

PICTORIAL TIMES

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

BY THE

PICTORIAL TIMES PUBLISHING CO

1592 NOTRE DAME STREET

MONTREAL.

JAS. G. ARMSTRONG, Manager.

TERMS:

PER ANNUM \$2.50
SINGLE COPIES 5 Cts.

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1540 Notre Dame Street.

Montreal, Canada.

Advertisements in all the Cities and Towns in Canada and United States. A liberal commission will be allowed.

All correspondence to be addressed to

"PICTORIAL TIMES"

Box 135 P. O.,

Montreal, Canada.

Contributions in the artistic and literary departments will be paid for, according to merit.

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MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 26, 1887

THE WEEK.

An American paper has stated that the attacks of Canadian journals upon their public men, during the heat of an electoral contest, are worse than those of the American press, in similar circumstances. This is the most unkindest cut of all, because American electoral vituperation is something phenomenally outrageous.

The reproach, however, is not wholly undeserved. The hysterical style adopted by some of our papers, during the late campaign, was ludicrous in the extreme, and the abuse was so general and unsparing that an outsider would naturally conclude to the utter depravity of every Canadian aspirant to Parliamentary honors.

This evil has been growing only of late. Time was when Canadian journalism was as free from personalities and vulgar denunciation as is still the British press, and an adoption of this American mode of polemic is a poor sign of moral or social progress.

Now that the backbone of the winter is broken, and spring is gradually returning, it is worthy of note that work has not been by any means scarce, and that cases of suffering were few and far between. The laboring man found sufficient employment, wages were regularly paid, provisions were cheap and despite the continual severity of the weather, fuel was maintained at a reasonable price.

The tide of immigration is already setting in. This movement is a natural and spontaneous one, arising from dynamic causes which cannot be controlled. The old countries are crowded unto starvation; this wide continent is still comparatively empty, and Canada, in especial, is a vast open field for the millions and the millions that may come.

Sir Donald Smith has come out boldly in favor of free canals and he advocates the assumption of the widening and

deepening of the St Peter's channel as a Dominion work, destined to improve the navigation of the St Lawrence as a national highway. These two measures have been hitherto shirked, but the time of further delay is over.

The result of the Dominion elections leaves the government in power. The majority is just about right. It is not sufficiently large to allow of abusing the public trust with impunity, and it is quite strong enough to keep the opposition within the bounds of propriety.

The elections have shown that the National Policy is a living issue, and in the large centres the vote was such as to prove that the working class were fully aware of its bearings on themselves. The labor vote was very heavy in the cities.

After these elections the country may reasonably expect a period of rest. For the past six months there have been contests in every one of the Provinces and excitement ran high in every instance, and in more ways than one business has been interfered with.

For the next five years the people of Canada, can quietly settle down and make money. Money is not the sole end of life, but it is a principal object and with a good fiscal policy, abundance of manufactures, cheapness of staples and thrift in household management, the Canadian working man ought to be able to put a considerable sum aside every year.

The reconciliation of France with the Vatican is an event of the highest importance. So long as the Republic continued its crusade against the religious orders, and its attempts at the secularization of teaching, it could receive no countenance from the Church, and the elements of an ultramontane reaction were always fostered.

The ultimate result of the German elections, which occurred on Monday, is still doubtful, but enough is known to make it clear that Prince Bismarck has received a serious check. After a second balloting he may come out with a bare majority of the Reichstag, but his usual preponderating influence in that body is for the present impaired.

The Dominion government have expressly forbidden the passage through the mails and customs of the New York *Sporting World*, as they had done before in the case of the *Police Gazette*. This is altogether wise and well. Canadians are not squeamish or thin skinned, but they do object to being flooded with foreign trash and filth.

BRIC A BRAC.

We have just passed through the Carnival days, in the ecclesiastical sense. Monday and Tuesday were spent in feasting, especially in the way of eating. It is remarkable how largely the stomach of man enters into his notion of enjoyment. He will rejoice in the society of a fair woman, the reading of a book, the sight of a picture, the hearing of an opera, but the crown of all is a good dinner.

The chief ante-Lenten dinner is on Shrove Tuesday. Then all the delicacies of the season are heaped upon the board. A turkey is always in season, and at the present time it has the additional advantage of being cheap. Hence it occupies a place of honor.

But it is the in the stuffing of the bird that the science lies at Carnival time. As at Christmastide all sorts of hazardous ingredients are put into the plum-pudding, so the most fanciful condiments are piled into the croft of the Shrove Tuesday turkey.

On Ash Wednesday, the scene changes. The banquetting is over, the lights are put out, the burnt perfumes die out. Meat is replaced by fish; confectionery by Italian pastes, and the purple robes make way for sackcloth and ashes. Wassail is followed by penitence and the Carnival season is succeeded by the Lenten period of forty days and forty nights.

