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#### NOTICE.

IN THE NEXT NUMBER OF THE

#### CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

will appear a large picture representing the

#### INTERNATIONAL GAME OF BASE BALL

between the Tecumsehs of London, and Maple Leaf of Guelph, and also a series of sketches of the

#### Caxton Celebration

at Montreal, all of which are unavoidably crowded out of the present number.

#### CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, July 7th, 1877.

#### AN AGREEABLE SUBJECT.

By looking at the title page, our readers will observe that, with the present number, the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS enters upon its sixteenth volume. The event is one which calls for mutual congratulations, and it suggests a few words of converse with our friends. Under the present management, it was promised that no effort would be left untried to improve the paper, both in its pictorial and literary departments, and we believe we have some reason for asserting that these pledges have not been left unredeemed. We are conscious that much remains to be done to realize even our own ideal of what the publication should be, but it must be remembered that all does not depend upon ourselves, that much must be derived from public encouragement, and that we are prepared to make the NEWS perfect of its kind provided our patrons will support us. The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is the only English pictorial paper in the Dominion. It is also the only purely literary and family journal, removed from the arena of party politics, and the sphere of sectional religious strife. It is meant for all classes and creeds, for people of every condition. It is intended to be read at every fireside, to grace every parlor table. Its aim is to foster literature and art in a spirit that shall be free from vulgarity and sensationalism. In other words, and in the highest sense, it is a national institution, and as such should be supported in every town and village of the Dominion. The expenses of an illustrated paper are double those of an ordinary journal, inasmuch as there is the usual outlay for the letter press, and, in addition, the heavy cost of the pictorial department. Hence it requires a constantly increasing circulation to keep it up to the standard of improvement to

which this class of paper is amenable. In the present volume we purpose doing everything in our power to make it more and more worthy of public acceptance, and we call upon all our friends to assist us by enlarging the list of our subscribers. Let every reader of the NEWS furnish us with another subscriber beside himself. This will cost him little or no trouble, and it will be a stimulating help to us. It should be remembered that the NEWS is not thrown aside when read, like the daily papers, but is preserved and bound in volumes, and the collection becomes invaluable as a continuous history of our country, comprising a full gallery of our public men, and views of every event of importance throughout the world. It is on opening one of these volumes that the value of such a publication as ours is surprisingly demonstrated. The literary matter is likewise of the most select and varied character, containing the best serial romances of the day, a large number of entertaining short stories, poetry, and other articles of interest. We therefore make bold to repeat our call upon our friends for their support.

#### A DISAGREEABLE SUBJECT.

We are very sorry to have to touch upon the following subject, but our duty as journalists, and the painful publicity which the matter has acquired, obliges us to do so. In our last issue, referring to the material aid which was pouring in to the ruined city of St. John from all quarters, we took occasion to signalize with special pride the lead which Montreal had taken in the matter. Within three or four hours, by the aid of four or five energetic men, whose names are known and who will not soon be forgotten, a special relief train of eighteen cars, filled with provisions easily convertible into food, was sent off, and, through the energy of Mr. Brydges, reached the scene of desolation within twenty-four hours. We have since learned from St. John how timely was that assistance, and with what acclamations its arrival was hailed. That special train was valued at \$12,000, and Mr. ANGUS, Manager of the Bank of Montreal, authorized parties to draw on him for all legitimate advances. The citizens also met in public meetings, and from representative men the most sympathetic resolutions were put forth; while gentlemen of authority, such as Hon. Mr. HOLT and others, called upon the City Council to subscribe the sum of \$50,000. Private lists of subscriptions were next opened, headed by liberal donations from influential parties. It was confidently expected that Montreal would do her duty in a royal manner, as befitting the metropolis of the Dominion. It was remembered that \$50,000 in gold was spontaneously offered by the Council to Chicago, and we all recollect what a favourable impression that generous benefaction made upon our American friends. But we regret to chronicle that when the Council did meet, notwithstanding the expostulations of SIR FRANCIS HICKS and others, both the sums of \$50,000 and \$75,000 were refused, and \$10,000 were at length resolved upon. The feeling throughout the city was one of bitter disappointment, and we are sorry to say that the outside press have not been slow to give expression to a kindred feeling. They remind us in no complimentary terms that we did comparatively little for Quebec, Levis, and St. Hyacinthe, and absolutely nothing for St. Johns, P.Q. The NEWS of the latter town is specially sarcastic in an editorial with the significant heading of "Rubbing it in." It says: "At a public meeting held in Montreal a few days ago to sympathize with and raise assistance for the sufferers by the St. John fire, Dr. HINGSTON, in moving the second resolution, is reported to have said: 'There were many excellent precedents why it should be passed, as for instance the Chicago, the St. Johns, P.Q., and the St. Hyacinthe fires, where Montreal had rendered valuable assistance.' For the sake of our fellow-sufferers of the ruined city

of St. John, we sincerely trust that the precedent which Montreal set on the occasion of the fire which devastated this town is not to be repeated on the present occasion. With the exception of a few isolated private donations, Montreal contributed nothing to relieve the sufferings of our people. Assistance was volunteered by Mayor HINGSTON, but when the proffered aid was asked for, the application was treated with silent contempt." The French paper of St. Johns is still more pungent against Montreal and our worthy ex-Mayor. We must say that we have nothing to urge in extenuation of these strictures. It is best to bow the head and be silent. Certainly, when we see a comparatively small city like Halifax rolling up \$91,000, and Toronto \$72,000, in aid of St. John, we cannot but lament in our hearts that Montreal should stand in the background, especially when we reflect upon the motives of sectional and other prejudices which are currently said to have actuated the municipal vote in this respect. The matter is so painful that we shall not enter into details, but the fact remains a lamentable one, and it will be long remembered as a disagreeable subject which will work no good for the city of Montreal. Fortunately, our private charity will compensate in a measure for civic lukewarmness.

