

terms. A great fact, however, which has appeared during the seven or eight years which have since transpired is that the value of the lands has been better established; while it has also been settled that the great Railway Companies of the Western United States, to whom large tracts of land were given by Congress, as a bonus for the construction of their roads, have sold them to the extent of many millions of dollars, the average price of such sales being over five dollars an acre. Settlement and production have followed with wonderful celerity, thus affording the Railways traffic in addition to the revenue from the land sales that enabled them to build. Men who had studied the question, saw and believed that this could be done, when Sir HUGH ALLAN'S scheme was on the tapis. But the world, and especially the financial world was then more slow to believe it, and especially in the face of the streams of unpatriotic outcry in depreciation, which were poured from Canada. The experience which the past eight years have afforded, in the particulars to which we have referred, have fortunately rendered the repetition of that style of thing impossible, and we may look to an opening in the future which will give Canada the power of Empire among the great nations.

POPULAR EDUCATION.

It was a happy thought to include among the main features of the late Dominion Exhibition specimens of the progress made by pupils in the different schools. The interest which this display elicited was manifested by the crowds that thronged these departments. We believe this is the first time that an exhibition of the kind has been attempted, but we are sure it will not be the last. At Philadelphia and Paris we took pains to show the world the steps Canada has made in the matter of primary or elementary education, and we all remember with pride that Ontario was declared unexcelled by any other country in this respect, while an extremely flattering report was made in favour of Quebec. It was only carrying out the same idea when a similar display was made before the eyes of our own people, that they, too, might have the pleasure of witnessing the progress our schools have made during the past few years.

The chief want of a country like ours is popular education. Circumstances are such that most Canadian children, like their American cousins, are dependent on themselves from early years not only for their fortunes, but often for their maintenance. They have scarcely reached the age of puberty, when they are turned out upon the world to shift for themselves. Good health, strength, and inherited force of character go a great way toward achieving success, but these advantages are developed a hundred fold if they are supplemented by even a moderate degree of schooling. In the case of physical debility, constitutional lack of enterprise or other like causes, the youth has nothing to fall back upon except his mental training, and, if he is deficient, the chances in life are for him very meagre indeed. Hence the duty of parents to provide for the education of their children from the earliest age, and hence, too, the duty of the State to see that this education is not only imparted, but that it is communicated in the readiest and most practical manner. There is no public officer whose duties are of so responsible a nature as the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Boards of Commissioners, nominated to assist him in the discharge of these duties, may be set down as the custodians of public morality and the representatives of as many families as exist within the bounds of their jurisdiction.

We have said, and we repeat with pride, that much has been done. In whatever else Canada may be pronounced backward and old-fashioned, it is not in the matter of popular education. Yet none are so convinced as those who have themselves directly to do with

the training of youth—that there remains a great deal more to accomplish. We may dismiss the city schools as being more directly under the supervision of the Commissioners, and more amenable to the influence of enlightened public opinion, and direct our attention to the schools in the country parts. There a great deal of improvement may be made in the matter of school-houses and their furniture, in the selection of text-books, in the attendance of the pupils, in the choice of Commissioners, in the visits of Inspectors and in the standard of teachers. The children of farmers should have more inducements held out to them to attend school, and for that purpose the surroundings of these might be made more cheerful than they generally are. The parents also should be encouraged to give their boys and girls every chance to frequent the classes, instead of throwing obstacles in their way, as is too often the case.

These are elementary considerations, of course, but they will bear repetition, and, indeed, they cannot be too frequently impressed upon public consideration. The annual convention of the Protestant Teacher's Association of the Province of Quebec will be held in this city in a few days, and we look to it for a practical discussion of many points connected with this vital subject of popular education. The experience of teachers is invaluable on this score, because they, more than any other class of the community, understand the wants of children, and have reason to deplore the difficulties that are too often placed in their way.

EPHEMERIDES.

