

FOREST CLEARING.

Among our illustrations this week is a second group of a series of pictures we are publishing to illustrate the *modus operandi* of Land Clearing in this Dominion of ours, which will be found very interesting just now when so much attention is being called to the subject of exploring and settling our vast territory. This country offers a natural outlet and numerous inducements for an opening to many in the over populated cities of the world, and here the immigrant, if so desirous, or any one wanting to lead a hardy and independent life, can profit by the vast resources offered him in this respect, and here there is also a ready market for any amount of unskilled labour. Here the hardy pioneer can hew out of the primeval forest a home, thereby advancing his own prospects and also that of his country, which directly profits as, acre by acre, the forest disappears before the axe of the settler and is made ready for the plough.

Our first illustration relative to this subject appeared in the issue of last week under the title of Forest Clearing, and commences with the start of the pioneer into the woods back to his or their lots, which may be a distance varying from one hundred to a thousand acres, and very often considerably more, necessitating the tedious process of carrying every article they need in packs on their backs, if small enough, and the heavier articles such as stoves, &c., by rough made handbarrows through the "blazed" line or path. This is made by scraping a piece of bark off the trees on both sides of the route, to the position they have assigned and the spot they have selected to commence their rude home, the log shanty, which is raised as soon as a small opening sufficient to guard against the possibility of any falling trees is found. The straightest logs of the proper length are then selected, after which by the help of some neighbours and perhaps a yoke of cattle, they haul together and raise log upon log, squaring or dovetailing the corners, until the walls are about 6 feet in height, when two long poles or skids of bass wood with the bark peeled off so as to make them slippery, are used to slide up the remaining rounds of logs. That done, troughs consisting of logs split and hollowed out with the axe are next placed on the top in two tiers, the bottom one with the hollow upward, the next with the hollow downward, overlapping the edges of those placed upwards. This is the roof generally used; sometimes, however, clap boards are used, which consist of pieces split out of a section of very straight grained pine log, about six feet in length and used as a very long shingle, and then the door is cut in the shanty and also the window, which generally consists of a sash containing four or six small panes. Next when the crevices between the logs are well caulked with dry moss the shanty may be considered complete, that is as far as outward appearance is concerned. The inside may be considerably embellished according to the taste and time spent upon it. For instance, the inner walls may have the bark pulled off and the logs hewn, and wooden partitions, shelves, &c., may be placed up according to the occupant's idea of comfort. In fact we have often seen a small shanty exceedingly well finished inside, and possessing all the conveniences which go to make up a thoroughly comfortable house, although, of course, of a very miniature size, as a shanty is very seldom over twelve by eighteen feet, if so large as that. Thus settled, with the larder well filled with fat pork, flour, etc., the winter's work begins in real earnest, the axe is sharpened all ready for action, and the battle commences. Click, click, is the music day after day, as the steady but sure stroke of each blow tells in the gap that is made in the trunk of the giant that has braved the tempest, reared its monster limbs upwards to the sky, perhaps nearly a hundred years old, and now at last is seen to quiver. The axeman watches to see in which direction the monster will

fall. At last it swerves in the direction he wishes it to take. He drives home the last blow to hasten its fall for fear of it catching in any tree on its downward course, takes shelter behind some large tree in its rear and watches it as it commences to topple over, crushing all that comes in its way, until with a terrific boom it lies shivered to pieces by its own weight on the ground, a perfect wreck. And then after the storm of broken branches and tree tops has somewhat settled, he comes from his hiding place, mounts it with a feeling of victory and commences cutting it up into lengths, varying from twelve to fourteen feet, cutting and piling the branches carefully in a heap that they may burn in the summer more readily, and this war rages day in and day out with ever and anon a splintering and shivering crash, winding up with the dull thud which tells of another monarch of the forest slain. As each successive night closes, the gap in the forest becomes larger, until perhaps an opening of 10 acres is made the first year. The ground is now strewn with timber cut in lengths, interspersed with piles of brush wood, which is to help in the general conflagration. The details of brush burning and logging will be given in our next.

IRRESOLUTION.

