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## BENEATH THE WAVE.

This interesting story is now proceeding in large instalments through our columns, and the interest of the plot deepens with every number. It should be remembered that we have gone to the expense of purchasing the sole copyright of this fine work for Canada, and we trust that our readers will show their appreciation of this fact by renewing their subscriptions and urging their friends to open subscriptions with the NEWS.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Feb. 15, 1879.

### THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

By the time that the present issue of this journal shall have reached all its readers, the first session of the fourth Parliament of Canada will have been opened, a Speaker will have been chosen, the Speech from the Throne will have been delivered, and all the preliminaries of legislative work will have been laid before the country. With the single exception of the first session of the first Parliament, in the memorable year of Confederation, twelve years ago, the present session must be regarded as the most remarkable and the most momentous in its expected results. In the first place, there is the presence of the son-in-law of the Queen, in the character of Governor-General, and that of a daughter of Her Most Gracious Majesty, as his companion and supporter. There is no exaggerating the importance of this circumstance, either from a spectacular point of view or as an event in Colonial annals. Then there is the appearance of a Ministry, new in one sense, but familiar in another aspect, as containing the names of men who were nearly all concerned with the great Act of Confederation, and who ruled the country for over six years after the inauguration of that measure. A further circumstance of special interest is that these men are once more in power, after a revolution in public opinion almost unparalleled in the records of popular government, and are the exponents of a policy which is destined to exert the most profound influence on the future of the Dominion. In addition, the present Parliament will contain more new and untried men than ever came together in any of our previous legislatures. It appears that, out of a total of 204 members, no less than 73 have never sat in Parliament before, and 18 did not belong to the last Parliament. As an offset to these, many old and well-tried public men will be missed on account of their absence. Conspicuous among them are BLAKE, YOUNG, DYMOND, the GIBBS, MITCHELL, LAFLAMME, PALMER, FRECHETTE, and JONES. Among the acquisitions are WHITE of Cardwell, IVES of Richmond and Wolfe, COURSOL and GAULT of Montreal, and others who have never sat in Parliament. But above the men the country is curiously interested in the policy of the Government, and that, if it achieves only one half of what is expected of it, will make a place for itself in our history. This policy, if we understand it aright, is not the policy of a party, but that of the country, and hence we do not expect that the Opposition will resist it to any great extent until it is fairly tried. At least, we do not believe that the Opposition are called upon to do so. In two or three years

from this, if it should prove a failure, the Opposition may make use of that circumstance to draw capital therefrom. In the meantime we hold that it is clearly the duty of patriotism to give the new theory of Protection full opportunity to develop itself. The people want it for the present and the people must be obeyed. It is plain to any outsider that the Conservative party, as such, could never have achieved the triumph of the 17th September by relying on and using its own resources. But it carried the day because party lines were completely broken asunder and a distinctively supreme commercial issue took the place of purely political questions. And if the Government are wise in reading the signs of the times, they will adhere primarily, if not exclusively, to these commercial issues. The country has clearly reached this stage that, now its political institutions are firmly established, it must lay the foundation of its commercial and financial future. The material must prevail for the time being over the æsthetic. And as every one of us, man, woman and child, is directly interested in this material prosperity, it is our duty to see that the Government do their duty in this respect, to the full limit of their mandate, and give them all loyal support in the execution of the duty. From this standpoint, which we believe to be the only sound one, we shall look with interest at all the proceedings of the present Parliament, and for that purpose shall give our readers a weekly summary of them.

### WINTER SPORTS.

We offer our readers to-day a double page of illustrations representing a snow-shoe tramp over the rugged mountain of Rouville or Belœil, under circumstances of a peculiarly grand and arduous nature. During the present glorious winter—one of the finest within the last decade, at least—we have had only one old-fashioned snowstorm, and that took place precisely on Saturday, January 25, the day on which the members of the Montreal Snow-Shoe Club had been invited to a steeplechase from Belœil Station to the Iroquois House, a well known hostelry, perched on the picturesque top of the most beautiful mountain in the Richelieu Valley. Not having been able to accept the polite invitation to be present at this interesting exhibition of pluck and skill, we had been promised a full account of it from another source to accompany the sketches of our artist's pencil. But this account having failed us at the last moment, we cannot do less than say a few general words to commemorate the occasion. There is no country where winter sports are so much indulged in as in Canada, and owing to the favourable quality of the climate, no portion of Canada where they reach a higher development than in this Province and city. We have athletic associations of all sorts, but none that are more characteristic and, we might add, more historic than the Montreal Snow-Shoe Club, which this winter is in the highest state of prosperity. The records of this Club are an honour to the metropolis, and are intimately associated even with its social relations. Among these records, few will be found more interesting than that which we illustrate in the present issue. A large deputation of the Club left the city by rail, on that tempestuous Saturday afternoon, reaching St. Hilaire after five o'clock. Immediately the race was organized and in the blinding snowstorm, with every line of the horizon blotted out and no means of distinguishing either earth or sky, the sturdy trappers took to the mountain, breasting the hurricane and pushing for the summit. It would take too long to enumerate all the scenes which took place on this adventurous journey, and we must content ourselves with saying that the goal was reached in safety, the steeplechase having been a complete success. Of course the reward went to the winners in

