

The Dominion Illustrated.

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THE SABISTON LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING CO

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6th JUNE. 1891.



The Premier.

It is difficult for non-residents to imagine the strength and depth of the wave of heartfelt sorrow that swept over the Canadian people when the news was flashed last Friday night to all parts of the Dominion that SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD had been stricken down with a fatal blow, and that his death was but a question of a few hours. The hours have slowly lengthened into days, and, while we write, the grim battle goes on. On one side our country's best friend; on the other slow but inevitable Death; while the whole nation watches the struggle with an intensely deep and mournful interest. Every human probability indicates but one termination to the fight; and in spite of the gleams of hope which remain so long as life exists, the almost inevitable conviction that such a termination must speedily come, has, we sincerely believe, spread a sense of sorrow in the heart of every true Canadian, regardless of creed, nationality or party.

Carry High the Colours.

The vague idea held by not a few persons that the elimination of SIR JOHN MACDONALD from Canadian politics, and the direction of the ship of state by another hand, will lead to a general weakening of the ties that bind us to Great Britain, is presumably due to the exaggerated views ascribed to the Liberal party in the late political campaign. That such an idea is held by quite a number, considering the recrimination indulged in by the party press, is not to be wondered at; but at the same time the fact should cause the widest publicity to a denial of the existence of any grounds for such a belief. Against the few extreme Radicals who uphold such sentiments is opposed the great body of the Canadian people. The efforts of the former will doubtless be redoubled at what they consider a fatal breach in the constitutional ranks; but they will find the falsity of their calculations. The death of the old chief will, there is every reason to believe, bring out prominently the necessity of all upholders of the great national principles working in greater unison and with more dependence on each other than has hitherto been the case. It is essential at this juncture to carry high the colours of British connection, fiscal autonomy, and opposition to degrading alliances with foreign powers. There should be no party feeling on such a policy; such sentiments are national and patriotic, and not political. Too long already has the insignificant foreign and annexationist element in Canada been suffered to talk treason through their two or three newspaper organs, which make up in presumption and insolence what they lack in influence and respectability, and which doubtless rejoice at the death of the Premier; journals which oppose every measure tending to develop national sentiment, decrying the country on all possible occasions, sneering at our constitution and government,

and extolling to a degree the institutions of the Republic. A persistent boycotting of such papers in every particular might have an excellent effect; they would probably pose as martyrs, but the number of their sympathizers would be limited, as before, to that petty coterie of pessimists who unfortunately see fit to make Canada their home. The duty of the hour, in view of the great loss the country has sustained, is to close the ranks and fight the patriotic fight with aggressiveness and vigour; to carry the war into the enemy's country, and crush out to as great a degree as possible whatever and whoever are misleading people on this vital question. Every nation of to-day possesses elements of similar disorder, so that its existence here is nothing extraordinary, and in no way reflects on the country generally; but that is no reason why a determined effort should not be made to clear Canada of the stain, in view of the exceptionally free and superior system of government she possesses.

The Sunday Observance Bill.

It would be difficult to invent a measure that would make Sunday and everything relating to the day more cordially detested than the Bill entitled "An Act to Secure the Better Observance of the Lord's Day," read in the House on the 6th and 7th ult. Not one of its eleven preliminary clauses but contains a distinct attack on individual liberty, and as such, would be an anything but creditable addition to the Statute Book. It is practically a dictation as to how one is to spend his only day of leisure, as scarcely a single method which a man ordinarily employs to pass that day is untouched by this remarkable attempt at legislation. It seems unnecessary to point out that while it is universally admitted that Christianity in the past hundred years has made enormous progress, and in infinitely greater proportion than the increase in the nominally Christian population would alone warrant, the degree of Sunday observance has been greatly relaxed from what was customary—in many cases even imperative—a century ago; the two have run almost concurrently—religious belief gained ground as the strictness of Sabbath-keeping became less. A line has of course to be drawn in Christian communities, whereby a certain degree of sanctity and peace is preserved on the Lord's day, by the non-allowance of theatricals, public performances and shows, and other affairs of a noisy and disturbing nature; but to make it a legal offence to do anything in connection with one's business or to engage in a little harmless recreation is a distinct interference with personal liberty, and should not be tolerated. The universal tendency of the present day is in the other direction, making Sunday a day of recreation and improvement in material as well as in spiritual matters.

Note Extension of Time in PRIZE COMPETITION.

Literary Competition.

The Publishers of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED offer the sum of \$130 in four prizes for short stories from Canadian writers—

1st prize.....	\$60
2nd ".....	40
3rd ".....	20
4th ".....	10

On the following conditions:

1st—All stories must be delivered at the office of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED not later than 1st August next.

2nd—Each story to contain not less than 5,000 words, and not to exceed 8,000 words,

3rd—All MS. sent in for this competition to become the property of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED.

4th—Each story must contain a motto on top of first page, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope, inside of which is stated the name and address of the writer. The outside of envelope to bear motto used on story.

5th—MS. to be written in ink, and on one side of paper only.

6th—Stories on Canadian subjects are preferred.

THE SABISTON LITHO. & PUB. CO.,
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Montreal.

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891.

QUESTIONS.

FIFTH SERIES.

- 25.—Quote where it is stated that a certain prominent literary society held a session during the summer of 1890?
- 26.—Where is mention made of a fire in St. Johns, Que., in the 18th century?
- 27.—In what building in Montreal was H.M. 39th Regiment quartered after the Crimean war? Quote the sentence.
- 28.—Where is mention made of a tobacco pouch being made out of human skin?
- 29.—Quote a few lines by Thackeray, unpublished until very recently?
- 30.—In what one sentence is mention made of three prominent Nova-Scotians?

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 152 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January, February, March, April and May.