

The New Dominion Monthly,

A Magazine of Literature, Science, and Art.

Vol. I, No. 1.]

MONTREAL, AUGUST 1, 1867.

[PRICE TEN CENTS.]

THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

There are days which mark epochs in history; such, for instance, as the 22nd of December in New England, and the 4th of July throughout the States. We cannot in Canada fix upon the precise date of the first landing of settlers in the country; and the date of the conquest of Canada by Britain, though well known, is, for obvious reasons, not celebrated. The triumphs of war always suppose the defeat and humiliation of one side; and when the people of that side have to live among and beside the victors, it is in bad taste, to say the least, to continue to celebrate the victory over them, however beneficial it may prove in its effects. For this reason Canada has hitherto been without any national festival, but that want exists no longer. The day of the union of the four greatest Provinces of British North America under one Federal Government—the 1st of July, 1867—is one to be observed and remembered by the whole of the inhabitants of these Provinces.

Some have indeed said, "Why celebrate a change the results of which are yet unknown? Let us wait till we ascertain how it will turn out." But we do not thus wait in other cases. When a child is born, for instance, we rejoice without waiting to see whether he will turn out virtuous or vicious, taking it for granted that the Giver of all good intends a blessing by the gift. And, in like manner, we may hopefully and joyfully regard the change which, in the providence of God, has taken place in our political relations; the more especially that it has been accomplished without shedding a drop of blood, and with much less use of questionable means than has been deemed necessary to secure some other unions.

In fact, the new nation of Canada, for as such, we think, it should be regarded, starts into existence almost full-grown, without imbruing her hands in the blood of her parent in

order to get free; and without any insuperable animosities or antipathies between the different nationalities of which it is composed. On the contrary, there is a general disposition to make the most of the new state of things; and to this end to cherish mutually fraternal relations between the different provinces, and mutually friendly feelings among the various races that inhabit them.

This loyal and friendly state of feeling was admirably manifested in the demonstrations of rejoicing with which Dominion Day was generally celebrated; and all, we think, feel that, while we should be exceedingly grateful for the mercies of the past to the provinces in their divided state, we may look forward, now that we are united, to a future of rapidly-increasing prosperity and importance.

The Dominion of Canada starts with a population larger than that of several countries which have made their mark in the history of the world and materially influenced the liberty and progress of the human race; as a lumber-producing country, it is second to no other in the world; as a grain-producing country, it stands high; for shipping and commerce, it is said to occupy the third or fourth rank among the nations; for fisheries, when Newfoundland joins us, we shall probably be first; and in mining and manufacturing enterprise we stand fair.

With such natural and acquired advantages, and the powerful aid and protection of Great Britain in case of need, the people of the new Dominion occupy a position of privilege and advantage, which it will be their own fault if they do not improve to the uttermost.

THE GORILLA.

M. Du Chaillu has been lecturing recently in New York on Equatorial Africa, and in his second lecture he gave a remarkably interesting account of his discoveries concerning the