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CONTENTS.

THE JUBILEE, by N. C. James, Master of Modern Languages, Halifax Academy	1, 2
A JUBILEE REVERIE, by C. F. Fraser, Editor of THE CRITIC, and Superintendent of the Halifax School for the Blind	2, 3
THE DEVILED HAM, by Alexander C. Sweet, Editor of <i>Transatlantics</i>	3
THE BIRTH OF THE NORTH-WEST PROVINCES, by Lieut. Col. Wainwright, Bedford, N. S.	4, 4
THE TERT DOOR, by Bliss Carman, Author of "Grand Pre"	5
CANADA FIRST, by Geo. M. Grant, D.D., Principal of Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., Author of "From Ocean to Ocean"	5, 6
THE PARSONS' HORSE, by I. Allan Jack, Recorder of City of St. John, N. B.	6, 7
THE BATTLE OF MINAM, 1747, by Sir Adams Archibald, K. C. M. G., President of the Historical Society of Nova Scotia	8, 10
POETIC OUTLOOK IN CANADA, by Prof. C. G. D. Roberts, of King's College, Windsor, N. S., Author of "Orion and other Poems," "In Divers Tones"	10, 11
BATTLE CALL OF THE ANTI-CHRIST, by F. Blake Crofton, Provincial Librarian of N. S., Author of "The Major's Big Talk Stories," &c	11
VENISON, by the Most Rev. C. O'Brien, Archbishop of Halifax, Author of "The Philosophy of the Bible Violated"	12
SEVEN YEARS OF FRENCH CANADIAN AUTHORSHIP, by Dr. Geo. Stewart, F.R.G.S., Editor of the <i>Quebec Chronicle</i> , Author of "Canada under Dufferin," "Frontiers," &c	12, 13
BARON "THE HOLY," by Mrs. A. H. Leonowens, Author of "An English Governess at the Court of Siam," "Life and Travels in India"	13, 15
A LOST CAUSE, by Miss Alice Jones, daughter of Hon. A. G. Jones, Halifax	15, 20
TURTLES, by Elizabeth G. Roberts, Fredericton, N. B.	21
CAULDRA VERSE, by Edmund Collins, Editor of <i>New York Epoch</i> , Author of <i>Times of Macdonald</i> , "Canada under Lorne," etc., etc	21
THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD, by Hon. J. W. Longley, Attorney General of Nova Scotia	21
SOURCES OF LIFE IN VENEZUELA, by Howard Clark, Barrister and Staff Correspondent of THE CRITIC	23, 24

many as eleven seats in the House. In 1793 it could be proved that seventy members were returned by thirty-five places in which there were scarcely any electors at all, ninety members sat for forty-five places having less than fifty electors, and thirty-seven were elected by nineteen places with not over a hundred voters. These borough seats were to be bought for a lump sum from the corporation of the borough; they were sometimes, as in the case of Sudbury, advertised for sale, the prices rose or fell according to the probable duration of parliament; borough brokers negotiated the sales like the commission-merchants of to-day. As might be expected, members who paid for their seats were willing to turn an honest penny themselves by selling their votes in the House. And it could not be expected that they should feel responsible to the electors whom they had paid for their election.

Repeated attempts at parliamentary reform were made during the reign of Geo. III., but the king saw in the general corruption the surest means of maintaining his arbitrary power. Thus, with absolutism at the helm and venality at the prow, the political history of England during his reign is a dark tale of corruption and intrigue. The only wonder is that the misfortunes of the country were not greater.

With the one distinguished exception of the American Revolution, the country was remarkably prosperous in its foreign relations. The loss of the colonies in America was counter balanced by the extension of British power in Australia and Asia. In the early part of the reign Captain Cook had explored the scattered isles of Australasia, and brought the island continent under the aegis of Britain. In India, the struggle between France and England had led to the expulsion of the former; and when, in 1773, the talented but unscrupulous Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of India, the power of England in Hindostan began to extend rapidly and irresistibly over the whole peninsula. That great social upheaval, the French Revolution, which caused almost every throne in Europe to tremble and not a few to fall, left England practically undisturbed. Napoleon, the Attila of modern Europe, sweeping like a cyclone over the face of the continent, found himself baffled by "that nation of shop-keepers," the English. The two proudest monuments in St. Paul's call to mind the victories of the Napoleonic contest. St. Vincent, the Nile, Copenhagen, Trafalgar, proclaim the genius of Nelson and the prowess of the British seaman. Around the triumphal funeral car of Wellington are emblazoned, among many others, the names Talavera, Busaco, Torres Vedras, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria and Waterloo.

Nor is it in foreign affairs alone that we must look for the glories of the reign of George III. That great religious revival led by Wesley and Whitfield was quickening the religious pulse of the nation at large. Vice, brutality, scepticism, and religious formalism characterized the beginning of the eighteenth century. The little band of zealous, devoted preachers taught by their words and their example higher ideas of duty to God and to man. Where their doctrines failed to convince, their conduct came to be respected and largely imitated. To the influence of this great religious movement may be traced several of the reforms of this and a later period. Beginning with the abolition of slavery in 1807, the philanthropic work went on beyond the limits of George's reign, bearing fruit ultimately in the reform of the criminal law and the total abolition of slavery throughout the British dominions. Commercially, too, there were many signs of progress. The application of steam-power to manufactures placed James Watt among the great benefactors of the human race. Arkwright, by inventing the spinning-frame, founded the cotton trade of the north of England. James Brindley engineered the first canal. In 1807, gas was turned to account in the lighting of London streets, and the same year saw the construction, in America, of the first steamboat.

With these facts in view, let us consider the general outlook at the time of George the Third's Jubilee, in 1811. The country is locked in a deadly struggle with a mighty foe, who has already trampled under foot most of the powers of Europe. The old king, who, with all his failings, had what he considered the good of England at heart, is worse than dead—he has been smitten with blindness and insanity. For fifty years, with an arbitrary will worthy of a Stuart, he has striven to restore the obsolete prerogatives of sovereignty. At the end of this half-century, commercial depression prevails, the nation is overwhelmed with debt, many reforms have been called for in vain. Catholic Emancipation has not yet been carried, though supported by the genius of Pitt. The criminal laws are so terribly severe that juries cannot be found to convict criminals. No less than one hundred and sixty crimes are punishable with death! The franchise law, as we have seen, is so woefully defective that various attempts have been made to reform it, but the opposition of the king has been fatal. The

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TWO JUBILEES.

BY N. C. JAMES.

"George, be king!" was the advice given to the third Brunswick sovereign by an ambitious mother. Imagine the dull and narrow mind, the strong will, and the untiring though misguided zeal of the young king George III., all directed to carrying out this piece of motherly advice; and you have some insight into his struggle against the constitutional principle, that the king reigns while the parliament governs. If George III. had not resolved to govern as well as reign, the progress of British constitutional development would not have been impeded, as it was, by more than half a century; and the British empire would include what is now the American republic. By surrounding himself with a body of secret, powerful and irresponsible advisers, by dismissing at will the chosen ministers of the people, by interfering with the parliamentary elections, by the distribution of titles, places, and emoluments among the members of parliament itself, the king managed to control the government of the country. The laws relating to the franchise were favorable to the return of a corrupt and venal parliament. While the bulk of the population was unrepresented, there were some noblemen who owned and controlled as