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PROSPECTUS OF VOL. XX.

We have the pleasure to announce to all our friends and patrons that, in this issue, we commence the XXth Volume of

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

and with it introduce a number of improvements tending to make it still more worthy of public encouragement. We have engaged the services of a talented Superintendent of the Art Department, competent to infuse new energy and excellence in our illustrations; and to show what we intend to accomplish in the Literary Department, we have only to publish the names of the following Canadian writers of note who have kindly consented to be occasional contributors to our columns:

J. G. BOURINOT, Esq., Ottawa.
REV. A. J. BRAY, Montreal.
S. E. DAWSON, Esq., Montreal.
F. M. DEROME, Esq., Rimouski.
F. L. DIXON, Esq., Ottawa.
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J. GEORGE HODGINS, LL.D., Toronto.
W. D. LESUEUR, Esq., Ottawa.
J. M. LEMOINE, Esq., Quebec.
CHAS. LINDSEY, Esq., Toronto.
H. H. MILES, LL.D., Quebec.
HENRY J. MORGAN, Esq., Ottawa.
HON. E. G. PENNY, Senator, Montreal.
REV. JAMES ROY, M.A., Montreal.
JOHN READE, M.A., Montreal.
MRS. ALEXANDER ROSS, Montreal.
LINDSAY RUSSELL, Esq., Ottawa.
GEORGE STEWART, Jr., Esq., Quebec.
F. C. SUMICHRIST, Esq., Halifax.
FENNINGS TAYLOR, Esq., Ottawa.
THOMAS WHITE, Esq., M.P.
REV. S. W. YOUNG, M.A., Toronto.
COUNT DE PREMIO REAL, Spanish Consul at Quebec.

In addition to these attractions we beg to call attention to the following special features of the News:

I. It is the only illustrated paper in the Dominion; the only purely literary weekly, and in every respect a family paper.

II. It contains the only Canadian Portrait Gallery in existence, numbering already over 300, and containing the picture and biography of all the leading men of the Dominion in every department of life. This collection is invaluable for reference, can be found nowhere else, and ours is the only paper that can publish it.

III. It gives views and sketches of all important events at home and abroad, as they transpire every week.

IV. It has been publishing, and will continue to publish, illustrations of the principal towns, manufactures and industries of the country, which, when collected in a volume, will constitute the most complete pictorial gazetteer ever printed.

V. Its original and selected matter is varied, spicy, and of that literary quality which is calculated to improve the public taste.

VI. It studiously eschews all partisanship in politics, and all sectarianism in religion.

The expenditure of an illustrated journal is double that of any ordinary paper, and to meet that we earnestly request the support of all those who believe that Canada should possess such a periodical as ours. The more we are encouraged the better will be our paper, and we promise to spare no effort to make it worthy of universal acceptance. A great step will be made if, with the new volume, all our friends help us to the extent of procuring for us an additional subscriber each.

OUR NEW STORY.

With this number we begin the publication of an original serial story, entitled:—

MY CREOLES:

A MEMOIR OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY,
BY JOHN LESPERANCE.

Author of "Kosaiba," "The Bastonnais," &c.

This story will run through several months, and we bespeak for it the favour which was accorded to "The Bastonnais," originally published in these columns two years ago. The subject is new and interesting. The book will deal, *inter alia*, with the mysteries of Voodooism, and touch delicately upon several of these social questions which have so thoroughly agitated the North and South since the war. Begin your subscriptions with the opening of this story.

NOTICE.

To prevent all confusion in the delivery of papers, our readers and subscribers are requested to give notice at this office, by post-card or otherwise, of their change of residence, giving the new number along with the old number of their houses.

NOTICE.

Subscribers removing to the country or the sea-side during the summer months, are respectfully requested to send their new addresses to our offices, 5 and 7 Bleury Street, and the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS will be duly sent to them.

TEMPERATURE.

