

## FIFTY YEARS AFTER ANNEXATION.

**P**UNCH as is generally known, lived and breathed and had his being before the world was created. He therefore has an inherent right to anticipate the flight of his respected Father Time. This right he has exercised, and this day he publishes an article which will in another generation make its appearance on Saturday, the first of April, 1950.

## THE MONTREAL HERALD VINDICATED.

A century and one year has elapsed since Punch first amused and instructed the inhabitants of what was styled in that remote period, "Her Majesty's British North American Possessions;" which afterwards joined the Union, then known as the United States; and since the disruption of that Union has become part and parcel of the state which now embraces the Western Hemisphere, the state being—a state of Anarchy. At a period when with slight exceptions, the entire continent worn out with internal commotions, is urging ANNEXATION WITH THE MIGHTY EMPIRE OF GREAT BRITAIN; it becomes a subject of curious research to discover who were the first promoters of the separation of the connexion which once subsisted between that wonderful nation and the Province of Canada. A writer in that slanderous Publication, the *Spitbox*, lately insinuated that the *Montreal Herald* of 1849 led the suicidal movement. Punch is delighted to be enabled to give the lie direct to the infamous *Spitbox*. Searching as is his wont amidst dust covered and long neglected shelves he turned up a number of "Hunt's Merchants Magazine," dated September, 1849. Be it remembered that the date which the *Spitbox* fixes for the publication of the first annexation manifesto in the Columns of the "*Montreal Herald*," is October 10th, 1849. Now in the September number of Hunt's Magazine for 1849, is an article from the pen of the "Editor of the *Montreal Herald*," on the "Commerce and Resources of Canada," from which we shall make extracts so utterly at variance with the "annexation Manifesto," in question, that no man in his senses can believe the impudent assertion of the *Spitbox* that the *Montreal Herald* advocated the absurdities put forth in the document in question. It might be argued that the *Montreal Herald* had changed hands during the few days which elapsed between the publication of the article on the "Commerce and resources of Canada," and the Annexation Manifesto, but the *Spitbox* proves undeniably that the "*Montreal Herald*" never changed hands from September, 1849, until the publication was discontinued from causes which Punch is unable to ascertain. Therefore such an argument would fall to the ground. How then can the *Spitbox* sustain his allegation that the *Montreal Herald* jumped Jim Crow on a vital question between the 1st September, 1849, and the 10th Oct. in the same year. He calls it the leading journal of the Province, states that one of the editors was a "right pleasaunte and a right merrie fellowe," and the other shrewd and sensible. Such men are not of the kindred of Esau who would sell their birthright for a mess of pottage. No! Shame retains her blush on the cheeks of such as these, and Punch will from the writings of one of its Editors, give the *Spitbox* the loud lie to its slanders against the immaculate reputation of the *Montreal Herald*.

Anxious that all enquirers into the causes of the present "ruin and decay" of his adopted country should have ample means of reference, as to its prosperity under the Crown of Great Britain, Punch reiterates the title of the ancient work:

HUNT'S MERCHANT'S MAGAZINE.  
SEPTEMBER, 1849.

## Art. IV.—Commerce and resources of Canada.

BY THE

## EDITOR OF THE MONTREAL HERALD.

Punch in upsetting the contemptible *Spitbox*, will not quote at a greater length than is necessary to smash him at once and for ever.

## EXTRACTS.

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* in September, 1849, compares pauperism:

"It is evident, at any rate, that in this respect, Canada has a great advantage over the much-praised "Empire State", on the South side of the St. Lawrence."

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* in September, 1849, waxeth facetious, and recommends the spinsters of all nations to try their fortunes in Canada, the population being in the proportion of "one hundred males to eighty-eight females." His allusion to the twelve destiny-doomed bachelors causeth an inward chuckle.

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* in September, 1849, wisely considers the almost universal education of the people to be highly gratifying.

"The statistics of schools and school attendance for Canada West is the most pleasing part of the report."

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* in September, 1849, waxeth enthusiastic.

"It may safely be affirmed that every steady man of the large number who have been added, to the proportion of farm servants, has a fair prospect of employing labourers on his own farm in the course of a moderate number of years."

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* of September, 1849, having spoken of Public Lands, Progress of Population, Religious Census, and Agricultural and other property, draws conclusions:

"The comparison of Canada West with the State of New York in these particulars, is by no means calculated to encourage the idea of the superiority of our neighbours on the South of the St. Lawrence."

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* of September, 1849, discourseth of cattle:

"We are slightly richer in Canada West than in New York, having one head of cattle to every head of the population."

On this branch of his subject, the Editor of the *Montreal Herald* for 1849, waxeth eloquent:

"New York has been settled 220 years, and her farmers are the sons of flourishing men, who settled the same lands on which their sons reside; a great proportion of our farmers settled on the wilderness, with no other riches than stout arms and resolute hearts."

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* of 1849, becomes pleased:

"Here is another pleasing statement. The pleasure carriages in Upper Canada, in which none are included that are ever used for agricultural purposes, were 587 in 1823 and 4635 in 1847. The population has increased three-fold—the pleasure carriages eight-fold—a striking proof of augmented wealth and comfort."

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* in September, 1849, compares the wheat crops of New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio and Indiana; and gives the result.

"Canada West, as we have seen, exceeded them all, her produce being nearly ten and one half bushels to each inhabitant."

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* in September, 1849, leaveth the land, and goes upon the water.

"On the water, the progress of the nation has been as satisfactory as on shore."

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald*, in September, 1849, confirms the opinion of one whom Punch presumes to have been an eminent statist.

"It bears out the remark of Mr. Crofton, that in no country do the agricultural classes enjoy a greater degree of comfort, or are liable to fewer privations."

The Editor of the *Montreal Herald* in September, 1849, waxeth extatic.

"The composition of these figures and calculations have occupied many hours of labour, but it has been to us, at least, a labour of love."

Punch now asks, is the *Spitbox* convinced; can he or any reasoning animal imagine that the love of the Editor of the *Montreal Herald*, in September, 1849, could be changed into hate in the following October? Monstrous conception, worthy only of the *Spitbox*.

Having thus vindicated the *Montreal Herald* of 1849, Punch comes to the assertion of the *Spitbox*, that about that period some men insisted on Canada being in a state of "ruin and decay." This Punch denies. If men in those days babbled of "ruin and decay," the ruin they spoke of must have been what Charles Dickens, an historian of the last century calls "blue ruin." This is rendered probable from the fact, that it is observed by that eminent writer, that "this stupifying liquid causes the intellect to decay." On this hypothesis, without better evidence than that furnished by the *Spitbox*, Punch concludes that the babblers alluded to, spoke of their indulgence in blue ruin, and the consequent decay of their intellects, and not of the "ruin and decay" of their country which all coterminous history proves would have been absurd.

## FROM OUR WORST CONTRIBUTOR.

*Jai funny*,—as the alderman said when he had tugged in the turbot.

*Ain't you chilly*,—as the pepper-castor said to the vinegar-cruet.