

squadron, there were but twenty Europeans in Quebec, of whom eleven only were married and five only had children. One of them was a pilot, called Abraham Martin, whose humble name will be handed down to the remotest ages, in connection with the battlefield of the Plains of Abraham—a piece of table land which had been his property. The valiant pilot performed his whole duty inasmuch as, being married to Marguerite Langlois in 1622, he had already gathered three girls and one boy to his hearth in 1628.

## IV.

It were interesting to ascertain how far Indian blood got mingled in Canadian families. Long before white women were brought into the colony, some of the white men must have mated with Indian women, and, even later on, the male population was so preponderatingly greater than the female, that some such alliances were a sort of necessity. For instance, the Carignan regiment alone threw 1,500 able-bodied men upon the colony in one voyage, and many of them did not disdain the hand of the pretty young squaws brought up under the fostering care of the Ursulines, or Ladies of the Hotel Dieu. Indeed, as is the case in Virginia, there are several respectable Canadian families that boast of their Indian descent on the mother's side. The Vigers, for example, belonging to the best circles of Montreal, trace back their origin to a daughter of the brave Arontio, one of the first neophytes of the Huron village of the Immaculate Conception and a disciple of the illustrious Breboeuf.

The utmost circumspection was exercised in the choice of young women for the colony, and this is so well established by documentary evidence that it utterly refutes the charges of a contrary nature, brought forward by the Baron de Lahontan, in a book of travels published in 1703. This writer states that the soldiers of the Carillon regiment had put up with a lot of loose girls, and that this was the origin of the population of Canada. Lebeau Boucher, the Jesuit Vimont, and others positively deny the charge; and Faillon, in his monumental work on the French colony in Canada, devotes much space to excerpts from public acts regulating the exportation of young females. Each girl, on leaving France, had to bear a certificate establishing two points—that she was fit to be wed, and that there was no obstacle to her marriage. In many cases these conditions were easily fulfilled, inasmuch as the girls were drawn from the orphan asylums of Paris and other places, kept by Sisters of Charity. Nor were the children left to themselves during the voyage. They were confided to the care of some women of quality and acknowledged virtue. It will be necessary only to mention the names of Marguerite Bourgeoys, Mademoiselle Denis and Madame Bourdon among such guides. On their arrival at Quebec and Montreal these "Filles du Roi"—as they were named—were placed in the care of religious institutions until they were called forth by the young men for marriage. Nor was the argument of health and sound bodies less looked after. When it was found that the girls taken from Paris were too delicate for the climate, it was determined to draw them only from the country parts of France, and we have a remarkable circular of Colbert calling upon the rural pastors to choose good strong peasant girls for the Canadian colony.

Not content with sending proper subjects to his colony, Louis XIV. undertook to promote and encourage early marriages. He directs Mgr. Laval, in 1668, to have all the boys marry at eighteen and the girls at sixteen, and the next year appropriates a sum of three thousand livres to secure such marriages. This sum, when duly distributed, was called the Gift of the King. He next ordained that a fine should be imposed on all fathers neglecting to have their children married at these ages. In 1669 the King went still further by allotting a yearly pension of three hundred livres to all fathers who had ten children, and four hundred livres to those who had twelve. It was further decreed that fathers burdened with a number of children should always be provided for first in case of need.

These liberal inducements to matrimony had their desired effect. Families began to multiply with marvellous rapidity, and to this day Canadian women are remarkable for their fecundity. In one of her letters, the Venerable Mother of the Incarnation speaks wonderingly of this growth: "*Cela est merveilleux et tout en foisonne.*" So far back as 1668, Mgr. Laval writes: "In most families there are eight, ten, twelve and sometimes fifteen or sixteen children. The Indians, on the other hand, have only two or three, and rarely more than four." From this period the fate of the Canadian family was assured.

JOHN TALON-LESPERANCE.



It is probably the attention paid it which makes the weather-vane.

"If women are really angels," writes an old bachelor, "why don't they fly over the fence instead of making such a fearfully awkward job of climbing?"

Piffkins—"I say, old chappie, have you known Bliffkins long?" Sniffkins—"Well, I should say so. Why, I remember when he used to say lunch for luncheon. He wasn't as well then as he is now!"

Next to the small boy on the front seat at a baseball game the most remarkable case of absorption ever seen was that of a cat which stepped on some floating sawdust in a mill pond with the impression that it was solid.

"So your old uncle is dead, Charley?" "Yes; died yesterday." "He was a very eccentric old fellow. Do you think he was altogether right in his head?" "Well—er—I couldn't say, you know, until the will is read."

"Clara!" shouted the old man from the head of the stairs, "I called down ten minutes ago that it was time for that young man to go, and I haven't heard the front door close yet." "No, papa; he left by the window."

"The world is round, and like a ball  
Goes swinging in the air,"  
Which may account, perhaps, for all  
The folks not being square!

Mamma (with much show of indignation)—"I have called you three times. I am very much annoyed."

Charlie (who is fond of Bible stories)—"Well, the Lord called Samuel three times and He didn't get mad about it, did he?"

