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WATER POWER AT MAGOG,

and a beautiful double page steel engraving entitled

"FAR FROM HOME."

Canadian Illustrated News.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, SEPT. 12, 1874.

ELECTORAL CORRUPTION.

The Conservative papers are exultant. Some three or four cases of contested elections have been tried, in each of which there were produced the most palpable proofs of bribery and corruption on the part of Reform politicians. In Essex, McGregor's case was so bad that it was given up as hopeless before the trial was over and that member was unseated. In Marquette, poor Cunningham was shown to have been elected by fifty or more non-registered votes, and his doubly vacant seat was made over to his adversary. In Cornwall, the Postmaster-General appears to have meddled in no very creditable manner, and Mr. George Stephens was called upon, as President of the Cornwall Manufacturing Company, to lay a pressure on the workmen in his employ. In South Ontario a most damaging letter from Hon. John Simpson, Senator and President of the Ontario Bank, has been published, which, if authentic, is about the most impudent and disgraceful bit of electioneering ever attempted in this country.

With all these facts before them, it was too much to expect that the Conservatives would not set up a cry of contempt and triumph. Still, if instead of allowing themselves to be carried away by their feelings, they had consulted their judgment instead, they would perhaps have reserved their jubilation. The trials of contested elections are only just beginning. There are some fifty more to take place. In that number, fully half of the respondents are Conservatives, including Sir John A. McDonald himself. It is safe to say that by the time all the cases are disposed of, there will be as many Conservative members unseated as there will be Liberals. And it will be further proved that the same disreputable tricks, the same reckless attempts at intimidation, the same barefaced buying and selling, will have been resorted to by the former as by the latter. When the balance is struck, both parties will have to look each other honestly in the face and confess that in the matter of elections, at least, there is little or nothing to choose between them.

The Conservative party is under a cloud just now. The unfortunate Pacific Railway business and the miserable Tanneries' Land Exchange have sorely shaken the pillars of its strength and almost driven the public mind to obliviousness of the splendid services it rendered the country during an administration of twenty years. The party journals feel this, and hence their eagerness to seize upon every occasion to retaliate in kind upon their adversaries. The Reform party, on the other hand, has

started on a false and dangerous tack. When Mr. Blake, from his place in Parliament, proudly declared that he and his colleagues represented the party of purity and honesty, he raised an issue very embarrassing to his followers and very tempting to the criticism of his opponents. We regarded the statement as clap-trap at the time, and we regard it as such still. We know of nothing in the history of the party—taken as a whole—which could justify any one in pronouncing it a whit purer or more honest than the party which it has displaced. True it has no administrative delinquencies to account for, but that is because it was almost always in Opposition. But in its electioneering campaigns and in its parliamentary tactics, we have yet to learn that it behaved any better than its adversaries. If Mr. Blake had promised purity and honesty as the distinctive badge of his party in the future, the matter would be very different. We should then have hailed it as a good omen, and implicitly relied upon the pledge. The party is young in power, and has the sympathy of every independent voter. It replaces men whose official life was too long for the strain on human weakness, and whose purposes were gradually eaten into, as an old hulk is with barnacles. The present Government is able, and we believe that it is sincere in its determination to be upright. But it will increase the faith of us all in its integrity if it buries past issues, stops relying for support on abuse of its fallen enemies, and forces its Parliamentary supporters to give a better example of electoral purity than they have done in Essex, Cornwall and Marquette.

RIEL'S RE-ELECTION.

The free and independent electors of Provencher have again returned LOUIS RIEL to Parliament, whence he was expelled last session by a large majority. This news will take no one by surprise. The position held by the ex-Provincial President in the esteem of his fellow-countrymen did not permit of the slightest doubt as to the result of any election in which he appeared as a candidate. He is looked upon by the Métis as a martyr for their cause—doubly martyred by his expulsion from the Parliament in which he more than any other represented them and their interests. And he will acquire an additional hold upon them, an additional title to their sympathy and support, from the fact that the action of Parliament must infallibly be repeated during the coming session. Of this there can be no possible doubt. Unless Dr. Bown's appeal against RIEL's election is successful, the House of Commons will owe it to itself and to the country to repeat the verdict passed during its last session. Fortunately there will be no necessity for going over the wearisome and not always dignified procedure of last spring. The precedent then established will allow of a comparatively summary method of dealing with the matter. We are not informed upon what grounds Dr. Bown has based his appeal; but it is satisfactory to know, with the case of the Marquette election trial before us, that justice will be dealt out without fear or favour. Should the contestant's grounds be found sufficient, and the election reversed, a satisfactory termination of what promises to be a very tangled skein may be reached.

