

# THE FAVORITE

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1873.

## "THE FAVORITE"

TERMS: INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

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Address, GEORGE E. DESBARATS,  
Publisher,  
Montreal, P. Q.

### MIMICRY.

"Like cures like" is the fundamental maxim of a growingly important branch of the healing art. But as the most elementary and universally accepted truths, may, by the prying eyes of those who are not satisfied with taking things at second-hand, be traced farther back to truths more simple and facts more general, we are bold to suggest that the motto of the modern Esculapian school is only a development—a new application of a human propensity which manifests itself in the most multifarious and most curious ways. Homœopathy is mimicry turned to good account. It is an attempt—practitioners, and a good many of their patients also, contend, a successful attempt—to make Nature herself, in her most malignant moods, subject to the law of imitation to which the human species in its relations with each other are subject. It is only a manifestation of a principle which enters very largely into human activity—which, in fact, is the secret of what we call "civilization," and which links us more firmly at once with the lower and higher order of beings than anything physical yet discovered and made known by Tyndal, Huxley or Darwin. Man has been described variously—as a responsible being, a creature that can fiddle, one that can, after due training undergo three sermons a day; an animal capable of laughing,—and so on interminably. All these definitions must to the least considerate appear to be imperfect. They fail in being either too general or too particular. There is only one propensity which really "makes the whole world kin," and that is the propensity to imitate. The fun of the short pitted and knickerbocker occupants of the nursery and the enthusiastic applause of the Royal Italian opera; the neat cravat of the newly ordained curate and the dignity of the b-lawned archbishop; the limping lines of the local poet and the faultless stanzas of the laureate; the strut of the ensign and the pomposity of the colonel are extremes of what is identical in nature but differs in magnitude. Man is an imitative being. This is the definition which in width and exactness we would make pre-eminent over all others that have been attempted. Why does Angelina puff out her back hair, or twit it into a huge and intricate coil? And why does Augustus clip his in a style suggestive of the penitentiary or encase his feet in shining leathers, which put him to excruciating torture? In either case there is an obvious contempt of the fitness of things. The tendency to imitate explains all—and nothing else does. Angelina makes herself ridiculous because Laura has done so; and Augustus torments himself because Frederick, whose lead every dandy must follow, has previously afflicted himself in a similar way. We see no objection to this. *Cui bono?* What is the use of objecting to the innate or the inevitable? Punch's most cutting satirists are impotent when they apply themselves to the

correction of the social absurdities, however much they may amuse those whose particular follies they do not touch upon. Nothing short of the eradication of this tendency to imitate would do what the satirists feebly aim at. And after all it may be questioned whether this eradication is at all to be desired. The follies of fashion are only the running to seed of a plant which could not be up-rooted without infinite mischief resulting. The only thing that can wisely be done is to turn the propensity to the best account, for what is most ridiculous may, by judicious treatment, be made sublime, and what is most useless by similar treatment in the highest degree serviceable. There seems of late to have been a growing conviction of the truth of the conclusion which we have just announced. The very tameness of our jovial old friend *Punch's* jokes on female and masculine foibles, is only one of many symptoms of growing faith in the utility of the tendency to imitate, and to regard as inevitable occasional excesses, in themselves sufficiently ludicrous.

### FACT AND FICTION.

There are a great many people in this world who would fain wipe out of human nature all romance, or fiction, and tie us down to the mere realities of actual occurrences. They are for ever like Mr. Gadgrind, crying out for "facts, hard facts," pooh-pooh as useless all kinds of literature which have not what they call "a living interest in them." Novels they regard with horror, and even historical romances they regard as abominations, and call the perusal of such works a waste of time. Now we have a very great respect for hard facts, but we also believe with Ben Johnson that,

"A little nonsense, now and then,  
Is relished by the wisest men."