Michaelmas! This is the turning season of the year to which we have arrived, and it marks an era, as being synchronous with the procession of the autumnal equinox. The 29th September is named after Michael, the chief of the angels, or rather the premier archangel. He it was who led the angelic hosts that harked the Prince of the Morning into "Chaos and Old Night." The legend is first touched upon by St. John, and has been immortalized in the literature of the world by the sublime muse of Milton. The pious mediæval imagination clothed him with a form of power—armour about his chest, a halo around his head, a spear in his right hand and his foot crushing the prostrate body of the fallen Lucifer. That there might be no mistake about it, Michael's red-velvet coloured buckler was shown in a church in Normandy down to 1607, when the Bishop of Avranches had it withdrawn from the gaze of the faithful and conveyed to some lumber room.

Why is the prosaic goose associated with the celebration of Michaelmas-tide?

"September, when by custom (right divine), Geese are ordained to bleed at Michael's shrine."

Several learned reasons are assigned, and no doubt one or the other *must* be true, but I rather think that the anserine fancy can be traced to the fact that the bird reaches its full perfection at the end of September. Certainly, no other good reason can be given why Thanksgiving Day can not properly be celebrated without the turkey, that does not attain its full form till the solemn glories of the Indian Summer are upon us. Similarly, while spring chickens may be all very well for the midsummer, the capon is not itself till the bells of Christmas chime his funeral. I venture to say that never did Michael's goose taste so sweet as it did to old Queen Bess, who was plucking a wing when the news of the Spanish Armada reached her ears.

In this country Michaelmas is one of the quarterly terms on which rents are paid, and it shares with the first of May the dusty distinction of "Moving Day." In the poorer quarters of this city, for instance, there used to be as much flitting about and shifting of chattels then as at the end of April. I wonder if there is any reference to this in that gay old song, "*Marianne s'en va au moulin*," wherein the adventures of a farmer's daughter are described, who went one day to the seigneur's mill, riding on her donkey, and returned with a sorry substitute therefor. The father was very wroth and demanded an explanation, but poor Marianne, who seems to have forgotten whatever had happened, could find no other than this:

"C'est aujourd'hui la St. Michel
Où tous les ânes changent de poil."

I heard this charming song several years ago, under peculiar circumstances. I happened to be in a railway carriage with a squad of Pontifical Zouaves, who were returning home under the guidance of M. le Chevalier de Bellefeuille. They had been singing all the way from the Vermont frontier, and after a pause, caused by the thunder of the train speeding through the Victoria Bridge, one of the boys struck up "*Marianne*," to which all, of course, heartily

responded. The Bonaventure station was reached, and the shriek of the engine whistle came in as a point d'orgue just as they finished the couplet.

"C'est aujourd'hui la St. Michel."

All was then over. The men stepped out to exchange their gay military dress for the sober habiliments of civic life.

I was reading the other day a very interesting letter, descriptive of a tour of exploration in the Lake St. John district, by "C. M." the able Quebec correspondent of the *Toronto Mail*. Among the many things that pleased me, I was struck by what he said of the large families that he everywhere met. Even in the poorest country homes, the correspondents noticed that the doors and windows were dark with children. The fecundity of Canadian women has long been an object of observation, and it particularly struck me when I first came to the country. I make it a rule to point out this peculiarity to strangers. I remember, a few years ago being interrogated on this score by an American lady friend and her husband, who were here on a visit. I told her that the average to a family was ten. She was so incredulous that I invited her to a drive into the country for the purpose of ocular demonstration. It was a fine Sunday afternoon when all the families were gathered together, and we found every opening of the houses gorged with youngsters. My friend was persuaded. "Where in the world do they all go to?" was the pertinent query. Ah, where? In calculating the factors of our country's wealth, this natural reproduction is not sufficiently appreciated and consequently not adequately provided for. There is no reason that I can see why these children should be obliged to leave their native villages to become factory slaves in the United States. Side by side with any scheme of immigration, if not antecedent to any, should be plans of colonization. While we have plenty of room for the children of the stranger, we should open our broad acres to the children of the soil.

