

THE BARTHOLDI STATUE OF LIBERTY.

The citizens of New York are already beginning to prepare for the ceremonial and festivities that will mark the completion of the great Bartholdi Statue of Liberty. The finishing touches of the work are now being made and on or about the 28th inst. it will formally be opened to the public. Ten years ago a number of French gentlemen conceived the idea of raising a subscription throughout the French Republic, and applying the funds thus obtained to the erection of a monument within the United States, to be a memorial of the fraternal feeling existing between the two greatest republics on earth. A young sculptor named Bartholdi, who had already won a high position in France, was employed to carry out the design of the promoters, and from the descriptions of the statue which have reached us, we have reason to believe that Bartholdi's success is beyond cavil, and that his name will go down to posterity as the designer and executor of one of the most notable monuments ever erected by man. In New York harbor there is a little island, having an area of 13 acres, upon which stands an old stone fort. Here, during the summer and autumn, crowds from the adjoining cities gather to inhale the fresh sea breezes. It is, in fact, a breathing place for the masses, and upon it Bartholdi has erected his grand memorial statue. The pedestal which has been constructed at a cost of \$250,000 is 150 feet in height. Within it are elevators for carrying visitors to the platform on top, where a magnificent view of the surrounding country may be obtained, with an unobstructed view to seaward. The quarter of a million dollars expended upon this pedestal was secured by private subscriptions in America, and by special appropriations of the United States Congress. From the platform of the pedestal, the Statue of Liberty rises 150 feet in the air, making the distance from the top of the torch, which is held in the goddess's right hand, to the ground 301 feet. A stairway through the statue enables the visitor to reach the lookout on the torch, where 12 persons can stand at one time. To give some idea of the size of this immense statue it need only be stated that the width of the eye is 2 feet 4 inches, the length of the nose 3 feet 9 inches, while that of the fore finger is 7 feet 12 inches. The monument is to be brilliantly illuminated at night both within and without by electric lights, the light from the torch being, by an ingenious arrangement of reflectors, thrown far out to sea. The ceremonies which are to grace the dedication of this statue are to be of the most imposing character, and will be taken part in by several distinguished French and well known American orators. Those who intend visiting Uncle Sam's domain during the next few weeks should make their arrangements to be in New York towards the close of the present month, so as to witness an event which posterity will regard as one of the most memorable in the 19th century.

THE KEY-NOTE.

To know how to plow, to sow, and to reap is good enough as far as it goes, but there are many other important matters connected with agricultural pursuits of which our farmers require a theoretical as well as a practical knowledge. It may not be within the power of every young man in the country, who intends to follow farming as a profession, to obtain that precise scientific knowledge which will enable him accurately to analyze soils, and to determine the correct quantity or quality of artificial or other manures to be applied, but there are within the reach of all who are ambitious to excel in the profession, books and papers which, if carefully studied and digested, would greatly aid the agriculturist and prevent his committing the mistakes into which young farmers so frequently fall. That there is a decided thirst among our farmers for knowledge bearing upon agriculture, is quite apparent to those who are brought in contact with them, and the fact that our politicians are endeavoring to satisfy this want is a further proof that it is both general and wide-spread. The experimental farms now being established by the Dominion Government in different parts of the Upper and Maritime Provinces will be invaluable to our farmers, but that this is only the beginning of the work may be gathered from the speech delivered by the Hon. Mr. Carling, Minister of Agriculture, in reply to an address delivered to him at the Dominion Exhibition in Sherbrooke. Mr. Carling said: "Agriculture is an interest of such paramount importance to the whole Dominion that any measures which convey to any large number of farmers any real information respecting it must appreciably add to the general wealth and prosperity. I should for this reason be glad to see the elements of scientific agriculture taught to the youth of all our public schools, as I believe by this means there would come to be created a more general taste for its pursuit, which would in its turn lead to emulation and thence to greater success."

Mr. Carling has struck the key-note. It is in our public schools that our young men first develop a decided taste for their future occupations in life. It has frequently been claimed that free school education unfits our lads for farm life; if this means that farmers' sons are to have their education restricted to the three R's, we demur, but if, as is the case, the course of training is of such a character as to give the minds of the pupils a decided bent towards business and professional pursuits, it is, we think, time that the importance of the great industry under consideration should be given its fair share of attention in the schools throughout the land. The Provincial Government has already taken one step in this direction. The Normal School course now includes the study of agricultural text-books and practical chemistry, and as the department of agriculture is under the immediate control of Professor Smith, we may hope that the information which is being gathered by the present Normal School pupils, will, in time be disseminated throughout the length and breadth of the Province. With rudimentary knowledge on agricultural matters obtainable in our public schools, and with a well-equipped Agricultural College and Model Farm in

operation, our farmers' boys would hesitate before exchanging the independence and liberty to be enjoyed upon the farm, for the unceasing toil and confinement of city occupations.

