

Written on the anniversary of the Assassination of Hon. T. D. McGEE,
April 7, 1869.

BY SAMUEL WATTS, OF WOODSTOCK, N. B.

I had a reverie. Within the capitol
Convened, in congress grave, the honoured chiefs,
Spokesmen of a free people, there had met,
To arbitrate the future of a land,
Merging into new being politics,
And form foundation upon which might rise,
Fittingly proportioned, eminent and grand,
A mighty State. Sagacious men these were;—
Men not unlearn'd in the subtle arts
Of statesmanship. From the fair West came they,
That magazine of waters, where is heard
In its eternity of sound Niagara;
Where sea-like lakes, vast amethysts
In emerald settings, lie in glassy sheen
Outspread. From East where Ocean with "blue rim"
Restrains the continent. From regions where
Most affluent St. Lawrence, to the gulf—
Encircling arm or ocean—sweeps in pride,
Thus, nurtured amid scenes that freedom loves
Of monumental greatness, thus inspired
Came they, these delegates, invested with
A solemn charge—charge sacred that in it
The future of the country was involved.
And now the masters of debate, whose tongues
Had oft Provincial senates, with a power—
That magic power the orator controls—
Resistless swayed, entered the lists of speech;
Diverse their views, but, in the broad intent,
A unit. One there was, the last, whose words
E'en masters of debate admired, enwrap,
All conscious of his mastery. His words
Were music and his full rich sentences
Accordant melodies, of vigorous power.
Like tidal waters, but, of flow, as smooth,
As summer lake. From treasures, in his mind,
Storehouse of ripe intelligence, trooped thoughts
Convincing, by their sterling stamp, who heard.
He stood revealed, in the brilliant light
Of his own life and genius, as the sage,
The orator, the prophet. Lo, he drew,
All eyes appreciative, picture grand
Of a great State, crowned with renown matured
Proud daughter of old Britain: perfect fruit
Of this Conitid ray whose nascent years
"Twas, wisely theirs to guide. He saw her rise,
Magnificent in stature and august,
Developed by intelligence and blest
By Virtue sanctifying: peopled by
Sons sprung from loins of sires whose deathless fame,
In every continent and clime, appeared
Emblazoned on the trophies they had reared—
Those sacred trophies of our golden age—
Truth, Independence, Progress, Liberty.
Whose hoar old woods, the solemn sentinels
Of the past centuries, falling before
The wave of population and the stroke
Of sturdy industry, give place to plains,
Banner'd with golden harvests, whose dark mines
Should, at the Midas touch of labour, yield
Treasures long hidden; and whose white-winged ships,
Mann'd by a hardy race, true Neptune's sons,
Cradled upon the billows wild that break
On her own shore, should traverse every sea;
Bear in each zone, triumphant in the van,
Her name, her empire, and, returning, make
A world-wide commerce subject to her will.
Noble the work—he claimed—that work was theirs,
Vast the design: magnificent the aim:
To found an Empire in this western world,
That might "ere yet meridian glory won,
Stand peerless 'mid the nations: to the world
A lofty theme of reverence; guiding up
Her loins for further triumphs, where the wane
Of row, proud powers marked them for decay.
To found an Empire where the axis fair
Of liberty and law benignant blend
With pure Religion: where oppression's serfs
The wronged, the outraged may protection seek
And find a home: within whose genial clime
Shall flourish all thy charms, propitious Peace.

The voice was hush'd. My reverie was o'er.
Around me marbled arch and garish lights
And swaying populace I realized.
The Legislators there; and eloquence
Of thought and word was uttered. But that voice?
It floats in memory's chambers like the strain
Of a loved melody. I won the page
Of history it lives and still shall live.
Aye, when the prophecy has been fulfilled,
(God grant fulfilment—this our patriot prayer.)
A vital, a promoting energy
To all wise labours for that end. No more
That voice is palpable. Its latest breath
The night air heard and heard the stars perchance
In sympathy. And the Great Father heard!
As from the casket, rent by cruel hands,
Escaped the spirit, and McGEE was dead.

Ottawa, April, 1870.

"THE TRAGEDY AT FORT GARRY, MARCH 4, 1870."

