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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, July 28th, 1877.

A FEW PLAIN WORDS.

It is clear that, in view of the late lamented occurrences, Montreal affairs need the active agency for good order of the respectable citizens, and we trust that a firm and honorable stand will be made in dealing justice and establishing of law and order for the future safety of the city.

As Sir FRANCIS HINCKS has told us, we are able to do but little in forecasting politics generally, but we have here to deal with the lunacy of a day, and that, if it should again be threatened, can be guarded against more efficiently than it has now been.

Of the authorities, we cannot but look upon the Mayor as the main offender in his refusal to put in force the powers entrusted to his charge. All Canadians have an interest, if not all an equal interest, in the peace of the chief city which its chief magistrate has lately allowed to be overthrown.

When riot is threatened, we may consider a corporation has—in the constitutional discretion of the higher governing powers of the land—its hour allowed it for effective action, either direct or in appeal to those authorities, but it does not follow at all that the general government of the country is to vacate its functions, and its special prerogative of peace, and suffer the riot, should that corporation fail in its duty? The true theory of the constitution is, that if the country suffers or is wronged, the Government is so also, and may and ought to defend the common weal. Within the bounds of

established practice in the country from which we draw our precedents, the extent of the need is the only measure of the Government's action. Otherwise, we make such an official as the Mayor of Montreal an autocrat, and the dictator of our destinies. The Government which controls the force of the country should not be able to disengage itself from the general interest. As things now are in Canada, party excesses of one class or other are the means first of creating conflict, and then of paralyzing the powers which should restrain the passions of ignorant and excited bodies of men.

THE MAZARIN BIBLE.

The copy of this very celebrated Bible, and the most distinguished book in the annals of typography, lately exhibited at the Caxton Celebration in this city, is one of three copies only now existing in its original binding, and as there are but thirteen copies known to exist in the world, its value can only be computed by the depth of the bibliomaniac's pocket, when such a treasure is offered to public competition. The value of this copy is said to be \$25,000, and though we are not aware that this figure has been offered for any one of the thirteen copies, we do not discredit the fact that it will be considered cheap at this when a chance occurs to acquire it, as in the sale of the library of the late Mr. Perkins, a copy, in new binding, brought £3,400 sterling. The late Mr. George Brinley, of Hartford, Connecticut, was fortunate enough, whilst travelling in Germany some forty years ago, to meet with this copy, and purchased it for nine thousand dollars. Through the courtesy and politeness of his son (a gentleman well known in Montreal) and the Hon. J. Hammond Trumbull, LL.D., President of the Connecticut Historical Society, the Committee of the Caxton Celebration are much indebted for the privilege of having it as an exhibit, where it formed a venerable and worthy appendage to the many volumes there exhibited, and which followed in the wake of the publication of this Bible, imploring, as it were, a blessing on the new art by dedicating its first fruits to the service of heaven.

The fac-simile page, which we have reproduced, will give a good idea of the style in which it is printed, the large heavy cream-coloured paper, with wide margins, here and there embellished with very handsome vignette paintings of church services, wild animals, illuminated letters, and the two double columns of jet black print, Gothic character, form together a *tout ensemble* at once attractive and interesting.

This Bible is stated to be the first work of any magnitude issued from the press of the inventors of the art. We use the word inventors advisedly, as it seems to be a matter of doubt whether JOHN GUTTENBERG, JOHN FAUST, PETER SCHOEFFER or indeed LAWRENCE COSTER, are to be recognized as joint inventors of the art, or any one of them. Certain it is, however, that the Bible, which was one of their first efforts, occupied them fully eight years in its completion, and though the first named is generally credited as the printer, it is peradventure more likely the work of the three printers than any one individual. The type consists of forty-two lines in double columns, printed from cut moveable types, forming a large folio, in two heavy volumes (the one on exhibition weighing about fifty pounds) having no colophon, date, name of printer, or place of publication.

It is admitted that it was completed about the year 1455, though five years earlier is sometimes attributed to it. In a copy belonging to the National library at Paris, an entry was made purporting that it was completed in binding and illuminating at Mentz (the residence of the three first named, Coster belonging to Haarlem) on the feast of the Assumption (August 15), 1456.

Allowing a year or two for illuminating and binding, which latter, from the

magnificence in which it is completed, must have fully taken six months' work, consisting as it does of heavy boards covered with leather highly embossed with figures, and protected by corner spikes of brass, would bring it to about 1454 or early in '55. Hallam, in his *Literature of Europe*, says: "It is a very striking circumstance that the high-minded inventors of this great art tried at the very outset so bold a flight as the printing of an entire Bible, and executed it with astonishing success. It was far within the first twenty-five years of the first invention of the art in its rudest form that this stupendous labor was undertaken."

