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FERGUSON & GREGORY.

Hamilton, July 1st, 1863.

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THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, AUGUST 29, 1863.

AS IT WAS, AND IS.

On the 11th of July last, one of the minor engravings published in this journal, represented the foliage and blossoms of a pea, grown from one which had ripened and been harvested three thousand years before. The place of repose for the dormant seed had been an Egyptian mummy. The authorities to its age were several of the learned readers of ancient inscriptions. What was the world of mankind doing when that old pea was harvested on the banks of the Nile, and what were they at, when it resumed vitality and put forth its leaves and blossoms in the light of the fair heavens of England? The probable date of its seclusion was the 12th century before the Christian Era. It may have been a few years earlier or later, but Sir Gardiner Wilkinson gives that period of time as the true one. Well, what were we doing, for we were alive then?

The Trojan war was in progress. Along the shores of the Euxine, the lieutenants of President Menelaus were devastating the country which is now known as the Crimea. Achilles, one of his captains, carried troops to Sinope and across to the harbour of Balaclava. The territory and hospitality of Menelaus had been violated, and they were avenging or carrying out aggressive war on their own account.

In those years a people, of whom we have a more reliable record, were living in proximity to the nation with whom it would have been desirable to be at peace. But, what between the challenges on one side and the other they were at war. The editor of the leading journal of those times did not sit on an easy chair and write thunder, nor did he set himself up as a popular candidate for a radical constituency; but he made speeches and his oratory was, 'come on if you dare!' The difference between that time and this, is not so much as it looks when one goes groping through the dark ways of intervening history. Take a bound, a hop-step-and-jump, and you are there. Take a back leap and you are here! Where is the difference? Ah! a great one indeed; transcendently great as we shall presently see. But in the Man of that time and of this, there is no change. The Philistines defied the oppo-

sing host, and they of the opposition defied again.

Perhaps the pea is fifty years older than just supposed. If so, it was growing and blooming when Samson made himself formidable to those trans-boundary people who came to recover their stolen cattle. Or, possibly, the pea was two hundred years younger than the Egyptian Hieroglyphics indicate. If so, it bloomed, ripened, and was laid to rest when a civil war was in progress; internecine, savage, disastrous, American; but then going by the name of the Revolt of the Ten Tribes. If that were the true time of the pea, then Hesiod may have had it in his fields, and in his mind when he wrote his Agricultural Treatise entitled 'The Works and days.' The Provincial Shows of his time had not the advantage of a Great Western, a Northern, a Grand Trunk Railway, nor the Royal Mail Line, or Freight Line of River and Lake Steamers as Canadians have to reach the Kingston Provincial Fair. Yet Hesiod had means of collecting flowers, fruits and roots for exhibition through that society of which he was the paid or honorary Secretary. And so the world went on, has gone on, since that little pea was laid beside the embalmed mummy of a Queen of Egypt.

Taken from its prison, planted, watered, and brought to life what was going on in that year of its first blooming—1855? On the shores of the Euxine, where Achilles had been spreading devastation when it was harvested, and laid to rest, the Russian, Frank, Turk and Briton were carrying on the combat of death and destruction. And when the eighth harvest has arrived, after its revivication, the western Israelites are distracted in the wars of revolt.

Is there no difference except in the shape, the power, the reach of the weapons of war? These have changed from a pebble out of the brook, to an Armstrong gun. But there has come, within that long stretch of time, that which lies beyond the reach of human passion. The Gospel of peace has come—And if it has not prevented war, it has this high and glorious character; that, whatever progress has been made in the industrial arts and sciences that progress has been made in times of peace.

MR. SEWARD.

The American Secretary of State has come to the frontier with Lord Lyons the British Ambassador. Under present circumstances it may be interesting to inform the public of what that gentleman has said of Canada in former years. He was in this Province in 1856, and published his opinions of what he saw. He said:

'Hitherto, in common with most of my countrymen, I have thought Canada, or to speak more correctly, British America—a mere strip lying north of the United States, easily detachable from the parent State, but incapable of sustaining itself, and therefore ultimately, nay right soon—to be taken on by the Federal Union, without materially changing or affecting its own condition or development. I have dropped the opinion as a national conceit.

I see in British North America, stretching as it does across the continent from the shores of Labrador and Newfoundland and the Pacific, and occupying a considerable belt of the temperate zone, traversed equally with the United States by the lakes, and enjoying the magnificent shores of the St. Lawrence, with its thousands of islands in the river and gulf, a region grand enough for the seat of a great empire. In its wheat fields in the West, its broad ranges of the chase at the North, its inexhaustible lumber lands—the most extensive now on the globe—its invaluable fisheries and its yet undisturbed mineral deposits, I see the elements of wealth. I find its inhabitants hardy, vigo-

rous, energetic, perfected by the Protestant religion and British constitutional liberty. Jealous of the United States and of Great Britain, as they ought to be; and therefore when I look at their resources and extent, I know they can neither be conquered by the former nor permanently held by the latter. They will be independent, as they are already self-maintaining. Having happily escaped the curse of slavery, they will never submit to the domination of slaveholders, which prevails in and determines the character of the United States. They will be a Russia to the United States, which to them will be France or England; but they will be a Russia civilized and Protestant, and they will be a very different Russia from that which fills all Southern Europe with terror; and by reason of that superiority they will be all the more terrible to the dwellers in the Southern latitudes.

