

1874.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

The month of December of this year closes the eighth volume of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, under the most favourable auspices. The paper has not only retained the success which it enjoyed from its inception, but it has gone on adding to its popularity, and, at the beginning of a new year, finds itself with a large and

STEADILY INCREASING CIRCULATION.

This state of things is so far satisfactory that we have been encouraged to introduce new and important improvements both in the management and editorial composition of the paper. Henceforward, particular attention will be given to

REGULAR DELIVERY,

so that newsdealers in all parts of the Dominion will be punctually served, and readers may rely upon having their paper in good time, every week. Experience shows that, while this country is well provided with a daily press, there is an ample field for the development of weekly family papers, which shall embrace, besides the usual amount of literary matter, a comprehensive account of the current events of the day. It is our ambition to take rank with the best weekly papers of Britain and the United States, in both ability and influence, and our new arrangements to compass this end are complete. Our political course will be, as usual, independent and non-partisan.

LITERATURE,

in its lightest and most attractive phases, such as serials, short stories, sketches, and poetry, will receive unremitting attention; and an immense variety of miscellaneous matter will be furnished in every issue.

The specific character of the paper will be maintained in the department of

ILLUSTRATIONS.

We have every facility for producing them in a style that defies competition. Besides the pictorial representation of interesting incidents all over the world, we shall continue our gallery of PORTRAITS of male and female celebrities. Occasionally an ART-PICTURE from one of the masters will be produced, and the periodical FASHION PLATE will appear at appropriate seasons. It is intended also to make a specialty of

CARTOONS,

setting off leading events of the day. These will be finished in a style of high art, and, from their historical interest, will form a collection worth preserving.

In addition, then, to a summary of current events, political intelligence, religious news, literary, scientific, and artistic progress, the readers of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS will have a weekly series of pictures and sketches so disposed as to promote, in the highest degree, the great desideratum of art culture.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1873.

In commenting, some three months ago, on the result of the evidence taken before the Royal Commission, and the then probable defeat of the Macdonald Ministry, we took occasion to favour the formation of a new party of young men, under the leadership of Mr. Blake. This idea has evidently germinated in the minds of others besides ourselves, and we find that some shape is being given it in the election for West Toronto. It may be well, therefore, to explain ourselves more fully on the subject. In the first place, what we suggested was not the creation of a third party, as distinctive from and antagonistic to the two great parties now dividing the state. In the present condition of things such party would have no *ratio essendi*. Experience further proves that whoever detaches himself from his own party, outside of a crisis, commits political suicide, as has been made manifest in the case of Sir Alexander Galt and the late Horace Greeley. Our idea was that the old Tory party, on the one hand, and the Rouge party, on the other, should be set aside, and two new parties of comparatively young men, who are strangers to the worn out disputes of ancient leaders, should be formed, taking the country as it stands to-day, and devoting themselves to its advancement from that point of departure. True to the conviction of the necessity of such parties, we attributed the downfall of Sir John A. Macdonald, in great measure, to his long tenure of office, and expressed our surprise that he should have been succeeded by the old party of the Opposition, as represented by Mr. Mackenzie, for Ontario, and Mr. Dorion for Quebec. It is not that we objected so much to Mr. Mackenzie on personal grounds, but we do object to Mr. Dorion, as the leader of the effete and anti-national Rouge party. That gentleman has long survived his usefulness, as he himself understood more than a year ago, when he announced his determination to retire from political life. The same objection holds with still more force in the case of Mr. Fournier and of Mr. St. Just. In Quebec, at least, if not in Ontario, there is need of new men, who are alive to the true interests of the country, and in harmony with the spirit of the times. There is reason to believe that the Ministry, as at present constituted, will be only transitional, and will be soon reconstructed according to the programme which we have announced. Theoretically, the party attempted to be formed in Toronto meets our view; but practically, we apprehend that its tendency will reach farther than its promoters imagine. A National party, with "Canada First" as its motto and pass-word, will naturally and gradually drift into opposition to British connection. In other words, its programme will be Independence. The sarcastic references of Mr. Howland, chairman of the Toronto meeting, to titles of honour conferred upon leading Canadians, and our "toadyism to English aristocratic usages," sufficiently indicate the bent in that direction. It were perhaps best for the new party to proclaim its ideas boldly, for no party can stand without clear-cut, palpable doctrines. The movement has to define itself more sharply before we can pronounce upon it. As it stands to-day, it does not conform to our ideal. The choosing of a well-known clear grit for standard-bearer in the contest for West Toronto, is an initial mistake which will unfortunately retard the progress of the new party, for the simple reason that it will create distrust in the sincerity of the leaders, and cast a mist over the principles by which they should be guided.

