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FERGUSON &amp; GREGORY.

Hamilton, July 1st, 1863.

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## THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, AUGUST 15, 1863.

### MEXICO; OR, 'CONQUEST CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE FINE ARTS.'

In one of the grimmest satires of the English language, De Quincy, added murder to the list of the fine arts. What that author's imaginary toad-in-the-hole and his associated artists did for murder the veritable Louis Napoleon is now doing for conquest. In his hands conquest is no longer the commonplace vulgar thing it was in the days of our fathers, when strong arms, courageous hearts and trusty swords, were all the instrumentalities deemed necessary for its successful execution. It is in fact a fine art, requiring a genius for tact and dexterity, or what Frenchmen call 'finesse.' Let us look at a sample or two, fresh from the hands of the great master of the art.

His Majesty sees with deep compassion a wronged and oppressed Italy; drifts into a war against his Imperial cousin, Francis Joseph of Austria about it; stops suddenly in the midst of a victorious career, with, as men suppose, a half-finished job on his hands; but mark the sequel. By a power called 'the irresistible logic of facts,' the Province of Savoy begins to gravitate towards France, and finally becomes a part of the Emperor's dominions. His Majesty meanwhile looks on with an air of innocent indifference, like that assumed by a mischievous schoolboy who has clandestinely 'caved in' your beaver with a snowball. The world is not deceived however; but the affair has been so neatly, so artistically managed, that no one has the heart to protest.

Mexico was the next country which offered the Emperor a field for the practice of his new art. At the outset the idea of conquest was of course solemnly repudiated, so much so, indeed, that England and Spain were induced to take part in the expedition, the ostensible object of which was simply to obtain payment of certain debts due by the Mexicans. A perfectly legitimate object it will be admitted. Suddenly and mysteriously England and Spain disappeared from the field of operations. No doubt to the intense delight of the Emperor. The Mexicans, brought to their senses by the persuasive power of French bayonets, at length concluded to make a virtue of necessity, offered therefore to satisfy the claims which the Emperor had preferred. Now, in the hands of an ordinary artist, this might have spoiled

the whole plan. But Napoleon's ready resources were equal to the emergency. In addition to the original claim he now insisted on the cost of collection being also paid. Was not this perfectly legal? Dare any 'learned friend' answer no. So you see, the whole plan is working to a charm. 'Irresistible logic' is operating most effectually. It may readily be believed that this cost of collection item would be of a magnitude to make our sore pressed Mexican scratch his head in rather a dubious manner.

Failing then to get this second part of his claim satisfied, what must the Emperor do? Legal wisdom and 'irresistible logic' alike point a seizure of the debtor's property, and ample compensation for the trouble, as the only solution of the question. Thus step by step the conquest of Mexico has been most artistically effected. The whole plan was so cleverly laid and so admirably worked out, that those who acknowledged the justice of the first step could find no possible ground to cavil at the one which were subsequently taken. The Monroe doctrine of course uttered a few swaggering threats; but on the whole—considering its pretensions—was wonderfully quiet. Perhaps from being kept rather busy at home, and having withal a curious weakness in favor of despotic government.

Except for the purpose of keeping His Majesty's hand in practice, we do not see that his elaborate plans for the conquest of Mexico were at all necessary. Had he openly avowed his object at the outset, it is not likely that any energetic protest would have been made by other nations. When either nations or individuals persist in making themselves nuisances to their neighbors, it is no crime to accommodate them with a straight jacket or a prison, until returning sanity or strengthened moral sense wins back their forfeited liberty. The iron rule of a conqueror has a wonderful influence in harmonising the antagonistic elements of a society which is fast falling to decay through its own folly. This is what Mexico most needs.

What indeed is essential to her political and social regeneration, while she remains the prey of selfish factions, who recognise no way of settling their differences but by the sword, she can neither be a well governed country nor a desirable neighbor.