Some men are born with a natural infirmity of character which, if humoured, amounts to an inability to make up their minds, to keep to one intention, to regard any decision as final. A variety of causes may seem to underlie this weakness—causes arising from an over-keen and ready perception of all the bearings of the question in hand, or from mere feebleness of character, rendering all grasp of a subject, all effectual hold, impossible. It may be an intellectual or a moral failing, one due to a judgment paralysed by extent of choice, or to a conscience made slippery by habitual disregard of its first motions; but in either case its effect upon a man's character and career is patent to others. People may have many faults which work in secret, which observers only guess at by seeing their consequences; but irresolution works in the open, and is sooner detected by the looker-on than by the man himself who is a prey to this enervating influence. What seems to the irresolute temper the mere exercise of a profound judgment or a refined taste is detected by those who are inconvenienced, irritated, or injured by it, as the slip and blemish which weakens, loosens, renders futile the whole course of life and action. The irresolute man, whatever his position or his powers, not only fails to himself, but is felt by those about him to be useless for the parts of counsellor, supporter, or advocate. He is essentially incompetent for these offices. His own course is determined, not by intention, but by chance; his judgment wants the education of personal experience. No one can remain eternally suspended between two courses of action, for the world moves and situations change however much a man may desire to keep them at a standstill till his mind is made up. Something irrespective of his judgment steps in and takes the matter in hand. While he deliberates on the highest conceivable best—best in itself or best for him—while he fluctuates, accident settles the matter, with little regard for his credit or interest. It is difficult, La Bruyère says, to decide whether irresolution makes a man more unfortunate or contemptible, whether there is more harm in making a wrong decision or in making none at all. A step which a man is driven to take under the compulsion of external circumstances is seldom taken at the right time. Owing to this demand for action, even in the most vacillating—this impossibility of eternal indecision where other men and other interests are concerned—irresolution is necessarily allied with precipitation. The man incapable of a final immovable resolve decides at length on an impulse which has nothing to do with choice. Irresolute men are rash men; prone to act on the spur of the moment in order to defeat their infirmity and put it out of their power to hesitate and shilly-shally.

There are cases where these contending qualities play somewhat fatally upon one another. Thus the impulse of the moment commits a man to a course of action. Knowing his weakness he is precipitate in making promises; but then steps in the habit of his mind; he deliberates and hangs suspended, when the slower process of performance ought to follow. Irresolution splits into two, or into many parts, what should be only one act. With the healthy reasonable mind a promise involves its performance; but irresolution never considers anything as settled so long as change is possible. Every hindrance, every difficulty is an argument for a reversal, or breach of contract, either with oneself or others. As a fact, all important undertakings and promises engaged in under strong impressions and warm feelings are followed by a change of temperature in the undertaker and promiser. The habit of keeping to your word because it has been passed, whether to yourself or another, alone sustains the will under the reaction. "What

terrible moments," said Pope, "does one feel after one has engaged in a large work! In the beginning of my translating the Iliad I wished everybody would hang me a thousand times." It is of course this relaxation of the mind's fibre which lies at the bottom of all decent forms of jilting, whether in man or woman. The promiser awakes to the fact that he has done a tremendous thing. This may happen to the firm as well as to the weak, but the irresolute are in the habit of vacillation, and also in the habit of justifying it as reasonable deliberation. It comes easily to them to hesitate or to betray hesitation. The constant mind knows that it is in for it, and instantly recovers from the temporary panic. It is no time to weigh this question when the step is once taken; thought and deliberation have finally given place to action.

THE ROYAL COMPANY OF SCOTTISH ARCHERS.

It may be among the things not generally known that when the Queen of England goes to Edinburgh, a Royal Company of Archers forms Her Majesty's Body Guard; and they turn out on all occasions, while the Queen abides in the Scottish capital, to attend and defend their monarch, armed with the same primitive weapons still in use in Northern China. The Edinburgh corps bear on their seal figures of Cupid and Mars, with the motto, "In Peace and War." This device was adopted in 1676, when the company received the Royal sanction, and at that date there may have still been some remains of the idea that men armed with bows and arrows might be of service in the defence of their king and country. In the present age, we suppose that Mars might be obliterated as a symbol, and Cupid alone be retained, to express the motive which now brings ladies and gentlemen into the field as Toxophilites. There was a body of Archers which anciently furnished the guard to the old Scottish Kings; and the Royal Company still in existence consider themselves to be its legitimate descendants. But they have almost no definite history previous to 1676. It appears that a code of rules was drawn up in that year, and the king's letter still exists containing the Royal approval. A continuous history of the Royal Company of Archers has been kept from that time. This has lately been published by Messrs. Blackwood, with other documents bearing on the history of the corps. It is well illustrated, and forms a handsome volume, and one interesting to all lovers of archery. The existing corps is in reality a toxophilite society, with its regular meetings, prizes, and dinners; but its antiquity and its character of Body Guard to the Queen give it a position and public importance high above most bodies of a similar kind. The select character of the members is another indication of its rank. Nearly all the peers of Scotland belong to it. The Duke of Buccleuch is Captain-General, with Dukes and Earls as Lieutenant-General, Majors-General, Ensigns-General, and Brigadiers-General, under him in command.

On the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to Edinburgh to unveil the statue of the late Prince Consort, the Royal Company were in attendance, under command of their Captain-General, the Duke of Buccleuch. We give this week an illustration showing the uniforms of the corps, and their mode of saluting the Royal Presence. The dress is of dark green, trimmed with black and a thin line of crimson, Glengarry bonnet with eagle's feather. They all require three uniforms, one of which is the "Court Dress," green and gold, with epaulettes, cocked hat and feathers. This is worn by the officers in command when the Queen is present, and one is introduced to our illustration. The "Mess Uniform" is the same as the ordinary evening dress worn by gentlemen, only that the coat is of green, with velvet collar and silver buttons.