the shape of medals and cups, and to all in the form of a generous banquet offered by the enterprising managers of the Iroquois Hotel. After spending the best part of a memorable night on the mountain, the party returned to the city on the Sunday morning thoroughly delighted with their outing.

### LORD BEACONSFIELD'S TRIUMPH.

After two long years of disquietude and alarm the weary world at last obtains a breathing time, if not a prolonged period of rest. The moment is, therefore, opportune for considering how it has come to pass that Great Britain emerges on this occasion so triumphantly from the perplexities and perils with which the cosmopolitan situation was environed by the grasping ambition of a single Power. What has Russia gained? What has England lost? How chances it that the northern Colossus has been baffled at every point, in spite of lavish expenditure in blood and treasure, by the little Isles of the West? It cannot be denied that the former has been thwarted in all her objects. For whether she really entertained a desire to found a single Slav kingdom in European Turkey, or was tempted to her professedly philanthropic crusade by motives of self-aggrandisement, she has utterly failed. True, Turkey has suffered a considerable alienation of territory, but very little passes into the ownership of her assailant. Russia is richer only by some limited tracts of chiefly marsh land in Bessarabia, and by a small slice of barren Armenia. What has been the cost of these paltry gains? Surely, out of all proportion to their intrinsic value. In the first place, an acknowledged loss of 180,000 trained soldiers; secondly, an accumulation of debt to be reckoned in hundreds of millions sterling; thirdly, commercial paralysis and dangerous discontent within her own borders; lastly, the complete sacrifice of the predominating influence at Constantinople which previous Russian Governments had considered the surest means for eventually cooling the feet of Cossacks' horses in the sunlit waters of the Bosphorus. It is also palpable that the Berlin Treaty, being a compact entered into by all the Great Powers, is better adapted to keep the Muscovite legions north of the Danube, than the arrangements it has superseded. The independence of the new State of Bulgaria will be under a solemn European guarantee, and a similar footing is more or less accorded to the surrounding principalities and to Roumelia. The road to Constantinople is thus barred far more effectually than when only Roumania stood between Russia and her prey, while the Roumanians themselves are not likely to repeat the experimental venture as allies of Russia. Turning to the far East, the St. Petersburg government has absolutely no gains to set against its losses. But for the foolhardy despatch of a Russian Mission to Cabul, England might have long wanted a justification of strengthening her frontier at the cost of Afghanistan. It is on official record that after the failure of Sir Lewis Pelly's Mission, Lord Lytton had determined to maintain an attitude of "vigilant reserve," and he steadfastly adhered to this resolve until the appearance of General Abramoff at Cabul brought matters to a crisis. Instantly the Viceroy availed himself of the opportunity to meet England's old foe on this ground, and once more Russia had to submit to a loss of prestige, while her great Asiatic rival set about acquiring such a position as would give India the power of striking if need be, instead of merely defending herself against assault. Should complications hereafter arise between England and Russia in Europe or Asia Minor, it will be the former Power, and not the latter, that will threaten attack in Central Asia, a very great and happy change compared with the situation previous to the reception of the Russian Mission by Shere Ali.

Having thus summarised, as impartially as possible, the gains and losses of Russia during the last two years, I will now essay a similar task on behalf of England. To begin with the cost. In the first place, there was the expenditure of six millions to place the army and navy in a condition of efficiency for immediate active service. This sum is not, however, altogether lost, as a considerable proportion was expended on ships, guns, stores, small arms, and ammunition which still remain on hand, and which will help to reduce future estimates. Say that a rebate of a million from the gross expenditure ought to be fairly allowed on this head, we may reasonably calculate that England's share of the Afghan war expenses will be virtually defrayed out of the six millions. Coupling England and India together, therefore, I estimate that the total cost of checkmating Russia in Europe and Asia, and of securing a virtually impregnable frontier for Hindostan, will not really amount to more than seven millions sterling to the two exchequers, after due allowance has been made for surplus ships and war materiel in hand. A trifling sum certainly, compared with the prodigious expenditure of Russia, but not so microscopic as our hopes in the field look by the side of hers. Up to the present moment the list of casualties in Afghanistan does not amount to more than about 200 killed and wounded, and it may be reasonably hoped that even when every allowance is made for climatic exigencies, the total loss of life at the end of the campaign will not exceed 1,000, or 180th part of the Russian holocaust. Seven millions sterling and say a thousand lives at the outside will be the gross expenditure