As observed by HEARN & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING

June 30th, 1879.			Corresponding week, 1878.		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.. 77°	59°	68°	Mon.. 78°	58°	68°
Tues.. 80°	60°	71°	Tues.. 75°	65°	70°
Wed.. 84°	67°	75°	Wed.. 79°	69°	74°
Thurs.. 87°	70°	78°	Thurs.. 79°	69°	74°
Frid.. 86°	72°	79°	Frid.. 81°	72°	76°
Sat.. 81°	65°	73°	Sat.. 81°	69°	75°
Sun.. 75°	65°	70°	Sun.. 79°	71°	75°

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, July 5, 1879.

THE QUEBEC LEGISLATURE.

The second session of the fourth Parliament of the Province of Quebec was opened last week with the customary ceremonies by the Lieutenant-Governor in person. Owing to the ill-health of His Honour it was thought an administrator would have been appointed; but this step was avoided, although as it proved it was almost too great an effort, for his strength failed him after he read the Address in French, and he was obliged to call on the Hon. Mr. STARNES, President of the Legislative Council, to read it in English.

The Speech from the Throne is a very lengthy document and contains a quantity of matter as has been proved by the very lengthy speeches that have been made during the debate in the Legislative Assembly.

Its opening paragraph, containing a welcome to His Excellency and his Royal wife and an expression of loyalty to Her Majesty, has afforded an opportunity to the French members of the Assembly to refer to the lamentable end of the Prince Imperial of France while fighting under the British flag. These references were made in delicate and touching language and on each occasion were received with applause by the members on both sides of the House, that fact alone being significant not only of the loyalty of our French-Canadian fellow-countrymen to our Gracious Sovereign, but also of their sympathy with the Napoleonic dynasty as opposed to the present form of French Government.

The Speech then mentions the completion of the Government Railways and points out the benefit of the new works undertaken in connection with them. It congratulates the Government upon having effected an amicable arrangement with the municipalities and informs the House

of the intention to lease the road to men of business possessing sufficient capital and the amount of experience essential to the prosecution of enterprises of this nature, and who would be directly interested in the success of the railways. The settlement of the Quebec Fire Loan and a promise to assist colonization societies then follow. A deficit is foreshadowed and still farther economy promised. The Speech concludes with a list of Government measures to be brought down during the session regarding the organization of public instruction, which is expected to embrace the abolition of inspectors of schools,--licenses, the municipal loan fund, the macadamizing of roads and also concerning lunatics. The Legislative Council is to be once more attacked and a Bill concerning petitions of right, although the last Government measure referred to will yet be the first brought before the House, as the Attorney-General has already given notice of it.

The Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne was moved by Mr. RACOR, member for Missisquoi, and seconded by Mr. MEKLE, member for Argenteuil. Both gentlemen were called on at the last moment to take these positions and they were therefore unable to do themselves justice. Mr. RACOR is a gentleman of well-known abilities and has already proved himself to be an able debater. Mr. MEKLE was a silent member last session and was rather nervous in the delivery of his speech on Friday last; but he is a quiet man and so soon as he overcomes his timidity will make a useful member of the House, as he now is the most useful member of his Municipal Council.

After a holiday of four days the House resumed its business on Wednesday when the Hon. Messrs. Chapleau, Joly and Church spoke for about two hours each. They all appeared unsettled, as though they were unused to the subjects they handled, not to be wondered at on the part of the Opposition members, who could not be familiar with the facts of which they spoke, as they were the acts of the Government and had not been explained to the House. The gist of the attack on the Government is because they had expended large sums of money without first obtaining the consent of the House. The Government reply to this that the objects were urgent and necessary and being so were authorized by the Treasury Law. On this Mr. CHAPLEAU has based an amendment and on that amendment the House debated.

The great question of the session will be the proposed leasing of the Government road, a project which is supported by members on both sides of the House. But it is not in the leasing the difficulty lies, it is in the manner of leasing and in the *personnel* of the lessees. The mover of the address approves of the lease, but like every other speaker avoids the subject till full particulars are furnished to the House. The lease as made public had been adopted by an Order in Council and will be made a Government measure, so it is said; if that be so it may be carried, but at present that is doubtful, for though it will be supported by some members of the Opposition, yet still there are some of the Government supporters who are opposed to it.

