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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, March 29, 1879.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

Any one who studies the signs of the times and observes the drift of opinion as well as the march of events in the Dominion, must come to the conclusion that we are about entering upon a new era. As we have had occasion to say several times previously, the elections of the 17th September were not the triumph of a party, but the expression of an overwhelming popular demand for a change in our commercial and fiscal policy. The writers or the speakers who fail to recognize this fact, must necessarily misinterpret the true condition of the popular mind as it stands to-day. If the Conservatives imagine that they have been restored to power simply for the purpose of carrying on the Administration of the country and distributing offices to their friends, they are very much mistaken. The gentlemen who are at present in power were put there for a well-defined purpose, and it is to their credit to say that they seem aware of the fact and ready to bear the responsibility which it entails. The last twelve years of the history of Canada are remarkable for two salient and overshadowing events—the Confederation of the Provinces in 1867, and the National Policy of 1879. The former defined and established our political institutions; the latter is intended to lay down our commercial future. On the merits of the Protective Tariff we are not required to write to-day, having given our ideas respecting it in the last issue of this journal; but what we mean to call attention to is the new direction which it opens out to the country. Of personal politics we have had a surfeit, albeit certain gentlemen persist in dragging them before the present Parliament; of local politics there has been more than enough and the tendency is to lessen them; of general politics there remains just enough to carry on the Administration of the country. What we want now is a Commercial Policy. We are called upon to cultivate and improve our material resources. These are great so far as known; but the indications are that they will be immense when we shall become fully acquainted with them. For the next ten years, we apprehend that we shall need very little politics outside of necessary routine, and have opportunity to devote ourselves to the development of our four great commercial interests—the field, the mine, the forest and the sea fisheries. These are our quadrilateral, mightier than the four famed fortresses of North-East Italy or the equally renowned citadels of Eastern Bulgaria which the Russians were powerless to batter down. They are the four corner stones of our wealth and well-being. These will give employment to thousands of willing hands; cause a vigorous circulation of money; stimulate a healthy immigration and procure the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people. Politically we are now virtually independent; in a few

years it is to be hoped that we shall achieve a commercial and industrial autonomy. The Mother Country has not begrudged the former, but rather facilitated it; she does not and will not impede the other, as is already evidenced by the official replies given to Lord CAMPBELL and Mr. BRIGHT. Neither have we cause to anticipate antagonism from our American neighbours. They were the first to congratulate us on the Confederation of our Provinces, which was a blow to all tendencies of annexation, and we believe they will readily acquiesce in our further efforts for commercial self-sufficiency, inasmuch as these are only an imitation of the course which they themselves pursued when they made a gigantic attempt to rise out of the slough into which the costs and ruins of the civil war had plunged them. We are not ISHMAELS raising our hands against the world, whose favour and co-operation we, on the contrary, most earnestly court, but Canada is a young country, possessing one-half of this immense continent, which it desires to cultivate and expand as much as possible. There is no fear of a false enthusiasm in this respect. Canada for Canadians is a proper and necessary programme, and if we are only true to ourselves, it will be carried out to a successful issue. To this end all classes of the country are expected to contribute, irrespective of the petty trammels of personal or provincial partisan claims.

NELSON AT QUEBEC.

