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## NOTICE.

Our Agent, MR. W. STEEHL, who collected our accounts west of Toronto last year, is again visiting all the places on the Grand Trunk, Great Western, Canada Southern, Northern and Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railways. Subscribers are requested to settle with him small accounts due.

Subscribers are once more requested to take notice that the names and dates to which their subscriptions are paid are printed on their wrappers with each number sent from the office, thus: 1.75 would signify that subscriptions have been paid up to January 1875; 7.77 up to July, 1877. This is worthy of particular attention, as a check upon collectors and a protection to customers who, not seeing their dates altered after settling with the collector, should after a reasonable time communicate with the office.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Oct. 6th, 1877.

### BRIGHTER PROSPECTS.

It seems to be no optical delusion, but a pleasing reality, that at length the skies are lifting, and the prospect spreads out broad and fair of a return to better things. The evidences are indeed slight, but sufficient to build a rational hope upon. The change will be very gradual, but it is perhaps all the more certain for that circumstance. We have been suffering so long that even the least break for the better in the situation must be heartily and universally welcomed. The first point in our favour is the bountiful harvest with which we have been blessed. We are informed by a contemporary of this city that "as compared with 1876, the yield of all kinds of grain has been wonderfully large, and that coarse grains have yielded quite as well as in 1875 and better than in 1874." Furthermore, it is said that the yield of wheat is probably greater than in any previous year of which we have any record. This is eminently satisfactory, inasmuch as it lays the cornerstone of the prosperity which we are all so anxiously expecting. It is from the bowels of mother earth that we all get our sustenance. The farmer is the first factor in the total of elements that go to make the business of a country. The chain is easily followed out. The farmer sells his crop, and is thus enabled to pay what he owes at the country shop-keeper's. The country shop-keeper takes the farmer's money, and, after deducting his profits, pays the wholesale merchant of Montreal and Toronto. The wholesale merchant, after subtracting his gains, returns the advances which he got from the banks for his importations; and the banks, having recovered their money with a percentage thereon, are free to invest their funds elsewhere to the best advantage. It is thus that the farmer gives the first impulse to the ball, and it is from him that the money which we all need and use primarily comes into circulation. Hence the great significance of a bountiful harvest.

It is to be hoped, however, that our farmers will make good use of their opportunities this year, and will readily put their crops in the market, without being tempted, as so often before, to hold them over, in the expectation of fancy prices. It is now certain that the Eastern war will be continued through another year, but there is nothing so far to indicate that even this circumstance will cause an extraordinary rise in breadstuffs. Let, there-

fore, our farmers carry on their business in a fair, normal manner.

The increase of freights by rail and water is another indication of a revival of trade. We cannot go into the dry figures, but the special journals assure us that the carrying of freight is far brisker and more profitable than it was at the corresponding date of last year. The different branches of commerce all point to the same conclusion. Buyers have come in large numbers to the great fall sales of Montreal and Toronto and bought freely. If they have used more discrimination than usual in both quality and quantity, that itself is another ground of confidence in the stability of the next year's trade. We are furthermore informed that, while collections are still a little slow, they proceed in steady instalments, and that the securities given are generally reliable.

Summing together these and other facts to which we might refer, there is, therefore, substantial reason for hoping that the long longed for turn in the tide has come at last. It may be, however, that the fruits of amelioration will not be very perceptible this autumn, as the season is already far advanced. We must probably make up our minds to a hard winter, especially for the very poor, and defer the grand start till the opening of navigation next spring. Meantime, we may quietly set our affairs in order, taking advantage of the long winter months to practice the requisite economy, and preparing ourselves gradually to participate in the forward march. We shall be called upon for frequent charity during the cold season, but beyond this our expenditure can be easily kept within bounds, and it is not the occasional furling to the penniless, nor the occasional meal to the hungry, that shall diminish that store upon which we rely to set ourselves up again.

### THE CRISIS IN FRANCE.

The great electoral battle has opened in France, and between this and the 14th of the present month we may look for stirring events. The issue is clearly set forth. There can be no mistake about it. GAMBETTA laid down the proposition that if the Republicans carried the day, MACMAHON must either submit or retire from office. *Se soumettre ou se démettre*, was the pithy, pregnant formula. The Marshal immediately took up the gage by ordering the arrest of the tribune, and with swift procedure, the latter has been condemned to fine and imprisonment. But the Marshal did not rest content with this act of defiance. He, too, addressed the people of France in a manifest which contains three unequivocal declarations based upon "the faith and honour of a soldier." The first is that he will not be governed by demagogues or submit to the dictation of radicals. The second, that he will rule the country, if need be, with the aid of the Conservative Senate. The third, that he will maintain his position as President to the very close of the Septennial term. It will be allowed that these statements are explicit enough, and it will excite no wonder that they have caused the keenest interest throughout France, where they are variously interpreted according to the hopes or fears, the passions and prejudices of the conflicting parties.

For us, outsiders, they are worth considering, one by one, if not precisely to understand the present situation in France, at least to enable us somewhat to forecast the probable result of the elections. That Marshal MACMAHON should refuse to be governed by demagogues and submit to radicals appears right enough, but the question arises whether he puts all Republicans in this category, or in other words, whether, if the country returns a Republican majority, he will refuse to abide by the decision on the score that that majority is radical and demagogic. The manifest gives no answer to this important question, and its obscurity, in this respect, rises to the proportions of a menace. We cannot suppose that a man

of sense and integrity like Marshal MACMAHON would so far stultify himself and insult his countrymen as to regard the representatives of the majority of France—a majority counted not only by departments, but by the numerical aggregate—as unworthy of his confidence. If he did so, he would simply make himself responsible for a revolution. Rather are we inclined to think that this declaration was a diplomatic stroke meant more to frighten the timid and wavering into the Marshal's camp, than as a threat which is to be literally carried out. There is no question that it will have the effect of influencing thousands of voters, who, fancying revolution or even disturbance looming in the distance, will cast their suffrages on the side of the armed and the strong, rather than link their fortunes with the struggling party. So much the better, therefore, if this should prove another of the DR BROGLIE tricks.