BYRON'S OSTRACISM.

The news has lately reached us that the Vestry of aristocratic St. George's, Hanover Square, have refused to permit the erection of a statue of Lord Byron in St. James-street. The vote was thirty-three against twenty. It is astonishing what a feeling there still exists against the memory of the unfortunate poet. Even Dean STANLEY, who solicited the burial of DICKENS in Westminster Abbey, almost as a favour, steadily refuses to allow so little as a bust or a tablet of Byron to be placed on the Abbey walls. In reading this announcement one naturally asks himself the reason of this strange hostility to one of the greatest geniuses of modern

times, and, after SHAKESPEARE, the most brilliant light of English poetry. It is to be found in that same aristocratic pride and hypocrisy which drove the poet from his native shores sixty years ago, and did its part to prevent his burial in his native soil after his glorious death at Missolonghi. Had Byron been a plebeian, or even a commoner, his sins would have been condoned in consideration of his wonderful productions, but because he happened to belong to the nobility his memory has been ostracized. There might have been some excuse for this among his contemporaries, but after the lapse of two generations the persistence of the same spirit is inexcusable, and puts a certain aspect of British exclusivism in a very unenviable light. Even the action of the vestry of "aristocratic St. George's" might be overlooked with pity, but that so genial and generous a man as Dean STANLEY should join in the movement amounts to a psychological phenomenon. Were the venerable fane of Westminster the resting place of only the pure and virtuous among great Englishmen the exclusion would be less invidious, but every traveller must needs smile when he remembers that there repose such a precious rascal as CHARLES II., such a scapegrace as JOHN GAY, on whose tombstone we read the scolding lines—

"Life is a jest and all things show it;
I thought so once and now I know it."

and scores of other writers whose lives were anything but models of domestic righteousness.

In happy contrast to the decision of Dean STANLEY is the action of Lord BEACONSFIELD three years ago, who readily associated himself to a committee that proposed the erection of a memorial to the immortal author of "Childe Harold." With his usual aesthetic insight and rare felicity of language, the leader of the aristocratic party in England maintained that, after the lapse of half a century, private character should not enter into the estimate of literary genius, and that, conceding Byron's faults, as we must, it should be remembered that he lived amid exceptional temptations, and died very young. The poet himself, in more places than one of his writings, foresaw that he would be harshly judged and unjustly treated after death, though he had the consciousness of genius that his works would keep his name from oblivion.

"But I have lived and have not lived in vain.
My mind may lose its force, my blood its fire,
And my frame perish even in conquering pain;
But there is that within me which shall live:
Torture and Time, and breathe when I expire:
Something unearthly which they drive not out,
Like the remembered tone of a mute lyre,
Shall on their softened spirits sink and move
In hearts all rocky now the late remorse of love."

He was willing to leave it to time that due honour should be done him at last, and his apostrophe on this subject is invested with a melancholy grandeur which recent events only render more interesting—

"Oh Time! the beautifier of the dead
Adorner of the ruin, comforter
And only healer when the heart has bled—
Time! the corrector when our judgments err."

Time, the avenger! unto thee I lift
My hands, and eyes and heart, and crave of thee a gift.

The gift has not as yet been wholly granted. The "late remorse of love" has not yet touched the vestrymen of "aristocratic St. George's" nor the Dean of Westminster, but public opinion, which is always just and humane, will yet force a national recognition of the memory of the bard whose name will live when all the vestrymen in England will moulder in ashes, and even many a STANLEY will have been forgotten.

It affords us much pleasure to learn that the British Government have given a large contract for fluid beef to our enterprising fellow-citizen, Mr. J. L. JONES. This means of encouraging Canadian manufactures will no doubt be welcomed by many of our readers, and is another step in the National Policy.