

The Canadian Spectator.

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VOLUME I.

Of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR will be completed at the end of December, and the publishers venture to ask for the continued support of those who so generously helped the paper into life by sending in their names as subscribers. The publishers have to confess that mistakes have been made, but then it was the

FIRST YEAR OF LIFE,

—a time of experiments and consequent changes. It was soon found that the prospectus could not be carried out in the matter of having every article signed with the full name of the writer, for the majority of those whose thoughts and judgments are worthy of being put into print objected—some on grounds of modesty, and some on grounds of business; but in every other respect the publishers affirm that the contract has been kept, and a good deal given that was not promised. The SPECTATOR has been

FREE AND INDEPENDENT,

—non-partisan in all matters political and ecclesiastic; and whatever blunders may have been made were misfortunes fallen upon in the way of honest walking. In that endeavour—to conduct honest and truthful, as well as good, journalism—the publishers will continue.

It is proposed in future to give week by week a digest of the better class of British and American magazines; the News Summary will receive careful attention; and the musical world will have fair and honest criticism of concerts, &c. We shall shortly commence a Chess Column, which we hope will prove interesting to the lovers of the Royal Game. In order to carry out these extensions and improvements,

The Editorial Staff has been enlarged,

a Managing Editor having been appointed. Thanks are herewith tendered to the many contributors who have written the year through for the love they bear the SPECTATOR and the public. Thanks are also given to the multitude who have sent kind and cheering letters of approval and appreciation. The value of the SPECTATOR is so well known

AS AN ADVERTISING MEDIUM

that nothing need be said on that score, except that the publishers will always endeavour to return to their patrons good consideration "for value received."

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THE PUBLISHERS.

The "Canadian Celebrity" next week will be Sir Hugh Allan.

THE TIMES.

There is some talk going the rounds of the Liberal party of asking Mr. Blake to direct its course in the coming session of Parliament. If the Liberals intend to offer anything like a respectable opposition front, unquestionably, they must reorganize under new leaders. The overthrow they suffered at the late elections was due to their demonstrated incapacity for the work of governing as much as to the stubbornness with which they held to the Free-trade policy. Mr. Mackenzie was honest, but not strong enough to carry out his own principles. When he tried to play the part of the mere politician he was about as graceful as Barnum's elephant in the circus. His opponent, Sir John, on the other hand, could lead a Highland-fling in politics with the ease of a master of the fine art; and the difference was plainly perceptible. And then, everybody knew that all the ungainly dancing of Mr. Mackenzie was to the bag-piping of Mr. Brown; and they had got tired of that.

But is Mr. Blake the man to take the party in hand, organize it, prepare a programme, and inspire it with a courageous hope? Most of those who have watched Mr. Blake's career will answer in the negative. He is possessed of few of those qualities which go to make up a good party leader, and he has many qualities which would unfit any man for that position. He is able—he is a man of considerable education—he is a first-rate speaker, but—he has a conscience,—a thing which is always getting in the way of a party leader at most inconvenient times—he is fully aware of his own ability, and scornful of the general ruck of politicians. He is the very antithesis of a tactician, and bends when needs must with such ill-grace that all who see him can tell the humour he is in. The Liberals will have to look somewhere else for a new leader, if they want to secure a reasonable prospect of success.

I believe Sir John A. Macdonald is too wise a politician and too patriotic a statesman to yield to the clamorous demands of some of the Quebec Conservatives and advise the dismissal of M. Letellier from the Lieut.-Governorship of the Province. It would be constitutional enough, doubtless, as the *Gazette* argues, but then Sir John might exercise his powers over a wide range in a strictly constitutional manner and yet create only confusion by his action. It is within the bounds of possibility that Sir John should advise the Governor-General to dismiss every Liberal Lieut.-Governor in the Dominion, and, having done that, procure the dismissal of every official professing the Liberal creed; but would the country stand that for long? It is improbable—to say the least of it. But Sir John can have neither wish nor will to do that.

And I think that those who imagine M. Joly is going to appeal to the electors to decide for him his position in the Provincial Parliament will find themselves mistaken. True, he can only depend upon a majority of one, but he has been a successful Premier—he has maintained his personal integrity—he has allowed no railway rings, but has built the railways in a fair and business-like manner—and, instead of going to the electors, he will stand up in the House, I think, and say: Gentlemen, upon this work I want your vote—confidence or no confidence? There are a good many members in the House who do not care to face another election just yet.

It is matter for regret, but not for surprise, that Mr. Tilley's attempt to place his loan on the London market is comparatively a failure—not much more than half of it having been tendered for at such rates as could be accepted. The *Globe* has decided, of course, that this is the result of Mr. Tilley's bad management, although it confesses that all the facts are not known. But then the *Globe* rarely waits for such commonplace things as "facts" to found a judgment upon. Mr. Cartwright when negotiating a loan took the advice of "the most skilled experts" and advertised it at a fixed price, only leaving it for tenderers to say what amount they were willing to take. Mr. Cartwright fixed his price—so he afterward explained—by looking

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, for Children Teething, and all Infantile Diseases