### A FEW WORDS TO THE NORTHERN CONTEMPORARIES OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Soon after the battle of Gettysburg and the fall of Vicksburg, that organ of the Prince of Darkness, the New York Herald, actively resumed that portion of its master's work which includes the bringing about of war between Great Britain and the United States. During the repeated reverses of the Federal arms, this paper was discreetly silent about its pet scheme for working out the 'manifest destiny' of the American people. With the first gleam of success, however, which breaks through the thick darkness, it gives a loose rein to its unmitigated devilishness, again raises its wild war whoop like a savage Indian thirsting for human scalps. Now, with the Herald itself, there is no Canadian writer foolish enough to remonstrate. We know too well that in order to influence its course, some far more tangible power than remonstrance must be brought to bear. But would a few words to the respectable contemporaries of the Herald be in vain. It is they and they alone who can counteract its pernicious influence. It is useless for any one here to tell our people that the Herald does not represent the sentiments of the North. There are too many amongst us whose turn it serves to parade its savage threats as evidence of what we are to expect, when the Republic gets out of its present difficulties. Now, in the absence of any hearty condemnation of those threats by the Northern press, it is useless to suppose that they will not do the work which their authors intend they should; that of irritating the public mind of Canada and Great Britain, of giving a strength to those national antipathies—so easily aroused, so difficult to allay—between us and the Americans—which will assuredly some day endanger our peaceful relations.

If, on our part, we have a 'dog tear-er' to bawl for war against America his voice is drowned by the condemnation of abler and better men. If we have a London Times to manufacture prophecies—like a certain Secretary of State—and utter sneers at the

American people and their cause, we have a Daily News and Morning Star to speak brave words on behalf of that people and their cause. If then the Herald must needs gratify its debased instincts, by assailing us in a manner far transcending in villany anything which public sentiment in this country would tolerate, it fulminated against the United States, is it not fair that we should expect its contemporaries to furnish us with some proof that it speaks only on behalf of those instincts? If this is denied us, will we not be driven to the conclusion that there is a predetermination on the part of the North to wage a war against us so soon as a favorable opportunity offers.

This, indeed, is the honest belief of many of our people now. If, then, that belief becomes general with us—and the uncondemned conduct of the Herald strongly tends to make it so—is it likely that we shall wait quietly until the North sees fit to strike the first blow. Having made up our mind that we must fight, we shall assuredly have something to say in regard to the time when the 'affair' shall come off. It would obviously not be to our interest to delay it long; the energies of the North are heavily taxed with the war she has now on hand; three years hence this may not be the case. We can now have the alliance of France, three years hence this may be beyond our reach. If the Northern contemporaries of the Herald, therefore, desire a continuance of the peaceful relations between their country and Great Britain there can be nothing undignified in giving us assurance that the threats of the Herald do not reflect the voice of the American people. We conceive that this journal has earned a right to speak thus plainly to those whose cause it has constantly advocated. We have never been slow to rebuke those of our own contemporaries who have been guilty—none of them however in a degree at all approaching the Herald—of stirring up our national antipathies. In this happily we have been supported by public sentiment, for however various the opinions held here of the justice and probable result of the American struggle, there is no considerable party amongst us desirous of a war with our neighbors. Let us hope that those neighbors will not compel us to believe that such a war is inevitable, whether we desire it or not.

### THE FUTURE OF CANADA.

The following remarks we clip from the Globe as being rather appropriate to the hour after quoting a column from the 'British Standard' which embodies many of the popular fallacies about Canada which are commonly entertained both in Canada and the United States, the Globe says:—'It is a great mistake to suppose that in case of war with the United States 'England could not preserve Canada.' If she dispatched a sufficient fleet of gunboats to the lakes to secure the entire command of them, she might prevent the Americans obtaining a foothold even in Upper Canada, the most accessible part of the British American territory. Without the aid of gunboats, however, by a proper concentration of forces, a large portion of Upper Canada and all Lower Canada could be defended against any American force. But Sir F. B. Head, who has grown wiser since he was Governor of Upper Canada, hit the mark when he said that Canada could be best defended on the Atlantic, at the ports of Boston and New York. A war between Great Britain and the United States would be mainly a naval war. Great Britain would blockade every accessible port, lay the cities under contribution, and harass the commerce of the States in a hundred ways. The United States on their side, would seek by privateers to do all the damage they could to British shipping, and would undoubtedly be successful to a large extent. Convoys guarded by steamers would however, be formed on all the great shipping routes, and the immense naval force of Britain would give her great advantages in this war of pillage. What would be the end of it all? Both sides would get tired as they did in 1812, for neither could gain any advantage which would touch the life-blood of the other and compel submission. Negotiations would be opened, and Britain would insist on a sine qua non on the return of every acre of Canadian territory which might happen to be in possession of the Americans. Rather than prolong a wasteful war, the Americans would yield, and that would be the end of the business. No nation is more shrewdly alive to their own interests than the American, and therefore it is that, unless forced to it by a sense of gross injury, they will never go to war with Britain. They can make nothing by it, and would certainly be enormous losers.