A late song is entitled, "Nobody Knows but Mother." Generally speaking nobody knows but mother what kind of a temper a daughter has, but after the honeymoon is over the young husband begins to find out something of what mother knew.

A new fakir scheme is an advertisement stating that the advertiser will send to any one enclosing the sum of \$1 the secret of perpetual life. The "sucker" who sends the dollar receives by return mail a neat card, on which are printed the words "Don't die."

Buyer—How much are these trousers, Mr. Solomons?  
Mr S.—Vell, mein freind, ve are yust givin dose pants away.

Buyer (effusively)—Thanks—thanks! I'll take this pair. (Exit rapidly with trousers.)

"I can't give you a place on the staff," said the editor; "we never employ inexperienced men." "How do you know I have had no experience?" asked the applicant. "Because," returned the editor, "you took your hat off when you came in the office."

October's come. Its brilliant days,  
When all the forests seem ablaze,  
Inspire the soul—  
Until it sinks in dull dismay,  
For now, alas! it's time to pay  
That bill for coal.

First dame—"What shall we do to-day? Let's go to the matinee."

Second dame—"Can't; we haven't any money. It takes money to go to the theatre."

"So it does. I did not think of that. Well, let's go shopping."

"Miss Maud," he said, "I have come in this evening to ask you a question, and I have brought a ring with me. Now, before you try it on, I want to tell you that if you feel inclined to be a sister to me I will have to take it back, as my father objects to my sisters wearing such large diamonds." And Maud said she would keep the ring.

"Oh, Fred, you've made me so happy—I was afraid you wouldn't propose to-night."

"Why, dear? What would have happened if I hadn't?"

"Oh, I'm sure I don't know, but I saw the new moon over my right shoulder this evening, and I've always seen it over my left shoulder when I've been proposed to before."

## MILITIA NOTES.

General Middleton visited San Juan harbour in British Columbia before returning.

The sham naval battle in Halifax harbour was a brilliant spectacle and an entertaining professional display.

The Minister of Militia has decided to grant \$250 toward the erection of a drill shed at Essex Centre.

The Minister of Militia is about to organize the national defence committee appointed last year to consider the question of the defences of Canada.

The invention of Captain Greville Harston, of the Royal Grenadiers, of Toronto, for converting the Martini rifle into a magazine weapon, has been adopted by the small arms committee for the British army.

Capt. John Clarke, of company 8, Beebe Plain, having received orders from headquarters to punish all who refused to report themselves on duty after being duly notified to accompany him to Hereford during the railroad troubles, has had ten of the delinquents fined with costs.

There is another row in the Governor-General's Foot-guards. The band refused to attend an entertainment given in Ottawa in aid of the Guards sharpshooters' memorial fund. They were expected to have given their services free, but at the last moment they struck for pay.

"B" Battery did its shifting ordnance competition on the Citadel lately. The shift consisted in taking down a 64 pounder gun from its carriage, carrying it for some distance through a narrow passage and remounting it. The time occupied was 6 minutes 24 seconds, beating their opponents, "A" Battery, by 20 seconds.

Sir Adolphe Caron has said that he is perfectly satisfied with the medical arrangements at the St. Johns' school. He was informed by the surgeon that not only was there no typhoid fever at the school but that there was no sickness of any kind whatever. The discipline and appearance of the troops there were all that could be desired.

General Middleton and staff visited the warship "Caroline" at Victoria, on their late tour, and the proposed sites for the fortifications. A salute of thirteen guns was not fired until the General's departure from the ship. At the ninth gun the breech was blown out and struck Thos. Drury, a blue jacket, blowing his right arm off and almost severing his head from his body. Another blue jacket, William Langley, was struck in both feet and seriously injured.

## THE FLOWER AND THE BUTTERFLY.

TRANSLATION FROM VICTOR HUGO'S POEM.

Once to the Butterfly a Floweret sighed:  
"One moment, stay!

Our fates are severed: here, on earth I bide,  
Thou must away.

Still, we both love: and far from human tread  
We pass the hours:  
Each like the other, for by man 'tis said  
We both are flowers.

Earth chains me down—thy path is in the skies—  
O cruel lot!  
O'er thee I fain would breathe my perfumed sighs:  
They reach thee not.

Thou rovest far—'mid blossoms fair and sweet  
Thy life is glad:  
I watch the shadow turning at my feet,  
Alone and sad!

Thy form now quivers near, now flits away,  
And disappears:  
But thou wilt find me at each dawn of day,  
All bathed in tears.

If 'tis Thy will our love should lasting be,  
O truant King!  
Like me, take root: or, let me soar, like thee,  
On splendid wfg."

L'Envoi à \* \* \* \* \*

"Roses and Butterflies! in death you meet,  
Or soon or late.  
Would not your lives together pass'd be sweet,  
Then, wherefore wait?"

Somewhere above the earth—if floating up  
Thy pinions soar—  
Or in the meads, if there perchance thy cup  
Its fragrance pour.

What matters where? Be thou a breath, alone,  
Or tint of spring:  
A radiant Butterfly, or Rose half-blown—  
A flower or wing.

To live together! This your fondest aim,  
Your vital need!  
Chance may be left your future home to name,  
The sky—the mead."

Montreal.

GEORGE MURRAY.