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THE NEW STORY.

In this issue we give a further liberal instalment of WILKIE COLLINS' new story,

THE LAW AND THE LADY.

This story, considered the best yet written by Mr. Collins, was begun in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS of Nov. 7, (Number 19).

Back numbers can be had on application.

We beg to call the attention of News Dealers throughout the country to the fact that we have secured the sole right for Canada of publishing "The Law and the Lady" in serial form.

FIRST-CLASS AGENTS WANTED

for the advertising and subscription departments of this paper. Good percentage, large and exclusive territory, given to each canvasser, who will be expected, on the other hand, to furnish security. Also for the sale of Johnson's new MAP OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Jan. 9th, 1875.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

We are happy to be able to announce that, beginning with this number, the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS will add to its other features and claims to popularity a Chess Column, which it is intended shall be both instructive and interesting, as well as authoritative in all matters pertaining to the royal game. Canada has a reputation for the skill of her players, and the large number of her amateurs. These we respectfully invite to help us in maintaining our Chess Column up to the highest standard. Their confidence in our endeavour will be enhanced when we inform them that Principal W. H. HICKS, a conscientious votary of the game, and among the very best players in America, will preside over the editing of all our chess matter. Original games, problems, and solutions will form a conspicuous feature of his labours.

CENTENNIAL AT PHILADELPHIA.

It may now be definitely announced that both Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada will be represented at the approaching Centennial Exhibition to be held at Philadelphia. Special Commissioners will be appointed by the Dominion Government, also by the Imperial Government, and our neighbours across the frontier will set apart for both countries the very best spaces in the Exhibition—namely, those immediately next to their own. We are not in a position yet to announce the manner in which the proposed representation is to be made, but we believe it has had the careful consideration of the Government. We do not see ourselves any other way than representation by Provinces, by the aid of the Dominion subvention.

The historical fact of the representation of Great Britain and Canada at the approaching Centennial in the United States is, *per se*, at least a very remarkable one,

not to say the most remarkable one of which we have any record. The Centennial is to celebrate the victory of the now United States in their struggle with King GEORGE, and the downfall of the British power in all the wide territory over which the Stars and Stripes now float. And yet Great Britain is going to join in that celebration, and her affectionate and loyal daughter Canada is going with her! The policy, moreover, has been deliberately decided on, and the action will be taken after mature reflection. The consideration which has moved both policy and action may at least be said to be magnanimous. Great Britain will acknowledge by her act that the forcible separation from her of the old thirteen colonies was well; and she will declare that she has no feeling ranking in her heart for the defeat which she sustained at the hands of her children in the last century. Her act also will be a sign that she is great, for it is only the great that can afford to be magnanimous.

It cannot be doubted that there will be many declarations of international goodwill at the coming celebration, and some of them will be real. But no manifestation of this kind can alter the sentiment of a whole people. And on one side it cannot be doubted there will be loud shouts of triumph. It was well remarked by Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH some time ago, that in the school-books of the United States there is very widely spread a bitter leaven against England based on the events of the war for independence; and lessons of this kind learned in infancy, influence manhood—sometimes consciously and sometimes unconsciously. Mr. SMITH's remark, although well made, was not original. It has been before made by more than one observer.

It is always a bad policy to nurse hatreds. It is always best to bury them. And, therefore, we rejoice that, after looking the facts fully in the face, Great Britain and Canada are going to join in the Centennial.

This is the age of mechanics, and mechanical science is at least positive. It also does good to mankind. Many people may, and, we believe will be, the better for the great Exhibition which is about to be held. We say great Exhibition, for there cannot be a doubt that prodigious efforts will be put forth to make it so. And we think there cannot be a doubt but that they will be successful.

We hope that the necessary steps will be taken to have Canada adequately represented, in order to prove not only to our neighbours, but the whole world that a young nation may make quite as much progress without a war of revolution as with one or after one. It is the energy of the people of the United States, and their great natural resources, that have caused the great accumulation of material prosperity, not the stimulus of their institutions, as the orators love to allege; just as we see the same causes and the same effects in Canada.

We shall simply add to these remarks that in so far as the independence of the United States is concerned, it would have come any way. The seed was sown in the first charter granted by the king to the colonists, and all the set of causes which led to the war were merely pretexts. No one can study the facts of history and avoid this conclusion.

ALFONSO XII.