At page 355 of our issue of the 9th inst. will be found the *New Nation's* account of the "military execution" at Fort Garry on the 4th March, as also some further particulars concerning the brutality with which the inhuman act was consummated. Several accounts have since been communicated to the journals by the Canadians returned from Red River. It appears that the firing-party having done their duty very badly, and Scott being still alive, one of Riel's men went up to the poor fellow, then writhing in his agony, and aimed a pistol shot at his ear. The ball, instead of entering the brain, passed between the skull and the skin, leaving the work of death still incomplete. The victim was then thrown into his coffin, where he continued alive for some time longer, his death happening about an hour after he was first shot. The bloody drama was enacted a short space in front of the Fort, and it is affirmed that it was with great difficulty that Riel could induce the members of his armed gang to take part in it.

The excitement created throughout Canada by the shooting of Thomas Scott has been intense. However individuals may view it, in the eye of the law, which admits of no private interpretation, it is a deliberate murder, and as such, imposes upon the Government the stern duty of exacting retribution. It has given a different direction to the public mind as to the settlement of the North-West difficulty. Where before the desire was for concession and friendly negotiation, now there is a determination to encourage the adoption of severe and repressive measures. In this crisis it is the duty of the Government to discriminate between the instigators of, and participants in, the insurrection, and those who have been made its victims. While the Red River people are entitled to all the privileges pertaining to their position, and which it was the intention of Canada to have protected and guaranteed, there must be a broad distinction drawn between the peaceful settlers and those who have taken up arms in defiance of the Queen's authority. As to how the Hudson's Bay Company can indemnify itself for the loss of its stores, &c., that is another affair, in the settlement of which Canada will, we trust, have no concern; many people in this country believe that had the Company done its whole duty, there would have been no opportunity for the perpetration of the deed which will ever make the 4th of March memorable in the annals of the Red River Territory.

SQUARE OF ST. PETER'S AT ROME.

The Square of St. Peter's has been the great centre of attraction in the Eternal City ever since the opening of the Œcumenical Council. On the days when the Council holds its general sessions the square is filled with a motley crowd assembled to see the arrival and departure of the prelates. People of all classes and all nations may be seen here on such days, and the effect to the looker-on is something surprising. Down the middle of the square a broad open avenue lined by Papal Zouaves, in their picturesque uniform, and on either side a dense crowd of eager sight-seers. In the rear rises the immense Church of St. Peter, with its magnificent dome, its broad flight of steps, and its colossal portico with its dedicatory inscription. Above a clear Italian sky, and below a mass of variegated colours. Roman citizens and Roman peasants, Transylvanians, Neapolitans, tourists of all nations, Orientals, Knights of Malta, French and Roman officers, Zouaves, Swiss guards, monks and clergy of all nations and every rite fill the square. Then, when the session of the Council breaks up, a line of heavy gilded carriages passes down the avenue. These contain the nobility of the Church, cardinals, archbishops, and bishops, on their way home after the labours of the day. The spectacle is one that is to be seen but once in many generations, and the impression that it leaves on the mind of the beholder is uneffaceable.

THE PRINCE IMPERIAL.

The Prince Imperial, the only son and heir of the Emperor Napoleon III., attained the fourteenth year of his age on the 16th of March, when he became legally competent to succeed to the throne. His Imperial Highness—who has now put off the knickerbockers and small jacket of his childhood and assumed the black frock-coat and long trousers and the close shirt-collar of an adult modern gentleman—gave a dinner-party on his birthday to a score of his friends, presiding at the table with much dignity and self-possession. The boys of all the lycées, or public schools, in Paris were indulged with a holiday on the occasion. Rumour speaks well of the youthful Prince, as inheriting the gentleness of his mother, the Empress Eugénie, with the thoughtfulness of the Emperor, his father. He is said, however, to be more reserved in disposition than most lads of his years. He is fonder of study than of games and exercises in the open air; but he has learnt to ride skilfully and boldly. The illustration we present this week shows him mounted on horseback, at the door of that side of the Tuileries where are situated the apartments reserved for his use. He is accompanied by General Frossard, his governor, who has the superintendence of his daily life and habits, while another tutor is charged with his literary and scientific instruction.

