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THE NEW STORY.

We beg to announce that we have arranged with Mr.

WILKIE COLLINS

for the exclusive right to publish, in serial form, a New Story he has just written, entitled

"THE LAW AND THE LADY."

This story is not only worthy of Mr. Collins' great reputation, but is stated to be the best he has written. Our readers may therefore expect a rare treat from its perusal in our columns.

Owing to the fact of Victor Hugo's "Ninety Three" being yet uncompleted, it has been thought advisable to postpone the commencement of the above until our first number in November, when the NEWS will appear with many additions and improvements. We feel sure that the varied attractions we shall then be able to present to our readers will fully compensate for any disappointment that may have been caused by the postponement of our new serial. In the issue of the 7th November a more than usually large instalment of the same will be given.

NOTICE.

We desire to inform our readers that application has been made for letters patent incorporating a new Lithographic Printing and Publishing Company, into whose hands will pass, after incorporation, the whole of the Publishing, Lithographic, and Printing business hitherto carried on by George E. Desbarats, and the Engraving and Lithographic Printing business of Messrs. Burland, Lafraicain, and Co., an amalgamation of the two houses being about to be effected. The new Company—which will be known as the Burland Desbarats Company—will be in working order on or about the first of November next. Upon the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS the Management intend to concentrate their efforts so that, on its becoming the property of the Company a manifest improvement shall be developed in its every department. On and after the date mentioned the Management purpose to present the country with a Pictorial Paper of which it may, on every score, be proud.

The artistic staff will be increased and remodelled, and every detail of the illustrations carefully followed and supervised, so that the Pictorial pages of the NEWS shall be steadily and progressively good, and shall vie with and eclipse, if possible, its American and English contemporaries.

Portraits of prominent men, events of general and local interest, notable public edifices, interesting scenery, mercantile and manufacturing houses, will be illustrated by able artists. Politics of every shade, society in its various phases, will furnish subjects for humorous cartoons, where the sharp edge of satire shall be made to do good service. Works of art will be reproduced from time to time, and always in the best style known to modern skill.

In its letter-press pages the NEWS will be essentially a family and literary paper. It will be made a necessity to the fireside of every Canadian home. The ladies, the children, the weary paterfamilias, all will find recreation and instruction in its columns. The stories and novels published will be by the best writers of the day. The selections, carefully made, avoiding everything that may offend the most sensitive conscience or the most fastidious taste. In politics its character will be perfect independence, and it will entirely avoid all approach to personalities or partizanship. It will likewise eschew all religious discussion, and all comments or remarks that might annoy any sect or congregation, leaving to each the entire liberty of its worship, and giving to each credit for entire good faith.

The Management claim that, with this programme for its guidance, it deserves the liberal support of all Canadians, and trust that strict attention to the details of its business will prevent any unpleasantness ever interfering between its patrons and the success of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Canadian Illustrated News.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, OCT. 17, 1874.

A NEW DEPARTURE.

The stock-in-trade of political speeches in Canada is abuse. If a Ministerial mass-meeting takes place, as was lately the case at Prescott, the theme of all the orators present, from the highest Cabinet Minister to the lowest provincial politician, is denunciation of its adversaries, either in the lofty tone of withering satire, or in the more questionable vein of epigram and anecdote. If an Opposition demonstration is held, the changes are invariably rung on the corruption, the duplicity, or the imbecility of the Government. Liberals think they have fortified their cause when they have exhausted their wrath on Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD and his administration. Conservatives feel that they have atoned for their past wrongs by proving, to their own satisfaction, that the present Ministry is not a whit better than its predecessor. This partisan spirit may serve the purposes of narrow partisan strife, but it is not conducive to the growth of an enlarged national sentiment. Neither does it indicate the existence of true patriotism or of broad statesmanship among our foremost public men. The leaders of the people should likewise be their teachers. They should discuss not only the tactics of action, but also the theories upon which all political action must be based, in order to be beneficial to the common weal. They should know that there are times in which they ought to rise above party, and peculiar circumstances when they ought to have the bravery to go even counter to their party. Poor MCGEE gave a good example in this respect. His loss to the country was all the greater that he was struck down at the very period when he had chosen for himself the career of the theoretic statesmanship. Mr. THOMAS WHITE, Jr., has, on several recent occasions, proved that he had the ability and the courage to stand forward as the exponent of national questions, entirely dependent of partisan advocacy. And now Mr. BLAKE has come forward as a brilliant performer in the same role. His speech at Aurora is a new departure, not only in the matter which he treated, but in the fresh, fearless manner which characterized his discussions of constitutional change. Whatever may be the results of that speech, whether the ideas which it broaches prove acceptable or not, it is already much that it inaugurates a new system of political harangue, and breaks down, in considerable degree, the influence of mere party hacks. If Mr. BLAKE perseveres in the same course, and if he is followed by speakers and writers of equal maturity of thought and independence of expression, a marked alteration will soon be exhibited in our Parliamentary debates, and in the political feeling of the country.