As to the action of Riel's constituents there can be but one verdict. They have undoubtedly shown a high spirit in a matter that they consider affected their rights. They look upon themselves as having been hardly treated, and are determined, with more inflexibility than reflection, to resent the treatment offered them. They are acting after their lights, and upon the advice and instigation of others, though totally regardless of the fact that by so acting, by flying in the face of Parliament, not to say by defying the accepted opinion of the majority, they are grievously injuring their own interests and placing themselves in a false position in the eyes of the world. It is at any time a difficult matter to induce an injured man to consider his wrongs in a calm and reasoning manner. The Métis would be more than human did they decline to resent the injustice under which they feel themselves to be labouring. But it is surprising that their leaders and advisers should have allowed themselves to be carried away by a flood of useless passion. The question of amnesty is one. The question of returning to Parliament an expelled member is another, and a very distinct one. No one can deny that RIEL was legally expelled, and that, as long as the sentence of expulsion hangs over him, he can never take his seat. It is also an undeniable fact, that whether it has been promised or no, an amnesty has not been granted. RIEL still stands in the position of an outcast, a man lying under the charge of murder. And it showed questionable prudence on the part of his advisers that they induced him to brave public opinion by standing for a second election. He has carried his point, but by so doing he has gained nothing. Should his election

be sustained, expulsion must necessarily follow, and the result will be that the constituency will suffer by being unrepresented. Knowing this, RIEL has by his action shown a marked want of public spirit. He has sacrificed the interests he is supposed to have most at heart to the sentiment of a section, and to his own overweening pride. Had he bent gracefully to public feeling, and shown a proper respect for the law and for the Commons, he would have done his own cause and the cause of the Métis incalculable benefit. By so doing he would have in great measure conciliated his enemies, and opened a way to the consideration and settlement of a vexed question the end of which it is difficult to predict.

BRAVE WORDS.

The Governor General has many qualities which endear him as a man and a ruler, but perhaps the gift which stands him in best stead is his facility of appropriate speech. In the lengthy tour just completed by him throughout Western Ontario, the Lakes and as far as Chicago, he was the recipient of multitudinous addresses, diverse indeed in local statement, but almost monotonously alike in iteration of sentiment. Yet his replies were remarkable for their variety and the ease with which he adapted himself to the circumstances surrounding him. His language was free from formality, frequently flavoured with delicate humour and, at times, elevated to the tone of genuine eloquence. But the speech delivered by him at the banquet of the Toronto Club was the crowning of all, and deserves the attention of the country, both for its masterly manner and the valuable information which it imparts.

Lord DUFFERIN, in giving a glowing account of his journey, testifies to the personal respect with which he was everywhere received and to the unmistakable proof which greeted his eyes of the happiness of the people in their individual prospects and the prospects of their country. But he takes even higher ground and declares that quite apart from the advantages to himself, his yearly journeyings through the Provinces will be of public benefit, as exemplifying with what spontaneous, unconcerted unanimity of language the entire Dominion has proclaimed its faith in itself, in its destiny, in its connection with the Mother Country, and in the well ordered freedom of a constitutional monarchy. He had no words to express the pride which he felt as an Englishman in the loyalty of Canada to England. Nevertheless, he should be the first to deplore this feeling if it rendered Canada disloyal to herself, if it either dwarfed or smothered Canadian patriotism or generated a sickly spirit of dependence. These are brave words, and, coming from the lips of a Governor General, they are fraught with a lesson of manliness and generous self reliance. Canadian loyalty is sometimes regarded with suspicion in Britain as needlessly exuberant and verging on fulsomeness. But when personally witnessed and officially examined into, as it has been by Lord DUFFERIN, we are pleased that it has been pronounced by so high an authority the legitimate outcome of a healthy æsthetic feeling, altogether compatible with political and even commercial independence.

In describing, with great and rapid strokes, the advantages of our political institutions, we wish we could be sure that the Governor General was not carried away by his enthusiasm and good will. He draws a picture of our government and its accessories, almost ideal in perfection, the effect of which it were ungracious to mar by even the hint of criticism. We can only hope that all he says may prove true and that the destinies of this Dominion may correspond in full to the details of his poetic prophecy.

There is one point, however, on which we agree with His Excellency. His observant eye noticed that the women of Canada are remarkably prolific and that the scriptural injunction, "increase and multiply" is scrupulously carried out even in the remotest settlements of the interior. This sensible conduct receives the approval of Lord DUFFERIN and thereupon he relates a capital anecdote which will be found in another column of the present issue. But Canadian reproduction is not sufficient for the increasing wants of the country and the Governor earnestly advocates the cause of immigration. He believes it to be a benefit to those who go and to those who remain, at the same time that it is the most effectual and legitimate weapon which labour can wield against capital. He fully recognizes the claims of Canada as a field for the emigrant. Wherever he has gone, he has found numberless persons who came here without anything, and have since risen to competence and wealth. He has met no one who did not gladly acknowledge himself better off than on his first arrival, and amongst thousands of persons with whom he has been brought into contact, none seemed to regret that they had come here. Let a man be sober, healthy and industrious; let him come out at a proper