It is an image of the forty days spent in the desert of Judaea. Quite fitting it is that a brief term of every year should be consecrated to meditation and self-scrutiny and to a measure of bodily re-trait which shall remind us that we are not all matter or clay, but made up of higher elements whereby to reach the loftiest ideal. Man may and should amuse himself, but there are times when a shrinking of the heart and tears in the eyes are sources of strength and solace.

The Montreal readers of the PICTORIAL TIMES should make it their duty to visit the Art Gallery, on Phillip's Square. They will find therein an array of pictures which are not only a delight to the eye and aesthetical sense, but a means of self-instruction in the best acceptance of the world. It is safe to say that its is quite judicious an that there is no perhaps no more serviceable gallery in the whole of America.

In private hands, too, Montreal possesses rare works of art,—the property of Sir Donald Smith, Messrs Drummond, McIntyre, Angus Stephen, Justice MacKay and others. Several of the religious bodies also have treasures of the kind—notably the seminary of St. Sulpice, whose collection of old Canadian portraits is of the utmost historical value.

During Lent the consumption of oysters increases and this is a boon, because there is no more wholesome article of food. Besides, it comes within the reach of even the poor. Notwithstanding their enormous resources in this respect, Canadians do not take sufficient advantage of their own oysters and other shell fish for table use. There is no American oyster that can touch the Malpeque on the half-shell, and yet we neglect it for the artificial products of the Hudson and Delaware beds.

The handsome snow-shoe costume is disappearing from the streets, with the gradual decline of winter. The tunic, tunic, sash, leggings and moccasins make up a distinctly National outfit which we should retain as our own, by all means, especially as it suits our young women so well. Every Canadian girl should have her picture taken in snow-shoe uniform, as a future reminder of the days when she went "gypsy."

PERSONAL.

The two sons of Lord and Lady Lansdowne left Montreal for New York, on last Friday, whence they sailed for England to resume their studies.

Mgr Taché, Archbishop of St-Boniface, has arrived in Lower Canada from Winnipeg, on his way to Rome. His Grace is in full convalescence.

It is not generally known that St.

Raymond, near Quebec, is quite an important town. Its founder, 55 years ago, Peter Plamondon, has just died at the ripe age of 91 and 7 months.

Mr. Raoul Lacroix, of Montreal, has just made his *début* in New York, with flattering success. He is a baritone vocalist and a pupil of Signora Capiani.

Lady Macdonald is another instance of a Canadian lady who has gone into literature. She contributes a valuable paper on—the Canadian Pacific railway travel to an English periodical.

Professor Charles G. D. Roberts, of Nova Scotia, has an interesting paper on Canadian topics in the second number of the New York *Epoch*, a new literary weekly of high aim.

Sir Ambrose Shea, and Mr Thorburn, Premier of Newfoundland, have been commissioned to proceed to London to support the Bait Bill before the Imperial Authorities.

Marie Léveux, a Canadian girl of only thirteen years, has just carried off the first prize for the piano at the New York conservatory of Music, thus securing free tuition for a term of four years.

The Marquis of Lansdowne is continuing his round of reception and hospitality in Montreal. The ball given by him on Monday night was most brilliant and the attendance was both the large and distinguished.

Sir Henry Tyler, President of the Grand Trunk Railway, has published an important letter wherein he pleads the cause of the defence of the Empire and urges the protection of Great Britain's coal stations.

Mr. Alexander D. Turner, son of Hon. James Turner, of Hamilton, was married, last week, to Miss Sarah Faville Rocco. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr Stone, formerly of St. Martins, Montreal.

Edward Hanlan has accepted Beach's challenge and will go to Australia for the match. Beach has driven a hard bargain all through his business; and few would moan if he were beaten.

Mr. George M. Fairchild, jr., an old Quebec boy, is writing the history of the New-York Canadian Club, and Mr. Thomson Willing, a well known Canadian artist, resident of the Empire City, will illustrate it.

Mr. J. M. LeMoine, Esq., of Quebec, has resumed a new series of Canadian legends in a Canadian-monthly paper established at New York and published in both English and French, with the appropriate title of "The Maple Leaf."

Mr. Alphonse Gagnon, of the Solicitor General's office, Quebec, has just published a little volume entitled "En Racontant," and containing an account of Mr. J. U. Gregory's voyages in Florida, Labrador, and along the shores of the St Lawrence.

Dr Prosper Bender is another Canadian who is making his mark beyond the border. He is a native of Quebec and in now practising the medical profession in Boston. He finds time, however, for literary work, having published two books, "Literary Sheaves" and "Old and New Canada," and contributing articles to the *North American Review*, and the *Magazine of American History*.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

In reply to an inquiry it may be stated that the name "Sillory," borne by a charming village, outside of Quebec, comes from M. Sillory, a knight of Malta, and one of the great colonizing company of the Hundred Associates. He had shone at the Court of Louis XIII, but became a priest, and devoted his vast wealth to charity. He founded a home for converted Algonquians on the site of the village which bears his name.