At an early period of Mr. Arch's stay among us, when he had already had more than one opportunity of stating the object of his visit and the terms upon which he was prepared to bring out a number of agricultural labourers, we expressed our grave doubts as to the success of his mission. We based our fears entirely on the fact that he looked too high and expected too much. "After due consideration," we said, "we are obliged to express our belief that Mr. Arch's mission in the United States, as well as in Canada, will turn out to be a complete failure. Mr. Bounderby's saying 'about the people wishing to be fed on turtle with a gold spoon' is true enough, but if the information we have received be correct, it not unsatisfactorily expresses Mr. Arch's desires as to the treatment his protégés are expected to receive on this side. He makes certain stipulations as to their treatment, &c., which will hardly meet with the approval of the employers, who are, in nine cases out of ten, men who have had to rough it when they commenced their career in this country, and will naturally expect that their employees will go through some portion of the hardships they themselves have experienced. This we think is the rock upon which Mr. Arch's chance of success will make shipwreck. He simply asks too much. We may have been misinformed, but unless we have, we fear that the cause of the English farm labourers will have gained nothing by Mr. Arch's advocacy." Our forebodings have only been too completely realized. Mr. Arch, as we have since learnt, came to Canada with grossly exaggerated, and, we may add, unwarranted ideas as to the comforts and ease that lay in store for those who are willing to turn their backs upon the old world and seek to build up their fortunes among us. He had evidently unaccountably become impressed with the notion

that this country was a new land of Cockaigne, where baked meats grow on the trees and ready cooked fish disported themselves in the streams. His eyes were speedily opened to the true condition of the country and the real state of the attractions that we have to offer to intending settlers. On his return home he published the results of his observations which it now turns out were far from favourable as to the advantages of Canada as a field for immigration. He found the country anything but a paradise, peopled by gaunt, bony, hard-fisted, hollow-cheeked men, thinking of nothing but dollars, with every bit of old English heart burnt, dried or frozen out of them. The life he discovered to be simply intolerable, all work and no play. This is in miniature the picture he sets before the men who delegated him to report upon the land, whether it be a good land. That his picture is much overdrawn, every one with anything more than a mere superficial knowledge of the country will admit. That Canada is no paradise we are all aware, but had we known in time that Mr. Arch was in search of such a resting place we should certainly have hesitated before attempting to interest him in our favour. The picture he draws of the country is so ridiculously overdrawn that comment is unnecessary. We do not share the fears expressed by some of our contemporaries that it will do us harm at home. The time is fast going by when Canada was a *terra incognita*, and we are convinced that we have friends enough at home who are both able and willing to counteract any false impression that Mr. Arch's report may produce. The land is a good land enough. Steady work, good wages, free land, free schools and liberal institutions, are no small inducements. And such inducements, Mr. Arch has more than once told us, are what the agricultural labourer requires. This brings us to another and a strange feature in connection with Mr. Arch's visit. During his stay in this continent he everywhere expressed his satisfaction with what he had seen. In Ottawa, Toronto, Paris and Boston his verdict was eminently satisfactory. One of his companions writing to the English press, says: "The farther we come west, the greater are the signs of material prosperity. Unlike England wealth appears to be distributed in almost equal proportions among all classes. Poor people seem to be unknown." How does this contrast with the condition of the class in whose welfare Mr. Arch is so strongly interested? And how comes it that once on the other side of the Atlantic he found it convenient to change his tone and decry the country he had so loudly lauded? And, further, what of his promise as to the settlement in Canada of the families he is to bring out next spring? Either Mr. Arch is convinced of the fitness of the country for settlement by the agricultural labourer, and is playing a double part, or he is acting with the wilful intention of deceiving the men who have confided their interests to his own care, and is about to bring out a number of settlers to a land which he believes to be unfitted for settlement. For ourselves we have no fear for the future of honest, hard-working men who may cast in their lot with us. The examples of successful industry are too frequent in our midst to allow of any doubt on that score. Mr. Arch notwithstanding, we are all of us convinced that a man who is not afraid of work will always have it in his power to attain a competence in Canada. Those who expect a paradise may look elsewhere.

A year which records the loss of five hundred passengers by the "Atlantic," and two hundred more by the "Ville du Havre," without including the numerous casualties which have occurred in different parts of the world, on the water, may well be set down as one of peculiarly unfortunate record. The loss of the French steamer was accompanied by circumstances of an uncommonly distressing nature. The vessel went down within twelve minutes after she was struck, and many of her passengers had not the time to leave their staterooms. Several may have gone down even in their sleep. If, in one view, this was a mercy, in another, it was a horror. Several who got into boats which might have saved them, were killed by the heavy masts falling over the side of the ship. Full particulars of the cause of the disaster are not yet known, but sufficient has been ascertained to demonstrate the alarming fact that not even the best constructed vessels can stand a perpendicular stroke at their centre line. It is admitted that the "Ville du Havre" was a highly improved model, not only furnished with all the modern appliances for security and strength, but specially contrived to stand a strain and a shock in her most vulnerable part. And yet a much smaller vessel, moving under sail, impinging on her amidships, broke her back at one stroke. It must be remembered, however, that the "Loch Earn" was iron-clad and armed with a steel prow, intended for encountering ice in the Canada trade. Had she been a wooden boat, there is no doubt that she would have sunk as rapidly as the "Ville du Havre." As it was, she was so badly injured as to be obliged to put to. An official investigation of the accident is to be made in France, and we shall be anxious to see how Frenchmen deal with maritime cases of the kind.

In a discourse recently given before the Liverpool Institute, Anthony Trollope took up the defence of novels and laid down the principle that they are the sermons of the present day. Every one reads them and learns from them lessons of