The policy of the United States is to propitiate and secure the alliance of Canada while it is yet young and incurious of its future. But on the other hand, the policy which the United States actually pursues, is the infatuated one of rejecting and spurning vigorous, perennial, and ever-growing Canada, while seeking to establish feeble States, out of decaying Spanish Provinces on the coast and on the islands in the Gulf of Mexico. I shall not live to see it, but the man is already born who will see the United States mourn over this stupendous folly, which is only preparing the way for ultimate danger and downfall. All Southern Stars must set, though many times they rise again with diminished lustre. But those which illuminate the pole remain for ever shining, for ever increasing in splendour.'

It is belief in that bright destiny of Northern free nations which binds Britain, Canada and other Colonies together. They will not separate. For Britain to wilfully pluck her Empire to pieces to set up new nations in conformity to some theory of magnanimity, is an offence to the simplest principles of political philosophy. Were Canada to demand separation, and obtain it; or were she cut adrift, the inevitable fate of absorption, by her more powerful neighbour, and extinction of political existence, would follow. The integrity and perennial vigour of the British empire should be the lofty political faith of Conservative-Reformers, whether at home or in the colonies. And they who desire the permanence of British stability, or deserve the personal safety and freedom guaranteed by imperial laws, and by institutions at once venerable, and youthfully elastic in their adaptability to new circumstances, must by a logical necessity—if they hold any settled conservative principle—cherish a sympathy for other free nations, and hold in abhorrence a rebellious appeal to arms to overturn constitutional government.

OGDENSBURGH PLAN OF INVASION.

Lately there has been a discussion about some alleged plan of invasion, as if a secret had been communicated to one person, who told it to another, who again confidentially informed a third. Here are the exact words of the 'plan' as published in February, 1862, at Ogdensburgh, a city in New York State, situated on the St. Lawrence River, opposite the Canadian town of Prescott, in Central Canada.

'We have two railroads terminating here. One piercing that great avenue the New York Central, from which branch off in all directions, west and south, other railroads that bring this place within a few hours reach of those extremes of our country.—The other leads to that great network of New England Railroads, which traverse almost every town and village within her territory. Besides these we have water communication, by means of the St. Lawrence, directly with Lake Ontario, and with the ex-

ception of a short break between Lake Erie, for which railroads is substituted, with all the States lying west of us on the waters of the Mississippi. So far then as accessibility convenience for collecting the material of war is concerned, it possesses advantages equal in any degree of those of any other town or village upon our Northern frontier.

But these advantages, although great are not to be compared in importance with these we possess from our being within such short striking distance of the very vitals of Canada. At this place, the St. Lawrence is about a mile in width, and under cover of the guns from the fort we propose, the troops who accumulate here could easily be transported to the other shore. Once there in the siege the terminus of the Ottawa and Prescott railroad, leading to the capital of the Canadas, and whose depot is immediately on the shore of the river, and a short quarter of a mile back, we tap the great artery of Canada, through which their very life-blood flows, the Grand Trunk railroad. The communication between the two provinces being cut off by the St. Lawrence river and the Grand Trunk railroad, but one other of very little practical importance exists—that by means of the Rideau Canal, at Ottawa, and from thence to Kingston. If this also be desired to be taken, we are only within fifty-five miles of Ottawa city—the entrance to the canal from the Ottawa river. The chain of locks at that place, once destroyed, would require quite a lengthy campaign in which to effect their replacement.

This brief statement of facts must show, we think, that Ogdensburgh is the key that not only locks out the entrance from the sea but also unlocks to us the defences of a neighbour who may need ere long some correction for growing misconduct. Her chief power, the protection of England, would be most effectually cut off, and the whole of the upper Province would be obliged to bear the brunt of our affairs single handed and alone. The result of such a combat needs no prophet to foretell.

YET ANOTHER.—The following has been proclaimed by the Boston Pilot, it is amusing. When we have the revolt put down we will turn our swords on Britain, the main cause of the extent and duration of the revolt. A successful repression of the rebellion is impossible without this. Decency demands it; justice demands it; national pride demands it; national malice demands it; our own future safety demands it; our immense standing army and our great navy will demand it. When causes like these are united they must have their effect. It is to be lamented that Canada is the frigid, ice-bound, sleet-driven, miserable, beggarly, inhospitable country it is. But such as it is, our soldiers will ravage it, desecrate it, drag through its horrid impenetrable surface of ice and snow the accursed flag of England, hold it in absolute military despotism for a time, and then fling it back to its original hoary possessors, eternal frost and snow.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

TRAFFIC FOR WEEK ENDING 21ST AUG., 1863.

Passengers.....	\$21,352 96
Freight and Live Stock.....	16,651 51
Mails and Sundries.....	12,09 04½
	\$39,215 51½
Corresponding week last year.....	\$35,137 86½
Increase.....	\$ 4,077 65

JAMES CHARLTON.
AUDIT OFFICE,
Hamilton, 22nd Aug. 1863.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.
RETURN OF TRAFFIC, FOR THE WEEK ENDING AUG. 15TH, 1863.

Passengers.....	\$31,626 88
Mails and Sundries.....	2,800 00
Freight and Live Stock.....	31,999 78
Total.....	\$69,426 66
Corresponding week, 1862.....	56,811 40
Increase.....	\$12,615 26

JOSEPH ELLIOTT.
MONTREAL, }
Aug. 21st, 1863. }