of Great Britain on the re-settlement of affairs in the West and East, in accordance with her Imperial interests. What has she gained? Much, every way. In the first place, she has regained that preponderating influence in the councils of the world which had been so grievously impaired by the blind adherence of successive Liberal Governments to a policy of selfish isolation. Under that ill-starred régime England was made to say to the Continent, "Your affairs have no concern for me, and you need not, therefore, expect me to interfere, come what may." The Continent naturally took her at her word, and whenever any Liberal Foreign Minister presumed to offer friendly advice to a great Power he was usually told, in polite phraseology, to mind his own business, as the matter in question could not concern a Power bent on maintaining an attitude of isolation. Our suggestions were laughed at, our influence derided, our power made a mock of in those days, whereas now the first question of every foreign court, at critical moments, is "What line will England take?" Prince Bismarck is said to have remarked, at the termination of the Berlin Congress, that Lord Beaconsfield had re-created Turkey. In a certain sense, the Prime Minister may with equal truth be credited with having re-created England; that is, re-created her as a great Power entitled to exercise immense influence in the affairs of the world. By itself, this splendid success would be well worth every farthing spent, every life lost by our country during the last two years. But we have gained many other valuable prizes. Whose influence is predominant at Constantinople? England's. Whose authority is beginning to be recognized as paramount from the Levant to the Persian Gulf? England's. In whose hand now lies the command of the only alternative road from Europe to India, besides the Suez Canal and Cape routes? In England's. Who has obtained possession of a Mediterranean island which contains in itself all the essentials for a strategical position of the first class? England. What Power has just shown to Asia that she will suffer no rivalry in the neighbourhood of her Eastern dominions? England. Finally, whose prestige stands on the very highest pinnacle, from the frozen forests of contented Canada to the sweltering plains of burning Bengal? England's men used to speak with awe about the dark shadow cast by Russia over half the world; they now talk without fear of the more beneficent and wider shadow of the mighty British Empire. The change is simply marvellous, and yet it has been wrought in only two years, at no larger expenditure than some half-dozen millions of money and a couple of hundred of lives.

Then comes a question to which England, if she has any sense of gratitude, any desire to steer clear of future pitfalls, will do well to give heed. Who was the magician to work this miracle, and what means has he employed? I do not desire for a moment to depreciate the value of the loyal services he has received from his colleagues, but the world by common accord has recognized the Prime Minister as the master spirit of the Cabinet. Whether it was praise or blame that befel any Ministerial proceeding, whether the Opposition howled or the Conservatives puzzled, Lord Beaconsfield was the recipient of all favours. By what means, then, has he succeeded in so completely baffling Russia and aggrandising Great Britain? The question is of immeasurable importance, because upon its correct solution depends in a great measure the continuity of England's present greatness when there is no longer a Lord Beaconsfield at the helm of State. If we can discover the instrumentality by which he has compassed such grand and glorious objects, the same means might be resorted to under similar circumstances hereafter, thus constituting an integral portion of our national policy. It may seem unduly venturesome in one who does not affect, as some have done, to know the innermost secrets of the master mind which now guides the destinies of England, but I think I discern something like an appropriation of Russia's most potent weapon by Russia's most skilful opponent. To my way of looking at the past two years and their momentous events, the Prime Minister appears to have gained the victory solely through tenacity of purpose, the very element of strength which has always characterized Muscovite policy. Beaten back a score of times from some coveted object, Russia always returns to the attack in the long run, and history shows that her unswerving resolution has generally managed to attain its ends. Taking a leaf out of the enemy's book, Lord Beaconsfield has opposed the tenacity of purpose and of will to this fixity of resolve. However tortuous might be the windings and turnings, the shifts and stratagems of Prince Gortschakoff, however vile the misinterpretations and calumnies of a portion of the English press, the Prime Minister held on the even tenor of his way, without turning aside by a single inch. His purpose was to safeguard the interests of the mighty Empire under his charge, in some fashion which promised a fair measure of permanence; his resolve was, to carry out this purpose at any costs, even that of a general war. Both resolve and purpose possessed a Russian tenacity, and Prince Gortschakoff at last found himself "hoist with his own petard." I am getting a very "old boy" now, and my limbs are not so supple as when I used to stalk the graceful ibex amid the snowclad peaks of bleak Tibet; but "old boy" as I am, I would dance a lively fandango in honour of Lord Beaconsfield at those splendid achievements of his which have raised our dear country to the topmost pinnacle of glory.