We have left ourselves scant space to treat of the substance of Mr. BLAKE's Aurora speech. Stripped, however, of all personal and other incidental matter, it may be summarized as a plea in favour of the cultivation of a national spirit, of Imperial federation, of an elective Senate, of compulsory voting and of the representation of minorities. With regard to the first of these there can be no two opinions, but it is precisely because no real national spirit can be fostered under the demoralizing rule of strict partizanship, that we regard the attitude of Mr. BLAKE as important and salutary. But that a so-called national party, as distinguished from the two great parties now dividing the country, should arise in order to cultivate this national spirit, does not appear so clear. Mr. BLAKE himself hints at no such necessity, and those who represent him as about to break from the Reformers led by Messrs. BROWN and MACKENZIE, are perhaps rather consulting their wishes than their knowledge. Patriotism and nationalism are not distinctive. They are the substratum of all parties, the *primum mobile* of all citizenship. They must be the badges of both Liberals and Conservatives. No one party can truthfully arrogate to itself these qualities; and the only complaint is that hitherto they have been postponed to individualism, or the blind following of powerful leaders.

The elective Senate is plainly antagonistic to Legislative union, as lately advocated by some of the organs of Mr. BLAKE's party. The idea is an American one. If the Provincial Legislatures are to elect their own senators, it follows that the Provinces must remain distinct from each other, and not become merged into one legislative government. From this point of view, Mr. BLAKE's proposition assumes some importance. That the Conservative party is not prepared to accept it, is clear from the fact that that party established the Senate as at present constituted. And that the Liberal party is not favourable to it, will surprise no one who remembers what judicious

use it has made of the Senate since its advent to power. One thing, however, is clear. The election of senators by the Legislatures would wonderfully elevate the standard of the upper House, and give it that prestige which it enjoys in the neighbouring Republic. To be a United States senator is the summit of every American's ambition.

Compulsory voting and the representation of minorities are philosophical questions of the highest moment. They are not novel, however; neither has Mr. BLAKE thrown any new light on them. So far as this country is concerned they are doubtless premature, but the honourable gentleman deserves no less credit for having advocated them in his speech. The arguments in their favour which he has expounded will slowly germinate and produce their fruit in good time. In his peroration, Mr. BLAKE expressed the apprehension that his will be a "disturbing" speech. In one sense he is right, as the comments of the party papers already abundantly show. But in a higher sense his fear is groundless. So far from disturbing the public mind, such speeches have a tendency to reassure it, by teaching proper lessons, and pointing to the path which must infallibly lead to national stability and prosperity.

THE CANADIAN SPIRIT.

The demand for the cultivation of a national spirit which is being put forward by representative political men, may well be supplemented by a cry of an analogous nature from the students, the men of letters and the artists of the Dominion. If any proof were wanting that Canada is still literally in her childhood, we should have it in the salient fact that there is no character in her society, no type in her literature and no model in her arts. It were perhaps unwise to make invidious comparisons, but the Americans, who are really not older than we, have surpassed us in all these things. Their national existence dates from 1776; ours, from 1759. The men who enforced the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown were the same who had been defeated by our forefathers under the crags of Cape Diamond. In point of time, we had the start of our American cousins, but in the march of a century, they have far outstripped us. We need not enter into the causes of this discrepancy. It will suffice to point out the fact and draw a lesson therefrom.

There is nothing definitive, and therefore nothing national, in our social habits. The Englishman, the Frenchman, the German are recognized at once, by cast of countenance, by gesture, by speech and by diverse social characteristics. The Yankee of the East and the Western American are remarkable individualities which any observant traveller can locate at a glance. But there is nothing peculiar about the Canadian by which he may be distinguished from others. The original English, Irish or Scotch mould has not been modified by time, climate or colonial habitudes. The only Canadian type is the French of Quebec, the primitive owner of the soil, and for that reason, whenever a pictorial representation of Canada is attempted in foreign publications, the *habitant* with his *tuque bleue*, his *ceinture flechée*, his short pipe and his marked air of rugged *bonhomme*, is sure to be introduced.

We have no national literature. Nothing like it. In the realm of song, such gifted men as HOWE, HEAVYSEGE, SANGSTER, ASCHER, READE, and MAIR, have written beautiful verse, some of it of high excellence, but none of them has yet written the Canadian poem, tinged with the hues of our landscape and tuneful with the murmur of our waters or the music of our forests of pine. The same partial praise and the same partial reproach must be meted out to our French Canadian poets, the CRÉMAZIES, the CHAUVREAU, the FRÉCHETTES, the LEMAYS and the SULTES. In the field of romance, creditable efforts have been made, as is witnessed by the names of MOODY, NOEL, LEPROHON, PHILLIPS, BOURINOT, and others, but the Canadian novel, stirring as the war deeds of our ancestors, pastoral as the quiet of our farm houses in the clearing, and wild as the adventures of our woodmen on raft or barge, has yet to see the light.

Canada is by all odds the most legendary, the most historical portion of North America, and yet we have no real history of Canada. We have not even a truly good school history. BANCROFT has found no counterpart among us for our libraries, and WILSON no imitator for our classrooms. GARNEAU's work is unequal, and is throughout written in a spirit of special pleading. CHRISTIE's book is incomplete.

In art there is the same deficiency, though the progress here is more marked than in any other intellectual department. Our painters—and the list of them is a long one—have confined themselves almost exclusively to copying the beauties of our landscapes and the magnificence of our scenery. They find therein abundant scope for the exercise of their talents and the gratification of