We do not believe in the system of overcrowding the mind by constant doses of facts, and giving no respite by a little fiction. This is essentially an age of facts; the railroad, the steamboat, the telegraph have so drawn the ends of the world together that we are every day put in possession of more facts than our grandfathers could gather in a month. The number of inventions, discoveries, triumphs of engineering and mechanical skill, victories of intelligence and perseverance over circumstances and difficulties—all hard facts—which are recorded in the newspapers, are sufficient to make a man almost crazy, if he tries to grasp them all, and does not relieve his mind a little, occasionally. It is a well worn truism that the present generation is living under very high pressure, that we crowd into one year the events of two or three, sometimes of almost a whole lifetime; and we look upon fiction as the safety valve which keeps the mind from exploding and regulates the pressure brought to bear on it by the immense accumulation of facts in this essentially matter-of-fact age. We must not be misunderstood to say that we endorse all the mawkish and sentimental trash with which literature is unfortunately flooded; and which is no more to be compared to pure works of fiction than the sparkling waters of the St. Lawrence are to be put in comparison with the muck which runs in the gutters; but we do believe in good healthy novels, based on good morals, and worked out with an artist's skill; they tend to relieve the mind from the pressure of the realities about it, and to freshen and enliven the imagination. Who would be cruel enough to rob a boy of his "Robinson Crusoe," and yet the "hard fact" people will inform us that Robinson Crusoe never visited the island of Juan Fernandez at all; and, indeed, if they are very hard fact people they will tell us there was never any such person as Robinson Crusoe at all. Well, what if there wasn't; does that make the story any less interesting to the boy, and does it do him any the less good on that account? For fiction does do good; it in-

culcates a great deal of sound, solid, useful information at the same time that it amuses. We frequently gain a great deal of knowledge from fictions, and gain them too almost unconsciously; for it sometime happens that in reading fiction we come across a "hard fact" which we swallow without being aware of it, just as we swallow a sugar-coated pill without tasting any of the unpleasant flavor of the medicine; but the pill does us no less good on that account. We do not believe in fiction only, any more than we believe in fact only, or "all work and no play"; we believe in a judicious blending of the two. "Hard facts" are to the mind what bread and meat are to the body, while pure fiction may be compared to the water which washes them down, and purely sensational and immoral literature of the "Penny Awful" stamp, to the dirty water in which the plates and dishes have been washed, and which is only fit to be thrown in the gutter, or given to the pigs.

### DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Parliament opened on 5th inst. The following is the full text of the speech from the throne:

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*

In addressing for the first time the Parliament of Canada, I desire to express the satisfaction I feel in resorting to your advice and assistance, as well as my deep sense of my own good fortune in being permitted to associate myself with you in your labors and aspirations for the welfare of this Dominion.

I rejoice to think that my assumption of office should have taken place at a period when the prospects of the country appear so full of promise, when peace and amity prevail amongst all neighboring nations, and when so many indications are afforded of the success with which Canada herself is consolidating her political unity and developing her material resources.

In accordance with the decision of Parliament, and to carry into effect the legislation of last session, I have caused a Charter to be granted to a body of Canadian capitalists for the construction of the Pacific Railway. The Company now formed has given assurances that this great work will be vigorously prosecuted, and a favorable state of the money market in England affords every hope that satisfactory arrangements may be made for the required capital. The papers and correspondence relating to this subject will be laid before you.

During the past year the surveys for the improvement and extension of our system of Canals, for which appropriations were made last Session, have been in active preparation; and I am glad to inform you that the plans and specifications for the enlargement of the Welland and the construction of the Bale Verte Canals have been completed, and that the works can now be put under contract.

The surveys for the St. Lawrence Canals will, I am assured, be finished in time to commence the works at the beginning of next year. This will insure the completion of all these great undertakings at the same period.

It is gratifying to know that the efforts made to encourage immigration have met with a great measure of success, and that the numbers seeking a home in Canada have been greatly augmented during the last year. I do not doubt your readiness to make ample provision for the steadily increasing stream of settlers that may hereafter be annually expected to add to the population, wealth and strength of the Dominion.

The completion of the first Census of the Dominion approaches completion, and this would, therefore, seem a fitting time to provide for the establishment of a proper system for the accurate collection and scientific arrangement of statistical information. I commend this subject to your attention.

It is important that provision should be made for the consolidation and amendment of the Laws, now in force in the several Provinces, relating to the representation of the people in Parliament. A measure for this purpose, and one for the trial of Controverted Elections, will be submitted for your consideration.