Further about this human fertility. Some time ago a lady of my acquaintance gave me a remarkable instance of it. She said that her own mother, after nineteen years of wedded life, and at the early age of thirty-six had given birth to sixteen children. When she reached her golden wedding day, these children, having all followed her good example, brought forward their respective families. There stood at the foot of the village altar, on that auspicious morning, eleven children, forty-four grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren—a total of seventy-three. Of these two were priests, one of whom officiated and blessed the renewed nuptials of his old father and mother, and three were nuns in snowy coifs and penitential robes of serge. There is no need to be sentimental, but I take it, this is about as fine a picture as one would care to see in a long summer's day.

Probably every person who visited that magnificent bazaar, the Dominion Exhibition, closed last week in this city, was asked the question—what object there displayed pleased him best? I do not remember any one asking me that question, however, nor do I suppose that any one cares whether I answer it or not. But I will answer it. There were two things that particularly interested me in the exhibition—the drawings and other network of the pupils of the different schools, and the display of ladies' work in textile fabrics. The former fairly surprised me and they denote an advance in the elements of the graphic art that is quite encouraging. The latter showed marvelous ingenuity and delicacy of fingering, the only lack—and it was a pretty general one—being crudeness of design. I would suggest that that highly useful and philanthropic association, the Ladies' Decorative Society, should take steps to have a separate annual exhibition of such works—say, during the winter.

A. STEELE PENN.

CANADIAN VS. AMERICAN GIRLS.

The following lately appeared from the sprightly pen of the Montreal correspondent of the *Cornwall Reporter*:—"Montrealers went in shoals this summer to the seashore, and while families continue as a rule to patronize the resorts on the Lower St. Lawrence, single young men of the more desirable class flock to American watering-places. Speaking with a leading young Canadian who had been off for a short jaunt to the domains of Uncle Sam, I asked him the reason for his preference.

"Well," he replied, "there are a good many reasons. In the first place, I like to meet new faces and imbibe a few new ideas. One gets enough of Canadians all the year round, without feeling bound to go to Canadian places in summer from mere patriotism. Travel broadens and expands a man's mind."

"Very true," I assented. "Then," said my friend, "the bathing is so much better. The water of the Gulf of St. Lawrence is as ice compared with that at Newport, Cape May or the beaches near Portland."

"How did you like the American girls?" I queried. "Oh! I see you have guessed the chief reason for my summer abandonment of Canada. I admire the American girls very much. Without being forward, the educated and refined American women are so charmingly affable and courteous, that one must like them. Then they

meet a man half or part of the way. You ask one of them to dance or walk or drive and she does not make you feel that she is overpoweringly condescending, as some, not all Canadian women do. I for one hate to be made feel that a woman honours me by her acquaintance. I may feel it myself, but it is the being forced into the opinion that is distasteful. Now I don't want you to suppose that I speak absolutely; for you will find prizes at American resorts, but my experiences lead me to give the palm as a general rule to the daughters of the Republic."

"That is not patriotic," I retorted. "Well no, perhaps it is not, but you didn't ask me to speak patriotically but truthfully," was the epigrammatic reply.

I have given this conversation at some length because I have heard similar utterances from other young men whose opinions I respect, and probably some of your fair readers will take up the cudgels on behalf of *les belles Canadiennes*, although you will observe my friend made exceptions."

The editor of the *Cornwall Reporter* ought to be ashamed of himself for inserting such a libel on Canadian girls. He must be either a crusty old bachelor or a confirmed Bachelier. If he did not answer the charge then and there, in the very same number—a circumstance of which we are unaware—his guilt is doubly dyed and the offence of the nature of those that may be forgiven never. "Our girls" praiseworthy indeed! Are they prudes that tramp on snow-shoes, cyrils on skates, twirl the croquet bat, twist the tiller of a yacht and excel in all out-door sports—are they prudes! Such are always open-hearted, open-veiled, open-handed. If they are sometimes "overpoweringly condescending" it is because they know the Sophies they have to deal with. The hand-ome Montreal correspondent of the *Cornwall Reporter* had better look out, or he and his "patriotic" friend, by the irony of fate, may some day find themselves harnessed for life not to prudes, but to shrews, and Yankee ones at that.—E. G. I. N.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, Sept. 27.—Ayoub Khan's Cabulite troops have submitted to the Amirs at Cabul. A collective note has been presented to the Porte, declining the last proposals. Three thousand troops are en route to reinforce the colonial forces in Basutoland. A faction in Norway is agitating for the repeal of the Union Act and the erecting of Norway into a separate republic. Warning was given to the Glasgow authorities of an intended nihilist plot to blow up the Czar's new yacht *Litania* now lying at Glasgow. The murder of Lord Moa morrea has created great excitement in the neighbourhood of the occurrence, and it is feared, will do much to increase the already rapidly spreading spirit of violent resistance to landlordism.