The work is commonly known as the "Mazarin Bible," as it seems to have been entirely lost sight of during the century and a half succeeding its publication, and first came to light in the library of the eminent Cardinal of that name. This must go far to prove that a very small edition was published, and though not advanced in any works on the subject that we have read, it can admit of very little question. It is hardly possible that a Bible so legible and beautiful, and so far in advance of all others in point of typographical excellence, published for at least a century afterwards, should have remained comparatively unknown had it been issued in any quantity, as with the exception of its mention in one or two works during this period, it was unheard of until a copy was obtained by the eminent Cardinal MAZARIN in 1645, causing a search for the few others which have come to the surface, and which have since been known by his name.

It may therefore be safely inferred that the edition could not have consisted of more than twenty copies. This is further confirmed by the great expense it must have entailed to publish it. Apart from time and money expended in attempts with which all first ventures are attended, particularly such an art as that of printing which, to the uninitiated even in this day of intellectual discernment, is quite a puzzle, there must be taken into consideration the fact, that even the paper required to be manufactured especially for it, and as this item is well known to be a very expensive one, in our own times, how much more so was it at that day when money was worth at least fifty times its present value. This may account for the fact that of the thirteen copies now existing, six are on vellum, which at the time of the publication of this Bible was both scarce and dear, and of equal value with paper, and it is quite likely that by the lapse of time in an effort to explain this unaccountable interval of its disappearance that most amusing story got propagated of Faust having gone to Paris to sell these Bibles, where the art was yet unheard of, was arrested for providing them by Satanic influence, his Bibles confiscated and burned, and he himself condemned to the stake, only escaping from death, after being allowed an audience of the King and explaining the mystery by printing in his presence.

THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER IN THE DOMINION.

In this Dominion of Canada we seemed to have enjoyed the blessings of constitutional government long enough to have partially forgotten their real nature, or at any rate to have allowed our minds to be engrossed at the expense of that excellent rule with a number of irrelevant ideas. There are not many of us who are wilfully disloyal to the Crown and the Empire, but there may be more who need the replenishing of thought and consideration towards our institutions, and a more perfect familiarity, especially, with that clause in the Imperial Act of Confederation which refers to "The Executive Government and Authority of and over Canada." By such closer attention we shall certainly be brought to see the necessity for preserving the peace of the Empire and of the Dominion. There is no organization whatever existing

amongst us that has a right to be set above the Queen and the State, and the authorities at Ottawa have to be sustained by all good citizens in patriotic action for maintaining the peace. We sometimes have leading politicians addressing large bodies of their fellow subjects on public affairs, but they do not dwell so much as they might do, we think, upon the question which transcends every other, one that can effect our welfare, namely, whether the established order is to be efficiently upheld by the Dominion authorities in the name of the Crown. It is very well for executive officers, and those who hope to become so, to be in full sympathy with the public on this subject, but in the case of the actual possessor of office there is a duty within all public addresses, and it is one which a sworn Minister of the Crown cannot shake off, and if he feels himself incompetent to fulfil its requirements, he should give place to those who would be better qualified in a personal sense. His qualification is already perfect in the official one.

Localizing the question, we say it is strange that the city of Montreal should have so long enjoyed a liberal charter and should only just have discovered that a body of police will always act with far greater efficiency when they know they will be properly supported by the military element. In cases of popular commotion, we ought to be aware that they never enjoy a proper confidence without this assurance. If there be vacillation and uncertainty in the orders they receive from above, they are under even a worse deprivation. Without defending them, we consider the police of Montreal have been hardly dealt with in the late disturbances, and that if they had proved efficient, it would have been little short of a miracle. The city has at length convinced itself that the Mayor, *ex officio*, has not the autocratic powers that had been tacitly allowed him, and the municipality should now be gaining hourly in self-reliance from the conviction. It would be only right to settle the limitations of his powers even more precisely, if there is to be any assurance of future prosperity. It would also be well, we believe, to define more exactly the duty and powers of the Chief of Police, and to initiate a careful investigation into the *personnel* of the force, and the citizens would very wisely come to some general understanding that if a local police force cannot be relied on in emergency, it is worse than useless, and that if the present force cannot be made fully efficient, it will be better to seek from the authorities at Ottawa an extension of the excellent system of Dominion Police in favor of the city.

THE expectation of a special meeting of the Provincial Legislature in New Brunswick, to deal with the question of the great fire and its consequence, is a cheering one. The city which, in its old-fashioned procedure, had never forbidden the erection of wooden houses, seems, in its present hour of bewilderment unable to find the courage to make a right beginning. Houseless proprietors of lots in their desperation are ready, in opposition to the efforts of the Insurance Companies, to do the first thing that comes convenient to their hands. There is evidently great need for wise legislative action, and we can only trust it will not be wanting in promotion of the permanent welfare of the restored city.

THE GLEANER.

The late Queen of the Netherlands was laid in her coffin dressed in her wedding gown.

Attention has been called to the fact that, apart from Queen Anne and other royal ladies, no woman in England has ever received the honour of a public statue.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught's name has to be included in the list of military inventors. His Royal Highness has submitted more than one of his ideas for the consideration of the Horse Guards, but has not yet succeeded in getting his articles put upon trial.