OSGOODE HALL.

The handsomest building in Toronto is, without doubt, Osgoode Hall, the Westminster Hall of Ontario. Not even the University, of which the citizens of Toronto are justly proud, can compare with the Hall in point of classic elegance and stately beauty. Built in the Greek style, the façade being principally of the Ionic order, it presents an imposing appearance when viewed from Queen Street. Inside, the decorations are magnificent, and reflect much credit on the architects. On entering, the visitor finds himself in a hall which leads into a richly-decorated vestibule. On either side of the hall a broad flight of steps leads to the story above. The vestibule is paved with encaustic tiles, and roofed in with a sky-light of beautifully stained glass. All around the vestibule runs a broad stone gallery supported by pilasters of white stone, with a parapet of the same material. On either side of the vestibule, above and below, are the various courts. The principal object of interest in Osgoode Hall is the library, a magnificent apartment, occupying the whole length of the centre building. The ceiling of this room is especially beautiful, and the whole, viewed from the extremity of the galleries which run around the library, offers a magnificent *coup d'œil*. The wings, which project from the main building, are devoted to the different offices attached to the courts. The architects of the building were Messrs. Cumberland and Storm. Our illustration is copied from a photograph by Notman and Fraser, Toronto.

LAKE MEMPHREMAGOG.

Lake Memphremagog has been called the Canadian Lake of Geneva, and it well deserves its name. Nestling among mountains of considerable height, it offers one of the finest pieces of scenery that the tourist in the Eastern Townships comes across; and though its beauty is but little known to the outside world it is fast becoming a favourite place of summer resort for invalids and pleasure-seekers. The illustration we give speaks sufficiently for the scenery of this beautiful lake, and readily accounts for its having become such a favourite with our Canadian artists. Lake Memphremagog is situated on the Canadian frontier, and extends some eight miles into the State of Vermont. Its extreme length is 30 miles, and its breadth varies from one to four miles. It discharges its waters by the Magog outlet into the River St. Francis. Being within easy reach of Montreal, and possessing ample accommodation for visitors, we may soon expect to see the Lake Memphremagog district classed among the recognized summer-resorts of Lower Canada.

THE FIRST SHOWER-BATH.

We have here a pleasing little picture of animal life; three little goslings, evidently not many hours emerged from the shell, have been guided by their unerring instinct to seek the nearest water, and are disporting themselves with immense enjoyment under a miniature waterfall. They seem thoroughly to like the first shower-bath, and their ablutions completed, they betake themselves to the business of the toilet. The little fellow in the background is pluming and dressing his down—it can hardly be called feathers yet—with immense energy, and the one in the middle is busy ducking himself in a manner that might be imitated with advantage by other two-footed animals who are not too well acquainted with the tub and its uses. The illustration is from a drawing by Gustav Eber, a German artist.

SCIENTIFIC.

ARTIFICIAL CAOUTCHOUC.—M. Granier, in *Les Mondes*, says:—"This material is a mixture containing gelatine and a variety of other substances (not specified) producing a homogeneous elastic substance, insoluble in mineral, as well as vegetable essential oils; not acted upon, moreover, by either coal or other hydrogenized gases. This material is now employed in France for a variety of purposes, too many to be here enumerated; its cost is only three francs per kilo.; and it melts readily at 100°, without decomposition, and can be cast into different moulds. Neither cold nor heat affects this substance, which, when completely oxidized, becomes more fusible than vulcanized caoutchouc."

Mr. Theophile Ladislas Zehweskofski, one of the cleverest pupils of Baron Liebig, has just made an astounding discovery in chemistry, from the silicious and aluminous ethers. It is but necessary to pour into a champagne glass a certain quantity of those two ethers to produce almost instantaneously the most magnificent stones. Combined with very pure oxide of iron the aluminous ether produces ruby, with sulphate of copper, the sapphire; with salts of manganese, the amethyst; with salts of nickel, the emerald; with salts of chrome the silicious ether produces the different colorations of the topaz. These ethers evaporate with a penetrative perfume, which several persons have declared to be very agreeable. The salts crystallize very regularly as soon as the liquid part has gone. The corindons obtained through this means are not quite as hard as the natural ones; but, if the operation is carefully done, the brilliancy is admirable. The silica and the alumina which constitute the earths and clays are principles easily found in the different parts of the globe; and the preparation of the new ethers, though delicate, costs very little. The discovery will bring forth a revolution not only in jewellery, but in most of our industrial arts.