TUESDAY, Sept. 28.—Garibaldi and his son Menotti have given up their seats in the Chamber of Deputies. Serbia despatches say another rising of the Afghan tribes is anticipated early next month. "Bond Or" ran second to "Robert the Devil" at Newmarket yesterday for the 3 year old foal stakes. The Powers have peremptorily demanded of the Sultan the recall of Riza Pasha and the immediate cession of Dulagino. The discovery of a plot to surrender Portogruiz to the Albanians has led to the arrest of the principal Mohammedans of the town. A November session of the Imperial Parliament is being urged by influential supporters of the Government, on account of the critical aspect of affairs in Ireland and in the East.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 29.—England and Russia are urging a demonstration by the allied fleet before Constantinople. In answer to the Porte's appeal, Germany regretted that the Treaty of Berlin precluded separate action on her part. The Prussian Government have asked that a state of siege be declared in Leipzig and Hamburg, as being hotbeds of Socialism. The Porte has renewed the offer of pecuniary indemnity to Montenegro. Another conference is to be held at Berlin at once, to devise effective means of coercing the Porte into compliance with the will of the Powers.

THURSDAY, Sept. 30.—The state of affairs in the West of Ireland is considered to be very alarming. It is said that the Papal Nuncio will leave France if the decrees are enforced. Rumours are rife in Rome of revolutionary movements in connection with Garibaldi. The Government, at the Cabinet meeting yesterday, decided against the renewal of the Coercion Act in Ireland. The funeral of Lord Mountmorres, recently assassinated, took place at Monkstown, near Dublin. The British troops are to remain at Canluhan for the winter. Trouble is anticipated from the assembling of the chiefs of Ayoub Khan's party at Lurah. A long meeting of the British Cabinet was held yesterday on the Eastern question, at which it is understood, a compromise satisfactory to all parties was agreed upon, with the understanding that if necessary, England alone should see the Treaty of Berlin carried out.

FRIDAY, Oct. 1.—The International Exhibition at Melbourne, Australia, was opened yesterday under favourable auspices. The Brazilian subsidy for a line of steamers to run between the Dominion and Brazil has passed the House of Deputies. Twenty-four thousand dollars' worth of tickets were sold within an hour yesterday for the Barnhart season at Booth's Theatre, New York. Great preparations are being made to receive Garibaldi on his entrance into Genoa to-morrow. The Government anticipates trouble on account of his son-in-law being imprisoned there. There are said to be reasonable hopes of a pacific execution of the Berlin Treaty, stipulations being executed by the pressure of the united European Cabinets through their representatives at Constantinople. France has resolved not to quit the European concert. Fresh negotiations are proceeding at Constantinople.

SATURDAY, Oct. 2.—Ayoub Khan threatens to attack Canluhan again on his return from Herat. A Berlin dispatch says it is reported that the Sultan has signed a circular calling Dulagino to the Montenegrins. More bloodshed is reported from Ireland: this time a farmer in Sligo and a process-server in Antrim are the victims. M. Tizac stated in the Hungarian Diet on Saturday, that it was settled that a disembarkment of troops of Dulagino would be effected. A Constantinople despatch says the Sultan is being a wile to defy the Powers. It is also stated that England contemplates new copying Cyprus and annexing the Anglo-Turkish convention. The allied fleet is assembling at Cadix. A Lord Lizard meeting at Kilkeem on Saturday was attended by 10,000 persons. The Cork demonstration was very successful as far as numbers went, 30,000 being present. The local notabilities and the clergy are said to have ignored it altogether.