

rene street and other streets. A like condition of things was to be seen elsewhere and the streets centering on the public plaza turned the square into a lake.

Victoria and Independence streets were so swollen that they looked like two tumultuary rivers; and seemed to be the natural outlet for this extraordinary deluge.

The calamity produced by it is general. It is not possible on this, the day following, to give full particulars of the destruction caused, but it is safe to say that the number of houses feeling the force of the rain tempest is much greater than those that escaped. To give an idea of the immense bodies of earth which swept down and banked up in the streets, a full force at work since the flood subsided has been unable to make impressions upon the vast mud banks. There are enormous piles wherever the water was stopped in its headlong course. During the day all traffic and business were entirely suspended, and cars and coaches of every kind were completely blocked. In some cases vehicles had to be abandoned in the public streets, and conveyances must be slow for days to come.

There are only two deaths recorded, and those are of a very sad and shocking nature. One of the unfortunates was a woman named Isabel Lira, who was caught by the flood and carried away with such impetuosity that, before she could utter a word, her body was imbedded in a mudbank amid debris of every kind. Upon being discovered, the remains had to be pried out by strong levers. The other unfortunate was a little girl 3 years old. The mother had the child in her arms, and was attempting to flee to a place of safety; but on crossing Buenos Ayres street the river of water struck her with such force that she fell and lost her hold on the child. Upon recovering her feet her baby was swept out of sight, and the mother barely escaped with her own life.

REVIEWS.

The *New Dominion Monthly* for March is received, and is a capital number. It has for its frontispiece a very good likeness of Hon. Pierre Fortin—a notice of whose life and career we copy from the number before us:—

"The Hon. Dr. Fortin has attained to a distinguished position in the politics of the Province of Québec. He was born at Verchères, in this Province, in 1823. After taking a classic course in the Seminary of St. Sulpice, he studied medicine at McGill College, and in 1845 took a degree of M.D. In 1847, when the epidemic broke out among the immigrants of Grosse Isle, he hastened to tender his services to the Government, and labored with great fidelity among them until he was prostrated with typhus fever, from which he narrowly escaped with his life. During the civil disorders in Montreal, in 1849, Dr. Fortin was given command of a mounted police force, in the organization and discipline of which he displayed great energy and soldierly qualities. But it is in connection with the Gulf fisheries that Dr. Fortin has become best known, and in which he has rendered the most efficient services to the country. In 1852 he was appointed a stipendiary magistrate for the protection of the Canadian fisheries, and given command of a vessel to cruise through the Gulf. Upon his recommendation, the Government caused to be built at Québec the beautiful and famous schooner 'Canadienne,' which he commanded for sixteen years. The 'Canadienne'

carried four guns, and commander Fortin constantly maintained the strictest discipline on board, and rendered most efficient and valuable service in the protection of the fisheries throughout that long period. He has ever taken a warm interest in the welfare of Canadian fishermen, with whom he is immensely popular and deservedly beloved. His political career began in 1867, when he was elected to the Dominion Parliament from the county of Gaspé. During five years he was Chairman of the Special Committee of the House of Commons concerning navigation and fisheries, and in knowledge of these subjects he has probably no superior in the Dominion. In 1873 he became a member of the Local Ministry under Hon. Mr. Oulmont, and took the portfolio of Crown Lands Commissioner. He was again elected from Gaspé at the last general elections, and upon the opening of the new Québec Parliament was unanimously chosen Speaker of the Assembly, in which capacity he has given perfect satisfaction to both sides of the House.

"In the exercise of the patronage which belongs to the office of Speaker, he has improved upon some of his predecessors in securing greater economy with equal efficiency; and, as presiding officer of the House, he has shown a firmness and exercised a discipline which are habitual with him. In politics, he is an old-fashioned constitutional Conservative, and it is believed he has no sympathy with the preposterous and revolutionary doctrines of the ultra-clerical party in this Province."