#### SOME LESSONS OF THE CONFLAGRATION OF ST. JOHN.

When affliction comes upon a city in all its breadth and depth, the minds of men are stirred as at no other time, and if despondency, through the large efforts of a general benevolence from without, is not allowed to gain the victory over everything good and human, it will be succeeded by some extensive reform of the old ways and methods of life. Dormant energies will be revived, and there will be less obstruction for the truth that saves. On this continent one community cannot easily cast reproach upon another, for almost all are distinguished from the more settled portions of the world by a sort of thoughtlessness that turns away from the expectation of events which are but the sequence of the courses we pursue. Part of our troubles are undoubtedly inherited. Wooden buildings and narrow streets—no isolation and no party walls—imperfect water supplies, and ineffective apparatus and skill for quenching great fires, are more or less characteristic of the municipalities. Building in wood is the especial temptation of a continent which has not yet consumed its forests, or brought them within the limitations of expense, and which thus, finding always ready to its hand, braves destruction in the use of it in cities and towns; and so it is only after calamities so appalling as the present that we are brought to think of the necessity for a thorough change. Fifteen or twenty million dollars worth of property, and twelve thousand people brought to a state of destitution represent the cost. The mind is oppressed almost beyond endurance, and only finds relief in the blessed manifestations of right-heartedness that we are witnessing all around us. Then again it is shocked with the villainy of incendiarism in the midst of fire, and earnestly looks to the authorities to see to that. The value of the system of Fire Insurance is once more tested on the great scale. It ought not to make men reckless. We may very properly say that it should not be allowed to do so, beyond what is unavoidable, by the companies themselves. If we are to get wooden erections replaced by those that are more fire-proof, there can be no power able to influence the work better than the Insurance Companies. It is they who can best make it worth the while of any city to build in brick or stone. Leaving for the present the question of perfecting the Fire Brigades, we remark that at St. John there does not seem to have been any organized salvage corps, nor is there any in more than a very few cities. How well it would pay the companies to see to this, will be the more evident, when it is remembered that insured

goods, on a fire breaking out, become virtually their own property—seeing that their responsibility is measured by their value—and the work of these trained and organized salvage men has a two-fold if not a three-fold value, for they are not only able to remove the threatened goods to a place of safety, but may often save the structure itself by removing out of it its more combustible contents, and making a clear way for the fireman; while they can assist the police in clearing the premises, if need be, of those who could do harm and not good. The companies may be expected to turn their attention to the organization of these bodies. While on the subject of fire-proof construction it was lately suggested in our columns that it is hard to expect it to be absolute in the large majority of cases, but in St. John there was one notable instance of a fine new building of stone—a benevolent institution—apparently almost sufficiently isolated—and which might have been saved but for the only pieces of wood-work, forming as they did but a small part of the surface, that obtruded themselves on the elevation—namely the door and window frames. This building, which we instance as an example, was furnished with safety towers for egress, and with appliances of many kinds for healthy and comfortable residence, and it sheltered a great family of orphans. Now we do think our metal-workers might help us in this point of construction, and make it evident just how much would be added to the cost of a superior building by metal framing with iron or lined shutters and doors, for, as that able Montreal architect, the late Mr. Pringle, so earnestly labored to impress upon the public, it can make the entire shell of a building fire-proof, it will stand a good chance of resisting flames from the outside, whatever the contents may be—and in good buildings we already make the outside almost completely fire-proof—and when we come to think of the great value these contents sometimes amount to, the point will be admitted to be a very important one, and attention to it might almost make our houses our castles. It will be well, however, still to bear in mind that against risk of interior ignition, and even that which would result from very powerful streams of continuous flame from other buildings, it will be desirable to make the inside as nearly fire-proof as we are able.

The notion of mere material and individual protection, by a reliance upon the premium of insurance, without reference to the risk our buildings impose upon other interests than our own immediate ones, should not be allowed to absorb the thoughts and energies of proprietors. Personally, we have no moral right by our arrangements to endanger the civic fabric—and corporations, we trust, will become more alive to this truth. As communities we should guard what we possess, and consolidate and purify the social life, in place of its being subjected to these frequent and painful shocks. So alone can we earn for our Dominion the greatness that is unattainable without material permanence and intelligent citizenship, and so regarding things, we may now and again be persuaded to pause in calmness of spirit and map out a course for the cities in our thoughts, trusting in the teachings of Providence and the progress of enlightenment for making those principles available for a protected and more hopeful future. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him.

#### THE LAW OF GOOD WILL.

In view of the rumors which now and again assail our ears of threatened doings on next twelfth of July in Montreal, we feel it our duty to address a plain word or two to our fellow-citizens. What, we will ask, is the use of perpetuating these old-world feuds? What relation can they bear to the real politics of the country, in the day that is passing over us? The constitution under which we live, and which is respectfully acknowledged, in profusion, by all the supposed disputants, is