

vernment, or refuse allegiance to that which is proposed, in accordance with the fundamental principle that the public authority commands the obedience and respect of all its subjects. It is also admitted that the people to be governed have the right to adopt or reject forms of government, or refuse allegiance to that which is proposed, in accordance with fundamental principles. The people of this country had obeyed and respected that authority to which the circumstances surrounding its infancy compelled it to be subject. A company of adventurers, known as the H. B. Co., and invested with certain powers granted by His Majesty Charles II., established itself in Rupert's Land and in the North-West Territory for trading purposes only. This Company consisted of many persons requesting a certain constitution, but as there was a question of commerce only the constitution was formed in reference thereto; yet, since there was at the time no government to see to the interests of a people already existing in the country, it became necessary for judicial officers to have recourse to the Hudson's Bay Company. They inaugurated that species of government which, slightly modified by subsequent circumstances, ruled this country up to a recent date.

Whereas, the government thus occupied was far from answering the wants of the people, and became more and more so as the population increased in numbers, and as the country was developed, commerce extended until the present day, when it commands a place among the countries, this people, ever actuated by the above-mentioned principles, had generously supported the aforesaid government, and gave to it a faithful allegiance, when, contrary to the law of nations, in March, 1869, that said government surrendered and transferred to Canada all the rights which it had a pretended right to have in this territory by transactions with which the people were considered unworthy to be acquainted, where it is also generally admitted that a people is at liberty to establish any form of government it may consider suitable to its wants, as soon as the power to which it was subject abandons it, or subjugates it without its consent to a foreign power, and maintain that no right can be transferred to such foreign power. Now, therefore,

First,—We, the representatives of the people in council assembled in Upper Fort Garry, the 24th day of November, 1869, also having invoked the God of nations, relying on these fundamental moral principles, solemnly declare in the law of our constitution, and in our own names before God and man, that from the day on which the Government we had always represented abandoned us by transferring to a strange power the sacred authority confided to it, the people of Rupert's Land and the North-West became free and exempt from all allegiance to the government.

Second,—That we refuse to recognize the authority of Canada, which pretends to have a right to coerce us and impose upon us a despotic form of government, still more contrary to our rights and interests as British subjects, than was that Government to which we had subjected ourselves through necessity up to a recent date.

Third,—That by sending an expedition on the 1st of November ultimo, in charge of Mr. William McDougall and his companions, coming in the name of Canada to rule us with the rod of despotism without previous notification to that effect, we have but acted conformably to that sacred right which commands every citizen to offer energetic opposition to prevent his country being enslaved.

Fourth,—That we continue and shall continue to oppose with all our strength the establishing of the Canadian authority in our country under the announced form, and in case of persistence on the part of the Canadian Government to enforce its obnoxious policy upon us by force of arms, we protest beforehand against such an unjust and unlawful course, and we declare the said Canadian Government responsible before God and man for the innumerable evils which may be caused by so unwarrantable a course.

Be it known, therefore, to the world in general, and to the Canadian Government in particular, that as we have always heretofore successfully defended our country in frequent wars with the neighbouring tribes of Indians, who are now on friendly terms with us, we are firmly resolved in future, not less than in the past, to repel all invasions from whatsoever quarter they may come; and furthermore, we do declare and proclaim in the name of the people of Rupert's Land and the North-West that we have, on the said 24th day of November, 1869, above-mentioned, established a provisional government, and hold it to be the only and lawful authority now in existence in Rupert's Land and the North-West which claims the obedience and respect of the people; that meanwhile we hold ourselves in readiness to enter into such negotiations with the Canadian Government as may be favourable for the good government and prosperity of this people.

In support of this declaration, relying on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge ourselves on oath, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honour to each other.

Issued at Fort Garry this eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

(Signed,) JOHN BRUCE,  
President.  
LOUIS RIELLE,  
Secretary.

Letters from Pembina to the St. Paul Pioneer, dated Dec. 13, say affairs remain practically unchanged, but that there were apprehensions that the insurgents might cross the frontier for the purpose of seizing the Hon. Mr. McDougall and his party. These letters intimate that the ultimate intention of the insurgents is to "make a bold strike for independence." A despatch from St. Paul states that Mr. McDougall's family had arrived there on Tuesday last from Pembina. Mr. McDougall himself was expected at St. Paul yesterday en route for Canada. Extracts from letters are published giving further particulars of the movements of Colonel Dennis and Dr. Shultz. The former is said to have entered the Settlement on the 1st of December disguised as a squaw, and the latter raised and armed a force at his own residence, intending to co-operate with Colonel Dennis's party—the end of their joint movement is stated above. The insurgents have "gugged" the *Nor'-Wester* newspaper to prevent its injuring their cause. On the 8th of December Fort Garry was guarded by four hundred men.

OLD YEAR THOUGHTS.

Mournfully over the earth, breaking the solemn quiet and midnight hush, comes the sound of the bells that toll the world's farewell to the dying year.

