

OUR ENGRAVINGS

shown in our engraving is a typical one of our winter scenery; and the imposing dome of St. Peter's Cathedral in the distance adds a charm to the view.

TOTEM POLES AND HOUSES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA INDIANS.—These illustrations represent the totem poles (or tribal emblems) and huts seen in certain Indian villages in Vancouver and Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C. The villages are those of Alert Bay (north coast of Vancouver) and Skidegate and Massett on Graham Island, the most northerly of the Queen Charlotte group. The inhabitants of Alert Bay belong to the Kwakwaka'wakw people, and are of the Nimkish tribe; those of the Queen Charlotte villages to the Haida Indian nation. Much similarity exists between the Kwakwaka'wakw and the Haida tribes. On the special subjects of our illustrations, the curved totem posts and houses, we cannot do better than quote from the writings of Dr. G. M. Dawson, of the Geological Survey, who has made a special and minute study of the two races. Speaking of the homes of the Kwakwaka'wakw people, he says:—

The villages consist usually of a single row of

are not nearly so numerous nor so large or artistic in design as among that people. Such examples of posts of this kind as occur are almost invariably separate from the houses, and no instance of a carved post forming the door of a house was seen in any of the villages. These carved posts are divided by the Indians into two classes, those outside the house being named *tlau-s*, those inside the house *tlau-elh*. Carved posts of the last named kind, generally those which support the ponderous main beams of the roof, are rather common in the Kwakwaka'wakw village. The designs are frequently grotesque and the carving generally very rude. The ends of the main beams which project at the front of the house are also not unfrequently carved. Large painted designs, generally in black and red, though often with the addition of blue and other colours, are common in the fronts of houses. These are the usual conventional or heraldic style-involved, but often neatly executed. Such designs include the thunder-bird, the monsters *Tse akish* or *Si-si-ootl*, salmon, whales, "coppers," etc.

And in writing of the Haida race he describes their villages as follows:—

The villages are not infrequently on bleak, exposed rocky coasts or islands, though generally placed with care, so as to allow of landing in canoes even in stormy weather. The houses may stand on a flat, elevated a few feet above the high tide mark, and facing seaward on a sandy or

gravelly beach, on which canoes can be drawn up. The houses are arranged side by side, either in contact or with spaces of greater or less width between them. A space is left between the fronts of the houses and the edge of the bank, which serves for a street, and also for the erection of the various carved posts, and for temporary fish-drying stages, etc. Here, also, any canoes are placed which it is not desired to use for some time, and are carefully covered with matting and boughs to protect them from the sun, by which they might be warped or cracked. As a rough average, it may be stated that there are at least two carved posts for each house, and these, when the village is first seen from a distance, give it the aspect of a patch of burnt forest with bare, bristling tree stems. The houses themselves are not painted, and soon assume a uniform inconspicuous grey colour, or become green or overgrown with moss and weeds, owing to the dampness of the climate. The cloud of smoke generally hovering over the village in calm weather, may serve to identify it. Two rows of houses are occasionally formed, where the area selected is contracted. No special arrangement of houses according to rank or precedence appears to obtain, and the house of the chief may be either in the centre of the row or at the end. Each house generally accommodates several families, in our sense of the term; which are related together, and under the acknowledged guidance of the elder to whom the house is reputed to belong, and who is really a minor chief, of greater or less importance in the tribe or village, according to the amount of his property and number of his people. In front of one or more of the principal houses platforms are often found, on which a group of people may be found squatting in conversation or engaged in their interminable gambling game. The forest of carved posts in front of the village, each of them representing a great expenditure of property and exertion, doubtless presents to the naked eye a grand and awe-inspiring appearance and brings to the mind a sense of probably mysterious import, which possibly does not in reality exist. Behind the dwelling houses, or toward one end of the village and not far removed from it, are the small houses or sheds in which the dead are placed, or pairs of posts supporting a hollowed beam which contains the body.

It must be borne in mind that the above interesting details are of races which are fast dying out and will soon become extinct. The study of their history and of their modes of life are therefore well worth the close attention of our literary and scientific people.

A SCENE ON THE RICHELIEU.—Of the many beautiful views about Sorel, few excel that to be obtained on a bright day in the late autumn from the western shore of the Richelieu near its junction with the St. Lawrence. At that time of the year most of the river steamboats are laid up for the winter, and their home until the next spring being just inside the mouth of the Richelieu, the scene is an uncommon one.