Any incident, however trivial, connected with either the public career or the private life of the immortal hero of Trafalgar, must be of profound interest to Englishmen. By cumulation, any event of his history which has relation to Canada, must be doubly pleasant to Anglo-Canadians. Indeed, it is remarkable that Canada, above any of the British Colonies, has ever testified her admiration of the great Captain, as witness his column in Jacques Cartier Square, Montreal, erected by public subscription shortly after his death and which remains to this day one of the finest monuments ever raised to his honour. It is generally known that NELSON visited Quebec in 1782, as Captain of the *Albemarle*, and several anecdotes have been preserved of his relations there, notably an *affaire de cœur* with one of the belles of the Ancient Capital. Until very lately the favoured lady was supposed to be a Miss PRENTICE, a niece of the wife of MILES PRENTICE, formerly a sergeant of WOLFE's army who kept a small hostelry or house of entertainment, on the premises known as "The Chien d'Or," situated opposite the Government quarters on Mountain Hill, which were on the present site of the Provincial Parliamentary Buildings, previously the residence of the Bishop of Quebec under the French regime. In the March number of the *Rose-Bud Magazine*, however, Dr. HENRY H. MILES, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Province of Quebec, after having had access to a mass of reliable papers, professes to have found the true name of NELSON's Canadian love. On careful reading of the facts as set forth by this very competent antiquarian and historian, we are inclined to the opinion that he has happened on the solution of a very interesting problem and hence we are led to summarize his statements. Dr. MILES informs us that Miss MARY SIMPSON, daughter of JAMES SIMPSON, a cousin of JAMES THOMPSON, well known as the last Canadian survivor of WOLFE's expedition, and who died at the ripe age of 98, was a girl of marvellous beauty, and about sixteen years of age at the time of NELSON's visit to Quebec in September, 1782. They met under the hospitable roof of NELSON's mercantile friend, ALEXANDER DAVISON, and probably, before his departure, at the house of her father. Whether or not NELSON's attentions were favoured by her parents nowhere appears on record, but it is certain that he made a deep impression on her heart. The

following circumstance, however, prevented any further results. When the *Albemarle*, on the 14th October, was ready for sea, NELSON had gone to the river to the place where the men-of-war usually anchored; but next morning as Mr. DAVISON was walking on the beach, he saw NELSON coming back in his boat. On reaching the landing-place, the former anxiously demanded the cause of his friend's return. "Walk up to your house," replied NELSON, "and you shall be made acquainted with the cause." He then said: "I find it utterly impossible to leave this place without again waiting on her whose society has so much added to its charms and laying myself and my fortunes at her feet." Mr. DAVISON earnestly remonstrated with him on the consequences of so rash a step. "Your utter ruin," said he, "situated as you are at present, must inevitably follow." "Then let it follow," exclaimed NELSON, "for I am resolved to do it." The account goes on to say that a severe altercation ensued, but that DAVISON'S firmness at length prevailed over NELSON, who, though with no very good grace, relinquished his purpose and suffered himself to be led back to his boat. Thus NELSON sailed from Quebec, leaving his love behind him.

As a further clue to this lady's identity, Dr. MILES finds from ancient records that she was afterwards married and resided in London, and this is held to apply to the case of Miss SIMPSON, whereas it in nowise applies to Miss PRENTICE. At the time of NELSON'S visit, Sir FREDERICK HALDIMAND was Governor of Quebec. His secretary and aide-de-camp, Major MATTHEWS, was also a suitor for the girl's hand. After NELSON'S departure, this officer pressed her to marry him. But she refused. Having been sought by a Post-captain of the Royal Navy, she could not, she said, think of accepting any one belonging to the army whose rank was lower than that of Colonel. We confess that we see little in this incident, beyond the fact that Miss SIMPSON was a rather ambitious beauty. Later on, however, she accepted MATTHEWS, who had, in the meantime, become a Colonel and Governor of Chelsea Hospital, and, of course, went to live in England. Many years afterward, January 9, 1806, when writing of NELSON'S public funeral, this Mrs. MATTHEWS says the sight of such a scene "would be too much for my feelings, who mourns his immortal character not only as an irreparable national loss, but as a friend of my early life."

There are other points in Dr. MILES' paper of great interest to Canadians, and especially to Quebecers; but our space will not allow of further notice, and we must refer the reader to the magazine itself. We may mention, however, as a *paria*, that at the instance of the THOMPSON family, of Quebec, who have placed in the Doctor's hands a great many diaries, letters, and other papers, covering more than the second half of the last century, there is being prepared for the press a biographical sketch of JAMES THOMPSON, whose name is associated not only with the Conquest of 1759, but with that of the American siege of Quebec in 1775-76, where he was the first to find the body of MONTGOMERY under the snow at Pres-de-ville, procured his military burial, and treasured his sword, now one of the chief relics of Quebec antiquities. One word more in conclusion. We always thought that the present site of the Chien d'Or was the original site, whereas Dr. MILES places it in 1782 opposite the present Parliamentary Buildings, on Mountain Hill. Is our topographical knowledge of that locality at fault, as we suspect it is, or were there two Chiens d'Or?

PRIMITIVE CONSCIENCE.