A JURYMAN'S COMPLAINT.

Not long since a stalwart farmer complained to us that he was obliged to serve on a jury at a time when his farm duties required his most assiduous attention, and that the pittance which he received for thus serving his country was not sufficient to pay one-half of the expenses which he was obliged to incur while remaining in an hotel of the town. The complainant, we think, had good reason for grumbling. While the Judge, the lawyers and the court officials received adequate remuneration for their services, he was obliged to take a half day's pay for a full day's work, and run the risk of loss on his crop from delay in harvesting. But if jurymen have cause to complain of the semi gratuitous services which they are obliged to render for the public, the public have good reason to ask themselves whether men employed under such circumstances are likely to discharge their duties in that fair and impartial manner which theoretical law demands. Imagine the perturbed state of the mind of a man who is called upon to serve upon a jury at the very time when his personal attention is required in some business transaction, or his home duties make it imperative that he should remain upon the farm. Imagine, such a man boxed for hours in an ill-ventilated, odorous courthouse, listening to the questioning and cross-questioning of frightened witnesses in a case in which he, personally, has not the slightest interest, and of the facts of which he has but a confused idea. Imagine him hustled into a jury-room and there locked up until he can make up his mind to agree with the majority of his comrades in rendering a verdict for or against the prisoner at the bar. How, say we, can such a man be expected to judge impartially in the many cases in which he is called upon to use his judgment? Even suppose he is a conscientious citizen, his own private cares and personal ends will lead him to hurry through the business, and although he may not wittingly be unjust, yet through want of proper consideration he acquiesces in the verdict rendered, thereby not unfrequently doing as he would not be done by. The jury system may be the bulwark of British liberty, but as at present constituted it is far from being the ideal of British justice.

THE BRIDGE AT QUEBEC.

The many and oft-repeated complaints, which are made by merchants and others dealing with the Upper Provinces, as to the time taken in shipping freight from Montreal and points west to Halifax and St. John, should arouse our public men to the necessity of taking vigorous measures to remedy this state of affairs. Of course so long as the freight has to be brought over two independent lines, which are practically without competition, the directors of either road can conveniently lay the blame of delays at the door of its neighbors. But this does not remedy the evil, nor does it satisfy the merchant who has, by unnecessary detentions, been subjected to vexatious disappointments, if not to actual loss. The Dominion Government has expended \$40,000,000 in building the Intercolonial Railway from Halifax to Lewis, and \$100,000,000 in constructing the Canada Pacific Railway from Quebec to Vancouver, B. C. There now remains but a gap of 3000 yards to unite the two sections of the great trans-continental highway, and it appears to us that the time has arrived for taking measures to further the construction of the bridge across the St. Lawrence at Quebec, which will unite the termini of these great railways. This will probably involve an expenditure of from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000, but its cost as compared with the public outlay for railways is comparatively small, while the prospective advantages both for the Maritime and Western Provinces, is proportionally great. With a bridge at Quebec our shippers would have two railways competing for business, with the result that freight to or from Halifax or St. John would be delivered in less than one-half the time it now takes.

The building of this bridge should not be made a party issue, it is a work in which every man in the country is directly or indirectly interested, and one that could not fail to be of special advantage to the people living in the Maritime Provinces. Nailing lies may be a pleasant occupation for carpenter journalists, but we wish that the managers of our daily newspapers could see their way clear to dispense with this amusement, and devote themselves with the same zeal and energy to matters which more vitally affect the welfare of the people. Let the lies have a rest, gentlemen, your hammers can be more usefully employed on live public issues, issues which, if dealt with in a broad, liberal, and patriotic spirit, would be a lasting benefit to all classes in the community. What have our contemporaries to say about the bridge at Quebec?

The discovery of perpetual motion has driven many a man mad. It is probable that the clock at Brussels comes as near being a perpetual motion machine as can be invented, for the sun does the winding. A shaft exposed to the solar rays causes an up-draught of air which sets a fan in motion. The fan actuates mechanism which raises the weight of the clock until it reaches the top, and then puts a break on the fan until the weight has gone down a little, when the fan is again liberated and proceeds to act as before. As long as the sun shines frequently enough, and the machinery does not wear out, the clock is actually a perpetual motion machine.

England has a Bird Society, composed of 100,000 children. Its aim is to encourage protection of birds and animals.