That dear old year, that we greeted so hopefully, enjoyed but partially, abused so freely, yet withal, loved so well! Now, when his shroud of pure December snow is woven, and,

"The thousand trees on the thousand hills, have laid aside their gorgeous autumn robes, to stand as mourning sentinels over his grave, now, indeed, we may think tenderly of all the good he gave, and regretfully of all he takes away from us.

That great shadowy grave-yard, the Past, already holds so much of the joy and beauty of our lives, we may well grudge it more.

This burial time, must needs be with us, a time for retrospect, and few of us can look back on the vanished months, without thoughts of mournful tenderness, and sad regret.

How much; how very much that was dear to us, we are burying with this last child of Time.

Did we not fill his months and days and hours with some of our own happiness, and must not our hearts be sorrowful, as we watch it being laid away, in the cold, dead arms of the old year?

Yes, we cannot say "Good-bye" to him, and turn away, forgetful of all those glad moments he brought, and of which he saw the death.

They are all dead now,—those happy days when the glad, bright glory of the sun lighted a world of wondrous summer beauty. Those matchless nights have vanished, when the earth was fair with the reflected splendor of argent moons, and the soul was flooded with thoughts of light begotten of the external loveliness.

Cold wintry skies are stretched above us now. We have lost the beauty of those autumn sunsets, that lit the western horizon with such a blaze of glory, and sent surging waves of crimson and gold rolling up from the saffron sea, that seemed to reach from earth to heaven.

We have no more the lovely, tender twilight, that succeeded the resplendent vision, and gave to the worn and weary, a soothing peaceful rest.

True, the coming year will bring again, this beauty of the outside world. We have mourned before the death of summer and autumn fairness, and been comforted by the assurance that it would all be born again; but each year, as it drops into its grave, carries with it somewhat of our trust in the future and our old-time hopefulness.

We find that we are more ready to bring from the past, rather than from the present, or future, that which is to freshen and restore us, when toil and unrest have made us, oh! so weary.

The coming year, in all its round of weeks and months, can never bring again the sound of loving words spoken by now clay-cold lips, the pressure of dear hands folded so still under the dead leaves and the snow. They are dead, dead. We have left to us but the memories of the fair joys for a little while ours, of the bright hopes that were just being woven into realities when the loom was broken asunder, of the happy dreams we thought to waken and find true.

We stand now by the year's grave and watch our dear heart-treasures laid away forever.

But, while many must look on the past year with thoughts akin to these, they are also those who can look forward joyfully to the birth and life of new pleasures.

'Tis well we have these happy-hearted ones among us, whose future is filled with an ideal creation of beauty, and who, looking down the vista opening with the new year, see there only sunny pleasant paths, bright with blossoms of fair flowers watered from well-springs of continual gladness. How fearlessly and trustfully they will launch their life-boats on the onward rushing stream that is to bear them into that fair land.

"How short the regrets, and how few are the tears  
They let fall at the tomb of the vanished years."

We wonder not at this, though their past was a pleasant one, they have so much more in the future. What noble aspirations, and high ambitious dreams they think to realize. What a burden of bright hopes, pure thoughts, and sunny fancies they carry with them, and we can only hope, they may keep strong, fearless hearts to guard them.

Oh, that happy child-faith in the future and unseen. How it brightens the life, smoothing away the rough inequalities of the surface over which the weary feet are toiling, and throwing a halo of vague and misty beauty over all that lies beyond. You, who yet possess it, guard carefully the treasure, strengthening and cultivating it as best you may, and prize the pleasure it throws into your life.

The coming months may shatter it, the next year's grave may open to receive it, and you will then miss, only too sadly, the bright radiance of its sunny gleams over your pathway.

"So fast our pleasures glide away,  
Our hearts recall the distant day,  
With many sighs,  
The moments that are speeding fast,  
We heed not, but the past, the past,  
More highly prize."

Yes, we do indeed dearly prize those moments gone, but we can allow but little time for regretful musing. Ere the sound of the pealing bells dies away, reveries must give place to action, we must be up and girded anew for the never-ending battle. We are living in a world and an age of action, and those who would stand in the van, must brave and suffer and labour much. Not for ourselves, and our own little, trivial interests, should we use the powers committed to us, but for grander ends. We should strive to be helpers to the world, and to aid in building a nation's wealth and fame. Let the aim be a great one, and then the means, used to attain it, will be worthy of us.

We are now at the close of another stage, on Humanity's march through the ages, and grandly triumphal as it has been, we must feel that there is much, very much for us all to do, before we are ushered on that last stage that is to lead us across the boundaries of the finite, into the limitless realms of the Infinite.

We have laid dearly loved treasures in the grave of '69, let us also bury there all memories of wrong and bitterness, and turn to welcome '70, with hearts void of hatred or unkindly feelings to any, filled only with the spirit of those glorious words, that more than eighteen hundred years ago, echoed over Judean plains, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good-will towards man."

We will gather now the fragments of the past year's broken resolutions, and strive once more to weave them into perfect wholes, that will be embodied in our future actions.