It is a remarkable circumstance that, amid the many absorbing material questions of the day which should naturally occupy men's minds, there has probably never been a time when spiritual topics were more boldly and profoundly treated. We have had of late startling doctrines on

the Origin of Evil, the Existence of Hell, and Free Will, to say nothing of attacks, in a new light, on such cherished dogmas as the Inspiration of the Bible and the Sources of Revealed Religion. To all these one more has just been added by a writer in the *Popular Science Monthly* for March. The author, Mr. WARRING WILKINSON, comes out strongly against the belief that there is such a thing as a Primitive Conscience—that is, an innate and intuitive faculty of distinguishing right from wrong. Many of his arguments are ingenious and original, but the one that is absolutely startling is that which denies a primitive conscience to deaf mutes. That we are not misstating, or even exaggerating, we quote the following passage, to which we beg to call very particular attention:

Every article of the religious code in which we have been educated, and which we revere, has been or is violated without remorse among the peoples who sit in darkness, but who are supposed to have that intuitive faculty which makes the pagan a law unto himself. The vice of to-day is the virtue of yesterday; a disgrace in England is a dignity in Ashantee. The crowning glory and triumph of Christian grace is the shame of the red man's creed. Crimes against life, crimes against liberty, crimes against personal rights, crimes against chastity, crimes against nature, have all been sanctioned and justified by this infallible judge. The bitterest wars have been religious wars, where the contending hosts were stimulated and led on by conscience. The fiercest persecutions have been religious persecutions, where conscience stretched the rack and tightened the thumb-screws. The blood of the martyrs stains the skirts of every sect: Catholics have persecuted Protestants, Protestants have persecuted Catholics, and both have set their heel upon the Jew. Blood for blood is Hebrew as well as Indian law. The sin of stealing among the Spartans was in being caught at it. The severe Cato thought it right to yield his wife to his friend. Socrates sanctioned the prostitution of Aspasia by his daily intercourse and friendship. Gallraith says that among the Sioux, theft, arson, rape and murder are regarded as means of distinction. In Tahiti, while idolatry prevailed, the common animal instinct of maternal affection seemed lacking, so much so that Mr. Ellis, long resident there, says he never met a Tahitian mother who had not imbrued her hands in the blood of her offspring. It is not necessary to show that these crimes were ever considered right. It suffices that they were committed without remorse, without a feeling of wrongdoing. They are not instances of perverted conscience, but of no conscience, and the concurrent testimony of travellers is that the lower races have no moral sense. Mr. Dove says that the Tasmanians "are entirely without moral views" or impressions. Gov. Eyre says the Australians have no moral sense of what is just and equitable in the abstract, their only test of propriety being whether they are numerically or physically strong enough to brave the vengeance of those whom they may have provoked or injured. "Conscience," says Burton, "does not exist in Eastern Africa, and 'repentance' means regret for missed opportunities of mortal crime." Mr. Campbell observes that the Soors, an aboriginal tribe of India, are without moral sense.

After laying down these statements, the author continues:

Abbé Sicard says of the deaf mute: "As to morals, he does not suspect their existence. The moral world has no being for him, and virtues and vices are without reality." "The deaf and dumb," says Herr Eschke, of Berlin, an eminent teacher, "live only for themselves. They acknowledge no social bond; they have no notion of virtue. Whatever they may do, we can impute their conduct to them neither for good nor for evil." Herr Cesar, of Leipzig, corroborates this testimony. "The deaf and dumb," says he, "comprehend neither law nor duty, neither justice nor injustice, neither good nor evil; virtue and vice are to them as if they were not."

We wonder whether there is any truth in this, and should like to have thereon the views of some of our local specialists. Dr. PALMER, of the Brockville Asylum, and Mr. WIDD, of the Montreal Deaf-Mute Institution, might throw some light upon this extremely curious and interesting question.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

CLASSIC COSTUMES.—These are views of the new Grecian costumes now attempted to be introduced in England by Mrs. Pfeiffer, and of which we have already spoken to our readers.

THE WORTHINGTON CUP.—A number of sketches of this most important snowshoe event of the year are presented in the present issue, and a full account is given under a separate head in another column.

THE ZULU WAR.—We give several sketches connected with this hitherto disastrous campaign, the first representing an important cap-