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THE DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY;  
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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1874.

THE DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.

The Engraving, Printing and Publishing business founded and heretofore carried on by G. E. Desbarats, will henceforth be continued by a Joint Stock Company under the above title. This Company, which will shortly be incorporated by charter under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada, has acquired the property of "The Canadian Illustrated News," "The Favorite," "The Canadian Patent Office Record and Mechanics' Magazine," "The Dominion Guide," "L'Opinion Publique," and other publications issued by G. E. Desbarats, also his Patents, in Photo-typing, Photo-lithographing, Electro-typing, etc., and the good-will of his large Lithographic and Type Printing Business.

The Company proposes to build a magnificent structure in a conspicuous and convenient locality in this City, where the business can be permanently established on a footing second to none of its kind in America.

Meanwhile, the ample Capital at its command will enable it to push the existing business to the utmost extent compatible with its present location; to improve the above mentioned publications in every particular, and to satisfy its customers, as to promptness, style of workmanship, and moderation in prices.

The Patronage of the enlightened Canadian Public in every part of the Dominion is solicited for this new Company, which will strive to build up a business alike beneficial and creditable to Canada.

Two of the most extraordinary arguments ever used against any candidate for Parliamentary honours were advanced last week in London, Ont., against the return of the independent candidate. It was objected, in the first place, that Major Walker, the gentleman in question, was an emigrant, that he had not been born in the country—and that by implication he was not a fit and proper person to represent in the Dominion Parliament the free and independent electors of the city of London. This is certainly a novel feature in election tactics, and one which is anything but creditable to those who have introduced it. It savours rather strongly of Know-Nothingism. Are we to understand that this is the kind of policy the Liberal Conservatives of London desire to introduce? We are in the habit of priding ourselves on the freedom which every immigrant to this country is able to enjoy, and to boast that however poor and humble the newcomer may be, there is no political office to which he may not in time aspire. It seems however that, in London, on a *chan, é tout cela*. A new qualification is to be introduced. The man who aspires to political honours must be, in order to win the confidence of the electors, a native Canadian. In future no foreigners need apply. Our friends in London seem determined to do away with the cause of the reproach that there are no Canadians—plenty of English, Scotch, Irish, and French, but no Canadians. The taunt can no longer be thrown in their teeth. We are to be native Canadians, or to count for nothing. Intending immigrants are requested to take notice, and to lay their plans accordingly. The second objection that London Know-Nothingism brings forward against the candidature of Major Walker, is, if it be possible, even more ridiculous than the first. It is gravely urged by some sapient individual that Major Walker has never been alderman of the city of London—once more by implication, that no one who has not had the honour of sitting in the municipal council of his particular city or town is capable of properly attending to the interests of the people whom he may desire to represent in Parliament. Major Walker very happily replied to this logical specimen by stating that he found that many respectable citizens have no desire to be aldermen of the city of London, because its affairs have got into a miserable condition in consequence of the pernicious influence exerted over them by the Hon. John Carling. What the nature of that influence may have been we are not prepared to say. But if we may judge of the Forest city by what we know of other cities in the Dominion we might possibly be able to give a shrewd guess. From what we have seen we should decidedly prefer to send as our representative to

Ottawa a man whose education has not been finished in the council room of a great Canadian city. However there is no accounting for tastes, especially tastes that have been vitiated by the pernicious doctrines of Know-Nothingism.

The elections have been carried on with a great deal of spirit, and no little acrimony. We distinctly anticipated this, in an article published a fortnight ago, but we confess it was with a lingering hope that our prophecy would not be literally fulfilled. In Ontario, more particularly, the violence of partisan passion may be said to have raged like a whirlwind and some of the scenes enacted, both at the polls and during the canvass, were a positive disgrace to civilized men. In this matter, both sides were about equally to blame, and indeed they seemed to vie with one another in abuse and billingsgate. Now, that the elections are over in the main, however, it is to be hoped that, as usual, a better feeling will prevail and that the public men who have been treated as common blackguards will regain something of the respect due them. The general result of the elections, beyond the fact that the government have obtained a fair working majority, it were premature to discuss in the present issue. But one or two of our provisions have been remarkably realized. As we foresaw, the Pacific Scandal, upon which the Ministerialists made the issue hinge almost exclusively, was really not heeded to any great extent by the electors, and they recorded their votes in pretty much the old humdrum style of party prejudices and personal leanings or antipathies. We foretold, in the next place, that the ultimate result of the elections would not differ materially from that of the campaign of 1872. This too has proved to be the case. The governmental majority is more nominal than real. Fair play and fair trial have been the catch-words by which many so-called Independents have secured their seats. But these men who are claimed as supporters by the Ministerial papers, will not and, indeed, cannot show their true colours until Parliament meets and the government come down with their measures. If these measures are good, they will be sustained by that majority; if their measures are merely tentative, dubious or positively bad, that majority will fall back, in a rush, on the main body of the opposition. All, therefore, rests with the government. They have not a majority upon which they can rely *a priori*. All they can confide in is a certain amount of expectant good-will. It remains with them to consolidate that majority by true statesmanship. Thus only can they maintain themselves in power. Mr. Mackenzie and his friends are on their trial. They have a splendid opportunity before them, indeed, but this opportunity is also an herculean task. They succeed a brilliant record of twenty-years of substantial, superior statesmanship. This they must perforce be tried by. This they must follow and if possible improve. We need scarcely add that we sincerely hope they may prove true to all their pledges and show themselves worthy of the confidence of their countrymen.