ECHOES FROM LONDON.

THE nightly receipts of the Lyceum Theatre are from £200 to £300.

WILLIAM BLACK'S next novel is to have its scene laid in England and is not to include a Scotchman.

HER MAJESTY has been graciously pleased to forward to Captain Chard a very handsome ring as a mark of her appreciation of his heroic conduct at Rorke's Drift. The gift is accompanied with an autograph letter. The ring is a valuable diamond water-kloof.

MR. LABOUCHERE still keeps himself well before the Courts. A wag suggested the other day that he should have a Judge allocated to himself by the Courts, and that the "High Court of Justice, Labouchere Division" would be an exceedingly entertaining and profitable one for all concerned.

A CORRESPONDENT gives an interesting item relating to the *Times*, which will afford an idea of the scale on which business is carried on in Printing House-square. The over-matter—that is, the new and other newspaper material set up but distributed without being used, from pressure on space—represents an annual expenditure of from fourteen to sixteen thousand pounds.

A CORRESPONDENT from Milan tells us that much serious interest is felt in the state of health into which the young and charming Queen Margherita has fallen since the attack upon the King by Passanante. Her Majesty suffers from an affection of the heart. Every evening after dinner she swoons, and remains unconscious for several hours. As these attacks have begun just at the time of her proposed return to Naples, it is believed by the doctors that they must be produced by the dread of being again exposed to the same danger.

It may seem an extraordinary thing that, 321 years after the event, the accession of Queen Elizabeth should be a subject of commemoration by a thanksgiving service; but such was the feeling of rejoicing at the sense of freedom from Spanish influence and Roman tyranny when the death of Mary was known, that a wealthy citizen named Chapman gave a perpetual endowment for a service commemorative of the event to be held in Bow Church, Cheapside. A written notice of the service is to this day affixed to the church door, and many are the passers-by who stay to read the quaintly-sounding announcement.

DEAN STANLEY made a favourable impression on our American cousins when he visited the State, but now that he has expressed such a terrible opinion about the Transatlantic Press there will probably be a little less enthusiasm. American newspapers, said the Dean the other day, are full of ridiculous nonsense and contemptible tittle-tattle. There is much truth in this, but it should be remembered in extenuation that American society is such a grotesque medley of all nations that a newspaper which has to cater for every taste necessarily contains a great deal of matter which strikes the Englishman as absurd.

A GENEROUS GAMBLER.—A lady of rank in Paris died some weeks ago in the fashionable quarter of the Arc de Triomphe, of whom an interesting story is told. She was a famous card player, and was credited with knowing every game there was to know. When travelling in a foreign land she met one day in an hotel a Russian lady with that passion for gambling said to be inherent in the Russian nation. Anxious to play with a lady from Paris, she wrote requesting a few games. Her request was granted, and the ladies played all night, the Russian losing on every hand, until her opponent had won from her more money than her mines in the Ural had produced for revenues in twenty-five years. At last the Russian lady made a desperate effort to regain her fortune, but without avail. Rising from the table, she told the French lady how she had lost more than she possessed, but that in her desire to pay a debt of honour she would instruct her steward to convey to her the title deeds of all the mines and estates she owned. At this the victress's antagonist smiled and requested that she might have her own way in the matter, since she had won. A priest and a lawyer were sent for. When they arrived, the Russian lady was asked to bind herself by a solemn oath never again to touch a card or risk money at any game of chance. She did so, and then signed an engagement to pay her antagonist the annual sum of 2,000 dollars. The vow never to play cards for money again she faithfully kept, and the 2,000 dollars were paid punctually every year, the French lady giving it the name of the "Queen of Spade's Bounty," and invariably giving it to the poor of Paris.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Is hereby given that under the Canada Joint Stock Companies' Act, 1877, letters patent have been issued under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada bearing date the first day of October, 1879, whereby the shareholders of the Burland-Desbarats Lithographic Company, being a subsisting and valid corporation duly incorporated by letters patent bearing date the fourth day of November 1874, under the authority of the Joint Stock Companies' Letters Patent Act of 1869, and carrying on the business of

Engraving, Lithographing, Printing and Publishing, in the City of Montreal, and all or every such person or persons as shall or may at any time hereafter become a shareholder or shareholders in the Company have been incorporated as a body corporate and politic with perpetual succession and a common seal by the name of

The Burland Lithographic Company (limited)

with all the rights and powers given by the said first mentioned Act and subject to all the terms and provisions thereof, and for the purpose of carrying on the business of

Engraving, Lithographing, Printing and Publishing, throughout the Dominion of Canada, with a total capital stock of

TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS

divided into two thousand shares of one hundred dollars each.

Dated at the Office of the Secretary of State of Canada this third day of November, 1879.

J. C. ATKINS,
Secretary of do.