The Penny Postage Jubilee is very suitably signalized as an event worthy of honour by Mr. William Westoby's Descriptive Catalogue of all Postage Stamps of the United Kingdom and Ireland" (Sampson, Low & Co). This is a book that should appeal to many readers who are not ardent philatelists. It is full of curious information and admirably illustrated.



MRS. E. SPENCER LARGE.

houses ranged along the edge of the beach and facing the sea. The houses are generally large, and are used as dwelling places by two or more families, each occupying a corner, which is closed in by temporary partitions of split cedar planks, six or eight feet in height, or by a screen of cloth on one or two sides. Each family has, as a rule, its own fire, with cedar planks laid down near it to sit and sleep on. When, however, they are gathered in the houses of smaller and ruder construction, at summer fishing places, etc., a single fire may serve for a whole household. The household effects and property of the inmates are piled up round the walls, or stowed away in the little cupboard-like partitioned spaces at the sides or back of the house. Above the fire belonging to each family is generally a frame of poles or slips of cedar, upon which clothes may be hung to dry, and dried fish or dried clams are stored in the smoke. Eating is a perpetually recurring occupation, and smoke appears to ooze out by every chink and cranny of the roofs of the large houses, the whole upper part of which is generally filled with it. The houses of the Kwakwaka'wakw are not so large or so well constructed as those of the Haida, though if Vancouver's representations of them are to be accepted as accurate, they are more commodious and better built than in his time. The introduction of metal tools may have produced a change of that kind. Wood-carving is practised, but not so extensively as among the Haida, and carved totem-posts

MRS. E. SPENCER LARGE.—The lady whose likeness appears in this week's issue is the widow of the late Rev. T. A. Large, B.A., whose death at the hands of murderers in Tokyo, Japan, on the night of the 4th of April, 1890, has not yet been forgotten by the Canadian public. Mrs. Large was born in Toronto, and is the daughter of the late Rev. Jas. Spencer, M.A. Before entering the mission work in Japan, Mrs. Large had been for several years engaged in teaching in Manitoba. She taught in the Methodist College in Winnipeg, also in St. John's Ladies College. She organized and taught the first public school in the town of Selkirk, Man. Successful as she was in this, it was not what she desired as her life work, and when the call came for her to enter the mission work she gladly responded. Leaving her home in Paris, Ont., in January, 1885, she arrived safely in Japan, and on February 26 entered upon her duties as principal of the Ladies College in connection with the Methodist mission in that land. The success attendant upon her labours in this school shows how eminently qualified she was for the position. In the summer of 1887 she was married to the Rev. T. A. Large, M.A., who was a teacher in the Boys' College in connection with the same mission. The incidents of the terrible tragedy which resulted in the death of Mr. Large and the severe wounding of his wife have been published too recently to need retelling here. Suffice it to say that Mrs. Large at that time and since displayed a Christian heroism and bravery that called forth the deepest admiration and sympathy for her wherever the tidings of the tragedy were known. As soon as her strength permitted, Mrs. Large returned to Canada on a year's furlough, accompanied by her infant daughter, a bright little girl of two years. Mrs. Large bears the marks of the struggle with her husband's murderers in the form of a deep scar down the right side of her face and the loss of two fingers of her right hand. The shock to her nervous system was so severe that she has only partially recovered from it as yet. It is her most earnest desire to regain her strength so that she may return during the coming summer to Japan and enter again upon the work to which she is devotedly attached, and spend her life, if possible, in the land made sacred to her by the death of her beloved husband.

THE MOAT, ISLE-AUX-NOIX.—In previous numbers of this journal (Nos. 126 and 128) are given illustrations and full particulars of this now deserted fortress. We now present a good view of a corner of the moat, at the southern end of the island. The fort is completely surrounded by this broad ditch, which would prove of considerable value in assisting to resist an attack.

SCENE ON THE NANAIMO RIVER, B.C.—This beautiful stream forms the outlet for Nanaimo Lake, a small sheet of water in Vancouver Island, and runs into the Gulf of Georgia. The river is noted chiefly for its proximity to the busy little city of Nanaimo, now well known for its coal mining industries. Nanaimo has a population of from 5,000 to 7,000; it possesses churches of every denomination, public schools, and institutions usual to every city. There is a large and excellent harbour, and immense quantities of coal are carried to all coast points and to many foreign ports. It is 70 miles from Victoria, and has rail connection with that city.

WINTER VIEW IN BELMONT PARK, MONTREAL.—This quiet little park is a veritable *rus in urbe*, and we think that we are safe in saying that its existence is practically unknown to strangers. It is private property, conveniently situated at the end of Belmont street, and contains a number of beautiful private residences of that substantial type adopted in the better class of Montreal houses. The view