Your attention will be invited to measures for the amendment of the Laws relating to Pilots, to Salvage, and to the Trinity Houses of Montreal and Quebec, as well as for the improvement of the Laws generally, affecting our Merchant Shipping.

Experience has shown that the duties now performed in the Offices of the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of the Provinces, may be readjusted with advantage to the public service. A Bill on the subject will be laid before you.

Among other measures, bills will be presented to you relating to the Criminal Law, to Weights and Measures, and to the amendment and consolidation of the Inspection Laws.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*—

I have given directions that the accounts of the past, and of the first six months of the present financial year, shall be laid before you

without delay. You will be gratified to learn that the finances of the Dominion are in a prosperous condition, and that there is no reason to doubt that the revenue will be sufficient to meet all contemplated charges upon it.

The estimates for the ensuing year, which will be submitted to you, have been prepared with as much regard to economy as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service, and I venture to hope that you will be of opinion that the supplies which my Government will ask you to vote, can be granted without inconvenience to the people.

*Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate, Gentlemen of the House of Commons:*—

Many of the subjects I have enumerated are of the greatest importance. It is with full confidence in your patriotism and wisdom that I commend them to your consideration, and I trust that a Gracious Providence may guide your counsels in whatever way may best promote the happiness of the people of Canada, and the welfare of the Empire at large.

### PASSING EVENTS.

AMADEUS met with a perfect ovation from the Italians.

M. THIERS' condition was such as to cause serious apprehension.

A MEETING is to be held in Hyde Park in favor of an amnesty to Fenians.

GERMANY has appropriated 80 million thalers to build a navy and dock-yards.

CARDINAL CULLEN, in a pastoral letter, denounced the Irish University Bill.

THE master carpenters of New York have a meeting, fixed ten hours as the length of a day's work.

By an explosion at Mount Valerien, Paris, one hundred persons were injured, twelve fatally.

THE Hon. Mr. Thibaudeau declines to come forward as a candidate for the Commons in Quebec County.

RUSSIAN officers were leaving for Central Asia, and it is probable the expedition against Khiva would soon be on its way.

PRINCE BISMARCK made a speech in favor of the bill to limit the authority of the Roman Catholic clergy in Germany.

PRESIDENT THIERS has recognised the belligerent rights of the Carlists, and it is said Don Carlos will try to raise a loan.

A command to the effect that a body of French troops was surrounded by a large force of Arabs in South Algeria is contradicted.

DESCHENE, the man who was shot at the Quebec nomination, is fast sinking, and all hopes of his recovery are abandoned.

THE Modoc squabble seems to be at an end, Captain Jack having accepted the terms proposed by the United States Government.

THE Government of P. E. Island have dissolved the Legislature, and will appeal to the country on the question of Confederation.

TWENTY-TWO of the Spanish Provincials, it is said, have threatened to ignore the Madrid Government if the Assembly is not dissolved.

A PARTY of carabineers belonging to a prison guard in Andalusia attempted a demonstration in favor of Don Carlos, but the movement was suppressed.

FRANCE has guaranteed the balance of the war indemnity, amounting to a milliard of francs, and the German troops will be withdrawn at an early day.

THE Carlist force in Navarre does not number 3,000, and there is no truth in the report that the capital of that Province was in danger of falling into their hands.

THE excitement at Madrid is reported to be intense, crowds paraded the streets, troops were stationed at the public buildings and a conflict was momentarily expected.

THE representatives of St. Patrick Society in New York have declared that the procession of St. Patrick's Day will not adhere to the line of march indicated by the police.

AN armed mob at New Orleans attacked the Court house and a police station, but were resisted by the police and fired upon by the military, several being killed or wounded.

THE war between the rival Governments in Louisiana raged with intensity, the latest phase of the contest being an organized opposition to the collection of taxes throughout the State.

IN Madrid, the consideration of the bill for the dissolution of the Assembly threatened a ministerial crisis and the excitement continued. A mixed Directory, to assume the Government, was talked of.

MR. GLADSTONE is reported to have said at a public dinner that the Government would accept amendments to the Irish Educational bill, even such as would not better the bill, to avoid a worse measure.

IT is rumored that the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise have separated, because of incompatibility of temper, and that the Princess Marquis has gone abroad. No authority is given for the report, and it remains to be confirmed.