And you, ye sorrowing ones and mourners, be not altogether hopeless and despairing. This season so full of joy to some, is indeed one of bitter pain, and athen memories to you. Some day of this dying year may have spread over the skies of your life, a cloud so black, that you think no sun can ever pierce it. But tear-stained eyes look up, there is a tiny rift there even now, that soon will grow broad and broader still, till you shall see in the full glory of the resurrection morn, the glad bright face of the sun, unveiled and undimmed, shining in the full splendor of meridian grandeur.

But the pealing of the bells is growing faint and fainter, the footsteps of the approaching year are very near.

Farewell Old Year, a long and kind farewell. You gave us much that was fair, you are carrying much away. To it, and to you, farewell.

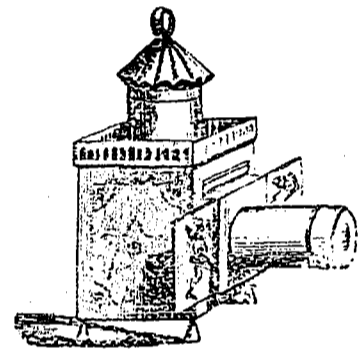
A little while and we too may have left the Ever, and entered on the Forever. Ere '70 is dead we may have ceased to mark the flight of weeks and months and years; we may have forgotten Time, amid the grandeur and glory of Eternity.

**THE ORIGIN OF CANDLES.**—The tallow candle is the offspring of the tallow torch used in the twelfth century. When tallow candles were first introduced their cost was so great that only the most wealthy could afford the luxury, and it was not till the fifteenth century that they were sufficiently cheapened to come into general use. Think of a tallow candle—that dripping, guttering, greasy thing, being considered a luxury. But the tallow candle, now used only where more convenient and economical lighting materials cannot be obtained, is, as we now know it, no more to be compared to the candle of the twelfth century, than the best illuminating gas to lard oil. Its wick was of tow, hard to light, and burning so rapidly as to melt a large portion of the tallow into rivers of oil, so that the drip of four candles would buy a new one.

The school of Arts at Guadalajara, Mexico, has four hundred pupils. As the students work, it costs but nine cents a day to support each of them, of which the municipality pays six and a quarter cents. The remainder is obtained from rents of property belonging to the school.

MAGIC LANTERNS.

AT  
COST PRICE.



AT  
COST PRICE.

HEARN & Co.

WILL CLEAR OUT THEIR SEASON STOCK AT THE ABOVE AT A GREAT REDUCTION FROM REGULAR PRICES. N. B.—A BONA FIDE CLEARING OFF. CALL AND SEE.

ORDNANCE LANDS. DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE. OTTAWA 30th NOVEMBER, 1869.

**SEIGNIORY OF SOREL.** PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that up to the 15th day of January next (1870.) Tenders will be received at this office for the purchase of the *rentes constituées* or ground rents of Lots in the Town of William Henry, and in the County parts of the Seigniorie of Sorel.

The Annual amount of the above *rentes constituées* is \$2,200, or thereabouts, representing at 6 per cent. a capital sum of \$36,000, or thereabouts.

Parties tendering will name a block sum as the price offered—One-third to be paid down on signing deed; one-third in two years from that date, and the remaining one-third in four years from the same date, with interest at the rate of six per cent. until payment of unpaid balance.

Purchaser will also be expected to furnish good and sufficient security for the perfect payment of instalments outstanding and unpaid, and for the performance of all the conditions of sale. The Department does not bind itself to accept any of the tenders which may be made.

Further information may be obtained on application at this Department, where Plans of the Seigniorie may be seen, and also at the office of James Armstrong, Esq., Q. C., at Sorel.

HECTOR L. LANGEVIN, Secretary of State.

CHAS. ALEXANDER & SON, 391, NOTRE DAME STREET, MONTREAL. CONFECTIONERS WHOLESALERS AND RETAIL. MARRIAGE BREAKFASTS. SUPPER PARTIES. MADE DISHES.

All Kinds of Grocer. Chocolates, Caramels, French Cream Goods. LUNCHEONS, COLD MEATS, TEA AND COFFEE, From 10 A. M. to 6 P. M.



LAMB'S WOOL UNDERCLOTHING, White and Shetland. HAND-KNIT SCOTCH HALF HOSE. HAND-KNIT do. KNICKERBOCKER HOSE, for Snow-Shoeing. FLANNEL SHIRTS, all sizes and qualities, WHITE SHIRT COLLARS, NECK-TIES, &c., &c. P. T. PATTON & CO., Importers and Manufacturers, 415, NOTRE DAME STREET, cor. ST. PETER.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ARTHUR having graciously permitted the publication of the PORTRAITS

TAKEN OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS At my Studio, on October 9, I have much pleasure in notifying the Public that they are now on view and for sale in *Cartes de Visite*, Cabinet, and 9 x 7 Photo-Relievo, with an assortment of suitable Frames for the same.

WM. NOTMAN, PHOTOGRAPHER TO THE QUEEN,

MONTREAL, OTTAWA, TORONTO, AND HALIFAX.

Orders by Post will now receive PROMPT ATTENTION.