Blackwood's Magazine for March has been issued by the Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 41 Barclay Street, New York. The following are the contents:—The Dilemma—Part XI; Secondary Education in Scotland; Some Aspects of Friendship; To "Maimey" (M'Ayme); Elon College; Little Bobby: a Sketch in Paris; Some Gentlemen in the City; Powers of the Air; The Opening of Parliament.

The periodicals reprinted by the Leonard Scott Publishing Company (41 Barclay Street, N. Y.) are as follows: *The London Quarterly*, *Edinburgh Westminster*, and *British Quarterly Reviews*, and *Blackwood's Magazine*. Price, \$4 a year for any one, or only \$15 for all, and the Postage is prepaid by the Publishers.

The April number of the *Science of Health* is also received, full of interest to the Scientific reader. The contents are:—Cannutrition the cause of infant mortality; Woman and the Centennial; The Skin; Tea and Coffee; From the Cradle to the Grave; Water: its use and its abuse, &c. S. R. Wells & Co., Publishers, 737 Broadway, N. Y. \$2 a year.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*. The real name of the writer must invariably accompany each communication to insure insertion, but not necessarily for publication.

To the Editor of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*.

SIR,—“ARTILLERY,” in the Review of 7th March, in alluding to the contemplated departure of Lieut. Colonel Jago for England, expresses the great regret of the officers of the New Brunswick artillery in losing the valuable services of the popular Assistant

Inspector. The officers of this branch of the service in Nova Scotia will also most keenly feel the loss, for it is to him that their corps are much indebted for the advice and assistance always so kindly and readily tendered. But the greatest benefit to be derived from his services, will be the exertions made by him in arming the battery at Point Pleasant which the Imperial authorities have placed at the disposal of the Dominion Government. There is not the slightest doubt that owing to Lieut. Colonel Jago's persistence in advocating their claims and making known their desires, the two brigades of garrison artillery at Halifax will this year have an opportunity of perfecting themselves in their duties as artillerymen. Although it is a matter of great regret that the Dominion—but more particularly the Maritime Provinces—must lose the services of the most efficient officer, it is at the same time satisfactory to learn that the Imperial Government in the present dearth of artillery officers, will derive much benefit from the experience obtained by Lieut. Colonel Jago during his sojourn among us.

MORTAR.

A new collision mat has been manufactured in England, twelve feet square, with three thicknesses of canvas. The first sheet is thrummed, the second oiled and dried, the third, or outside, painted and roped around its edges. Inside, the mat is thickly fitted with beackets, that it may be easily secured in its place. The mat was tested at Keyham in the same manner and at the same season as the Makaroff mat. The aperture in the caisson was twelve feet down, and eighteen inches square. The same difficulty was experienced in getting the mat in its place as with the Makaroff, and the valve had to be closed before the mat could be fixed. When properly placed it stopped the water to such an extent that the leakage was not more than what a ship could easily clear with her pumps. The cost of this mat is less than that of a Makaroff mat, its efficiency equal, and facilities for being secured in its place superior. It is, therefore, probable that this new mat will be the pattern adopted in the service.

A French historian, describing the sufferings of the French army before Torres Vedras, said—"Massena had no provisions, and this owing to the barbarous and shortsighted system of never having magazines, of never paying for anything in presence of an enemy who paid for everything. Our troops had to live on rapine. . . . But it was often necessary to tear them from the unfortunate peasants, who were thus condemned to die of hunger. These scenes demoralized the soldiers, and developed in them the habits of brigands. When provisions became scarce acts of cruelty were performed, which had long ceased to dishonor the military character." Marmont wrote that when the French soldiers met a Portuguese, they seized him and put him to the torture in order to make him reveal where his provisions were hidden. They first hanged him red - this was a warning; they then hanged him blue if he refused to speak, and left his carcass swinging in the air. We might point to numerous historical pages to show what bad policy it is for an invading army not to pay its way.