WOOD FOR GUNPOWDER.—Although the materials of which gunpowder is made have not varied since its first invention, there has been considerable variety in the kind of wood from which the charcoal has been obtained. Dense woods are always rejected, and the lighter kinds chosen, especially those most free from silica, and capable of producing a friable porous charcoal which burns quickly and leaves the least possible quantity of ash. The kind now generally used by gunpowder manufacturers is known as "Dog-wood," and is usually described as being obtained from the small tree popularly known under that name, the *Coccoloba virginiana*. Mr. Hooker has, however, recently discovered that this is a popular error, and that the wood is almost universally obtained from the Black-thorn, or *Rhamnus frangula*, the former tree being now a very useful purpose, if indeed it ever was. Till a few years since, the bulk of the Blackthorn wood used in this manufacture was supplied from English plantations in Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, and Kent, but the great increase recently in the demand for the finer descriptions of gunpowder has rendered this source insufficient, and it is now cultivated in immense districts of forest and marsh in North Germany lying between Berlin and Frankfurt, where it forms the natural undergrowth. From the high price obtained for the wood—£10 to £15 per ton—its cultivation would be exceedingly lucrative, as it will grow in almost any soil.

SINGULAR CASE OF TRANCE.—A case of trance, which we are now about to relate, is certainly one of the most remarkable, as it undoubtedly is among the best verified, upon record. It appears that the wife of a blacksmith residing in Newcastle, who had been unwell for sometime, was observed by her attendants to be gradually sinking, and what had every appearance of death, and what was believed to be death, occurred during the course of day. An undertaker was communicated with, and all the arrangements were completed for the funeral. The relatives were acquainted with what happened, and a son came all the way from London with the intention of accompanying his mother's remains to the house appointed for all living. Several of her friends were invited to be present at the "coffining," and they included a considerable number of women. Immediately before the ceremony was about to be performed, one, an intimate friend, rose, as she said, to "take a last look at the deceased." No sooner had she gone forward to the bedside than she uttered a sharp scream, and startled all present by affirming that she saw the body moving. Some of those present were terrified; others, less timorous, approached the bed; a doctor was sent for, and it was found that the "dead" had actually come to life again. The poor woman is still, we believe, in a very low state, however, and but little hopes are entertained of her ultimate recovery.

CAMEO MEDALLION PORTRAITS.

We have seen some examples recently (says the *Photographic News*) of a novel and effective style of portraiture, produced in Italy, which would probably prove attractive if introduced into this country; we shall, therefore, briefly describe an example before us.

It is of the usual card size, containing a large vignetted head and bust. After vignetting, an oval mask is laid upon the figure and vignetted portion of the background, and the margin exposed so as to print a deep black, forming a dark border round an oval aperture containing a vignetted image. This is finished, trimmed, and mounted in the ordinary manner; after which it is enamelled by means of gelatine and collodion, by means of the process we have often described. After this it is subject to pressure under an oval convex die, like that used for the "diamond canoes," the die being, of course, of precisely the same size and shape as the oval mask which protected the image whilst the border was printing. The size of the oval in the example before us is, in the major axis, two inches and three-quarters, and in the minor axis two inches and one-eighth; but might, we think, be slightly improved in its proportions. The whole edge of the mount surrounding the black framing the image is about one-eighth of an inch broad.

The general effect of the picture is striking as well as novel. The convexity of the mount gives the effect of relief with which many of our readers are familiar, and which is seen in enamel portraits on the well-known convex tablets. Indeed, these portraits in many respects very closely resemble ceramic portraits, in the appearance of delicacy, force, and finish. The especial advantage to be gained by the deep purple brown or black of the border is the peculiar delicacy conferred, by the force of contrast, on all the half-tones and shadows in the image itself. Most portraitists have observed that the face