Italy as a prima donna, awakening enthusiasm, is a Miss FORSYTH of Fort Erie, at which place she was born.

We have lost all hope of a fair decision in the case of the Presidential election. The commission is ruled purely by party spirit, and the five Judges of the Supreme Court are as blinded by it as are their Congressional colleagues. This bodes no good to the Republic.

The Legislatures of no less than four Provinces—Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba—are in session simultaneously with the Dominion Parliament. This is rather too much of a good thing, and increases the telegraph bills of the newspapers to an undue extent.

In anticipation of changes in the tariff, merchants in our large cities are actively engaged removing dutiable goods from bond, and the usual increase in Customs' receipts preceding a Budget speech is observed.

The *Times* Roman correspondent states that it has been resolved that any Cardinal may be elected Pope at the death of Pius IX., irrespective of nationality. This

would be an innovation, as it was always required that the Pope should be an Italian.

EDHEM PASHA has been requested by the Sultan to appoint another Grand Vizier. Mahmoud Damad, brother-in-law of the Sultan, is the probable successor, with a policy aiming at the abrogation of the Constitution.

THE Russian army is making energetic preparations to cross the Pruth. A Pera despatch announces that M. Ristic, Servian Envoy, has arrived, and will have an audience with the Sultan this week.

A TREATY of peace, between the Porte, Montenegro and Servia, will be signed next week, with the acquiescence of Russia.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

ALBANI.—A lengthy and authentic memoir of this great Canadian artist will be found alongside of her portrait.

THE NORTHERN LIGHT IN THE ICE FLOES.—For particulars in connection with this sketch, the reader is referred to the descriptive matter accompanying the engraving.

CHARITY AND MILITARY COURAGE.—As the object of the NEWS has always been to give representations of contemporaneous art, we have introduced these two magnificent statues, masterpieces of their kind, which obtained the highest prize at the French Exhibition of last year.

PLAN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—This little sketch will be found highly useful to our readers, as enabling them to know the seat which every member occupies during the present session. We are indebted for the plan to our enterprising contemporary the *Ottawa Citizen*.

THE U. S. ELECTORAL COMMISSION.—We have already given our readers several views of this historic tribunal, in whose hands the fate of the American nation may be said to rest. To-day we show the Commission sitting in the Supreme Court Room of the Capitol listening to the great lawyer Dudley Field, on the Democratic merits of the Florida case.

NEW YORK POLICE COURT.—A characteristic scene of real life in the great American city, on a bleak Monday morning, when the transients and miscreants of the public are emptied out of the police court into the inhospitable streets. Cold, dirty, half asleep or still stupefied with bad liquor, they look dismally about them, before gathering up their senses preparatory to another day of riot and another night in the cells.

MILITARY COSTUMES.—The French Museum of Artillery ranks among the most ancient and complete in Europe. For historical and artistic purposes it is invaluable. Our sketch represents the hall which contains specimens of all the military costumes of the country from the days of Charlemagne to those of Louis XIV. They are to form a special feature at the approaching Exhibition of 1878.

OPERA BALL IN PARIS.—Our sketch represents the first of the four great Opera balls given this winter, before Lent, in the Paris Grand Opera House. There were six thousand costumed visitors on the floor and the spectacle is represented as singularly magnificent. Johann Strauss came all the way from Vienna to conduct the orchestra, alternately with the French waltz composer, Olivier Metra. The Viennese master is seen in the sketch towering over his musicians with his violin.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THYONE.—Our cartoon, this week, is illustrative of an anecdote which comes to us from Ottawa. In the lobby of the House, the Premier and the leader of the Opposition met, after the reading of the Speech by the Governor General.

"Well, Sir John," said the former, "the speech is long enough, is it not?"

"Yes," was the reply, "but it has no breadth."

Sir John was joking as usual, being well aware that there is quite enough in the Speech, and to spare, to keep Parliament busy till Easter.

THE IMPERIAL DURBAR AT DELHI.—Delhi, the capital of the great Mogul dynasty, and the city with which natives and Europeans alike associate the term Indian Empire, was appropriately chosen for the ceremony of proclaiming Her Majesty's assumption of the Imperial title. Nothing was spared to make the ceremony as complete and as imposing as possible. All the native princes and chiefs were invited to take part, and the principal officials of the Presidencies were requested to attend. An immense canvas city gradually rose around Delhi, until an extent of seven or eight miles was covered with the camps of the various magnates and their retinues. These camps of themselves were of considerable size, that of the Viceroy being, of course, the largest, the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Maharajah of Mysore, and the young Guicowar of Baroda following close after. All the camps were formed in the shape of the letter T, the perpendicular line representing the main road, with tents on each side, and the horizontal line a similar, but smaller street. At the point of intersection there was a square