Singular as it may appear to onlookers in England, the people of Canada are quite

willing to take all the risks of a war with the States for the sake of British connection. The advantages of the alliance are very great, and if the people of Canada and of England would show ordinary discretion, the risk of war with the Republic would be trifling. The present position is undoubtedly the most dangerous which has arisen during the last half century; but it will pass—is passing, in fact—peaceably by, and no similar circumstances are likely to occur again. The people of Canada prefer British connection to independence, and will not be the first to break the tie. In the distant future the population may grow too large to remain a colony; it is impossible for human vision to penetrate so far. But British America is a narrow country, with a long frontier, and stretches three thousand miles from one great ocean to another, and it will always be a very handy thing to have a great empire as a near and dear ally. When we have ten millions of population, and grow rich with gold, our alliance will be worth something in time of war, also; and all the aid that we can afford will be gladly given to the old flag. It is not at all necessary, in order to continue the connection, that we should alter our institutions in any way. An attempt to create an aristocracy on this continent, could only be a lamentable failure. British connection stands on far stronger ground than a merely accidental resemblance in the governmental forms of the two countries. We do not need to ape an aristocratic system, for which we have no natural facilities, in order to love and venerate Great Britain.

### WHAT THE QUEEN THINKS OF THE AMERICAN REBELLION.

(FROM THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.)

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—The distress which the civil war in America has inflicted on a portion of Her Majesty's subjects in the manufacturing districts, and towards the relief of which such generous and munificent contributions have been made, has in some degree diminished, and Her Majesty has given her cordial assent to measures calculated to have a beneficial influence upon that unfortunate state of things. Symptoms of a renewal of disturbances have manifested themselves in Her Majesty's colony of New Zealand, but Her Majesty trusts that by wise and conciliatory measures, supported by adequate measures for their repression, order and tranquility will be maintained in that valuable and improving colony. Her Majesty has given her assent to a measure for augmenting the income of a considerable number of small benefices, and she trusts that this measure will conduce to the interests of the Established Church. Her Majesty has given her assent to an act for the revision of a large portion of the Statute book by the removal of many acts which, although they had become obsolete or unnecessary, obstructed the consolidation of the statute law. Her Majesty has felt much pleasure in giving her assent to an act for basing upon a well defined footing that volunteer force which has added a most important element to the defensive means of the country. Her Majesty has gladly given her consent to an act for carrying into effect the additional treaty concluded by Her Majesty with the President of the United States, for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade, and Her Majesty trusts that the honorable co-operation of the government of the United States will materially assist Her Majesty in those endeavors which Great Britain has long been engaged in making to put an end to the perpetration of that most disgraceful crime. Her Majesty has assented with satisfaction to many other measures of public usefulness, the result of your labors during the present session. It has been gratifying to Her Majesty to observe that, notwithstanding many adverse circumstances, the general prosperity of her empire continues unimpaired. Great local distress has been suffered in Great Britain from the effects of the civil war in America, and in Ireland from the results of three unfavorable seasons. The financial resources of the United Kingdom have been fully maintained, and its general commerce has not been materially impeded. It has been a source of gratification to her Majesty to find that her Eastern possessions have rapidly recovered from the distress which recently overspread them. They are entering upon a course of improvement, and social, financial and commercial prosperity, which holds out good promises for the future well-being of those extensive regions. On returning to your several countries you will still have important duties to perform, and her Majesty earnestly prays that the blessing of Almighty God may attend your efforts to promote the happiness of her subjects—the object of her constant and earnest solicitation.