When the Marshal declares further that he is prepared to carry on the Government with the Senate alone, he is only supplementing his first statement to show what he would do in an extreme case, as to act thus would be a breaking up of the constitution which requires the labours of a second Chamber, to which indeed the vital department of the national subsidies is centred. If the worse should, however, come to the worse, there is some comfort in the third declaration of MACMAHON, to the effect that he will positively retain the Presidency till 1880. This is a solemn pledge, again "on the faith of a soldier," that he will make no *capitulation* in favour either of the Bourbons, Orleanists, or the Bonapartists. However, arbitrarily or summarily he may act, he will maintain the Republic, at least, in name, which is better than having a reactionary kingdom, or a revolutionary empire. If we were a Frenchman, this promise alone would be sufficient to take half the sting out of the Marshal's other declarations.

### THE COLORADO BEETLE.

We have already done our share toward calling public attention to this threatening enemy, by publishing an engraving of the beetle through all its stages of development, and describing the means of using Paris green, the best, if not the sole, mode of its destruction. A correspondent having asked us to go further, and give the natural history of the insect, we think it our duty to do so, in view of the importance of the case and of the intelligence received on all sides to the effect that this pest has effectually planted itself in the country, preparatory to a fearful onset of ravage next season. We shall draw our information, as before, from the excellent pamphlet of Dr. TACHÉ, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, which should by all means be translated into English and spread far and wide.

The scientific name of the Colorado beetle is *Chrysomela Deceunlineata*. The perfect insect is of ovoid form, and about half an inch in length. The female is larger than the male, being more developed in the abdominal parts. The grub has a black head and legs, with two black bands at the first segments; the rest of the body is of a dark red. It has six legs, and moves about with facility. In the course of a few days it attains the dimensions of a bed bug. According as it grows, the reddish color turns to light pink, and finally to an orange tint. It then sinks into the ground for a few days, and comes forth a perfect insect. Ten days after this, the female begins to lay her eggs; these are hatched six or seven days later. In fifteen or twenty days the grub attains its full development, and sinks into the earth where it remains ten days or a fortnight, when, as we have said, it becomes the perfect insect. Hence the growth of the beetle occupies from forty to fifty days. On coming from the ground, they immediately seek the potato plant, in pairs, where they begin to propagate at once. There are three generations every year—the first about May and June; the second, about

July and August; the third, about September and October. The grubs of the first two generations develop immediately, while those of the latter remain in the ground during the winter, until spring. Their fecundity and rapidity of propagation are extraordinary. A single female gives, through herself and her descendants, in a single summer, 22,000,000 insects, and in twenty years these legions have covered over a million and a quarter of square miles. It is particularly at the end of the season that they enter upon their travels, using every means of transportation by land and water, even sometimes floating down the streams. They are not at that epoch much disposed to fly, although the perfect insect does fly with considerable strength of wing, over great distances, from one field to another. It follows from what we have said that the farmer must always be on the alert, as the laying of eggs goes on all summer, until as late as October. Nor is the danger over then, because these late grubs remain in the earth under the snow ready to pounce upon the potato plantations early in spring. From this time forward, then, a war of extermination must be declared and steadily carried on, else, next year, we shall have to deplore, perhaps, the total loss of our potato crop.

### ANTIQUITIES AND NUMISMATICS.

We have had occasion from time to time to notice the proceedings of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, of our city, and in this number publish an extract from the minutes of its first meeting this fall. As the Society has of late attracted considerable public attention by its management and conduct of the exhibition of literary works in celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the introduction of printing into England by William CAXTON, held in this city, on the 26th to 30th June last, we propose to give a synopsis of its organization and work. So far back as 1862, the Society was formed by a few leading gentlemen of this city, under the name of the "Numismatic Society of Montreal," and has since continued in an uninterrupted monthly session to the present day. To the uninitiated it may seem strange that a Society, having for its object the study and examination of *old money coppers*, as most people sarcastically regard them, should hold together a body of men in 15 years' friendly intercourse, during which time it has seen the rise and fall of numerous literary, historical and social assemblies of this city as well as elsewhere throughout Canada. Ignorant as the people are to the value of these *old money coppers*, it is in their historical association that the members of this Society have been held together, while all others have failed. As it has been conceded that the mind of the child is so far influenced by *object* study, as to promote a complete reform of tuition, so has it been regarded by these gentlemen that, to appreciate history and historical events, *object* illustrations are at once conclusive, and impress the mind of the truthfulness of what is handed down to us as history, the interest of any thesis so corroborated being much enhanced. It is in this respect that the study of numismatics and archaeology has such a hold on the people, and is rapidly becoming acknowledged throughout the world. In England, the great historians and *literati* of the day, are not only members in name of the numismatic and archaeological associations there existing, but are regular attendants at the meetings, as well as their annual *field days*, which may be seen on reference to the names attending the excursion of the British Archaeological Association, held in the first week of September last. It had been desired to extend the operations of this Society, from its inception, to history generally, and though this was carried out in its *séances*, it was not conveyed by the name of the Association, which, indeed, they were unable to assume, owing to the existence of an organization mentioned in the statute book, but which otherwise is unknown and never heard of, except when