The return of Marshal Serrano to power is marked by an incident which will doubtless go far to increase his popularity and strengthen his government. We refer to the fall of Cartagena. The Intransigentes had maintained themselves in that stronghold for several months, resisting all the attacks of the Government forces by land, and capturing several of the Spanish ironclads. President Castelar caused the siege of the city to be prosecuted with the utmost vigour, and had he remained in office a few days longer, would have enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing his patriotic energy rewarded. But Serrano, with his usual good fortune, reaped what Castelar had sown. General Domínguez, a member of his family, on learning his accession, pushed the besieging operations with fresh vigour, and succeeded in presenting the keys of the Murcian capital as a trophy to the new President. But the downfall of Cartagena will have other beneficial results besides the enhancing of Serrano's prestige. It will prove a death blow to the intrigues and hostilities of the Intransigentes. That faction will now lose heart, and the subsequent surrender of Barcelona must add to their discomfiture. That will be a great point gained. All the forces in the country may now be directed against the Carlists. It is evident that so long as Don Carlos keeps an army in the mountains of Navarre, threatening the line of the Ebro, there can be no security for any government in Spain. Neither is it possible that the whole energies of its rulers or public men can be centred on the regulation of its long-neglected and sadly confused internal affairs. That Serrano has not the remotest sympathy with the Carlists admits of no doubt. Hence he will battle against them to the end, and thereby add both to his reputation as general and to his influence as chief of the Executive. The only disturbing element then remaining will be the Cuban insurrection, but this has a less direct bearing on the condition of the home government. There is, therefore, reason to believe that with the spring or early summer, events of a definite nature will take place in the Peninsula.

We wish we had Baron Pigott here; or at least that some of our magistrates would borrow a leaf from his book, and read a lecture therefrom to our street rowdies. The learned Baron has been conducting the Assizes at Birmingham, where he gave the street ruffians very plainly to understand that in all cases of street robberies with violence, he would have no

qualms of conscience in introducing the cat to the backs of those ruffianly scoundrels who have no respect for the lives of peaceable citizens. Mr. Baron Pigott also had a word for the police, and hinted to the authorities that in his opinion it was absolutely necessary to increase the police force, or else to dismiss the police, and put up notices in the town that certain localities are "dangerous after dark," in order to protect the public from the street ruffians who appear to be largely on the increase in provincial towns. Inefficiency, his lordship remarked, was as bad as no police. We wish some of our police authorities could be brought to see the beauty of the latter remark. We fear, however, that they are incapable of so doing. The charming indulgence with which they look upon the escapades of our street rowdies could only proceed from a sense of utter inability to restrain them or a most profound indifference to the nature of their own duties.

Help has come for suffering woman—all the way from Australia. A Mrs. Webb, of Melbourne, has published a pamphlet, entitled the *Woman's Advocate*, in which she recommends that a bill should be introduced into Parliament for establishing a widow's fund, contributed to by every husband, that no widow may be left destitute. Also a maiden's fund, to which all bachelors must contribute, that no maidens be left destitute after forty. The widowers, it seems, are to be a privileged class. While the unfortunate husbands and bachelors are groaning beneath the weight of an unpopular widow's and maiden's fund tax (maiden's fund is good) the jolly widowers will be having a good time generally. Such an Act as Mrs. Webb proposes would doubtless have the effect of swelling the marriage registries, but think what a premium it would offer on wife-murder. We shall be anxious to hear from the Women's Rights people on Mrs. Webb's proposal.

"A Carter" writes to one of the Montreal dailies reminding "the gentlemen engaged in the interest of the Liberal candidates that there are debts contracted by them to carters and others that were employed at Hon. John Young's election;" and informing them that unless these obligations are settled at once, the carters will "feel entitled to act as they may think proper." This is a new light. Fancy the mild and honest carter, the most free and independent of all the noble army of the free and independent, humbly demanding his fare, and claiming the right, in the event of his not getting it, of acting as he may think proper. There are chords in the human breast, as Mr. Guppy was wont to remark, and when they are properly touched, especially at election time and when the human is a carter, there is no knowing what amazingly plaintive notes they may yield.

There is a very damaging extract from a speech of Hon. Mr. Dorion, delivered in 1871. He states distinctly that he did not have faith in Confederation at its establishment, that he had no faith in it at the time he spoke and that the Pacific Railway was a useless enterprise, American railways being amply sufficient for the wants of the country. Not to put too fine a point upon it, a man professing such sentiments is not fit to be a member of the Privy Council of Canada. We hope that the gentleman will be called upon to explain or retract these very singular words.

A bill has been introduced into the United States House of Representatives to prevent the payment of the moiety of fines to informers. This is a step in the right direction. The employment of informers is only to be defused on the principle of the doubtful rule that the end justifies the means. Some people are fond of arguing that the informers are just as essential to the enforcement of the law as the detectives. Hardly so, we think. And as for comparing the two it would be as reasonable to compare a 'yaller dog' to a scenth hound.

Mr. Mackenzie's appearance at Hamilton on the 16th inst. was the signal for a most unseemly demonstration on the part of the free and independent. This was but enough in all conscience; but the local Reform paper made matters worse by making the Premier say that he 'sympathized with these disturbers in their want of good manners.' This is adding insult to injury. Or did Mr. Mackenzie really say so? He could not have meant it if he did.

Our front page cartoon gives the bad side of election contests. Elections are not, however, without their pleasant aspect, witness the action of "an Exeter voter" who has given one hundred guineas to the Devon and Exeter Hospital as 'a thank-offering for the victory of the Conservatives.' This is a Liberal-Conservative indeed, and we wish there were more like him.

The "You're a liar!"—'And you're another!' style of argument has been raging fiercely of late in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec—especially on the hustings and in the press. It has somewhat abated at present, but has broken out and is spreading rapidly in the Maritime Provinces.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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