The disruption of the Spanish republic and the proclamation of the Prince of the Asturias as monarch in Madrid is a source of surprise in one way, but no matter of astonishment in another. It was only a few weeks ago, that we called attention to the probabilities of an Alfonsist restoration as perhaps the only possible solution of the problem engendered by the Spanish civil war, but we had no idea that the consummation was to be so early, or that the New Year's gift of the Spanish nation was to be a new Bourbon Prince. It is, of course, impossible, from our present knowledge to divine the causes which have

led to this sudden change. A despatch announced that General Martinez Campos had pronounced with two battalions in favor of Don Alfonso, and had marched upon the *chef-lieu*, in the province of Valencia. Whether the Valencia pronouncement was the prelude to similar uprisings throughout the other garrison towns and in the armies of the North and Centre, we have no means of saying. Perhaps it was intended only as the preliminary movement prepared by the government at Madrid to test the public feeling on the subject. We apprehend that a monarchical restoration was regarded as the only means of getting out of the inextricable position into which the affairs of the country were involved. To continue the war in Cuba, to give the finishing stroke to the Carlists, to ensure domestic tranquility throughout the provinces, the Spanish government required money. Money could not be had by internal taxation, because the taxes were already ruinous. Neither could it be raised by a national loan, first, because the country was hopelessly divided into parties, and secondly, because the country had no confidence in the stability of existing institutions. A foreign loan and a large one was therefore imperative. It could be raised only on the security of a recognized government. The European countries seem disposed to recognize only a monarchy. Hence the necessity of joining on Don Alfonso, the Prince of the Asturias.

ALFONSO the Twelfth, son of the Queen Isabella II, was born on the 28th of November, in the year 1857. He has consequently passed the seventeenth year of his age. He was baptized Alfonso Francisco d'Asisi, Fernando, Pio, Juan Maria dela Concepcion, Gregorio. His Holiness the Pope was one of the sponsors (by proxy), and honored Isabella and her family by permitting the infant to have his own name, John Mary. The young Prince has been educated in a very careful and liberal manner, in strict accordance with the discipline of the Catholic Church and the healthful progressive ideas of the day. He is robust in person, of active habits and has enjoyed a good training under military instructors, French and English. The Prince of the Asturias is younger than the Prince Imperial of France by a year and eight months; but it has been intimated by English juveniles in the Woolwich Academy, who have known both of the young men, that one is a fair match for the other. The two Princes are, however, very excellent friends. The young Prince was banished from Spain with his mother in September 1868.

It is useless to descant on the probable consequences of this remarkable change in the Spanish situation, but one natural result may be referred to. The event may have a marked effect on the condition of things in France. The French people—especially the Bonapartist fraction—will draw the conclusion that if a youth of seventeen can mount the Spanish throne and govern it with the assistance of a regent, there is no reason why the Prince Imperial should not succeed to his father's place without waiting for the expiration of Marshal MacMahon's Septennate. A simple idea of the kind may go a great way towards influencing the popular mind, and there is no doubt that such energetic agents as ROUHER and the Duc de PADOUE will carry it out as far as they dare. Furthermore, the change in Spain leaves France the only republic in Europe, always excepting Switzerland, and her difficulties as such will increase almost to the proportions of an anomaly.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In a late issue, we gave some interesting and satisfactory intelligence concerning the basis of compromise between the Dominion Government and the Province of British Columbia. The information which we thus early gave our readers has, we are pleased to know, been subsequently confirmed, and the probabilities are that the Pacific Province will now enter heartily into its work as an active member of the confederacy.

While the controversy was still unsettled, many of our newspapers and a few of our public men, were so ill-advised as to belittle the Province of British Columbia, evidently through ignorance of its vast natural resources, and of its great geographical importance as an integral portion of the Dominion. It is true that the Province is as yet only sparsely settled, but it is a splendid field for immigration and the access to it is easy. The climate is represented as unsurpassed for salubrity and mildness, and the soil is capable of growing not only all the cereals, but also all the fruit for which California is famous. In extent of territory, British Columbia is the largest Province of the Dominion, its area embracing 213,000 English square miles. Its trade, though not extensive, is quite commensurate with its population, and it is constantly growing, as may be seen by the following statement of its imports and exports for the past three years:

Years.	Imports.	Exports.
1872	\$1,767,068	\$1,912,107
1873	2,076,476	1,792,347
1874	2,047,586	2,120,694
Total	\$5,891,120	\$5,825,148

A special source of riches, the full extent of which has not yet been discovered, is its abundant supply of coal. There is authority for stating that the exports of this valuable article in 1873 amounted to \$180,963, and the indications are that there will always be large drafts upon its resources in this respect, not only for manufacturing uses, but also to supply in great part the want of the San Francisco and China steamers.

Its trade in lumber is only nascent, but its wealth in this respect is simply incalculable. The timber interest which has so long been almost the mainstay of Canada, will still retain all its influence if British Columbia is properly cared for.

During the past year, the foreign trade of British Columbia included shipments to Honolulu, China, Mexico, Cuba and Peru, and it is easy to forecast the business along the Pacific coast and through the South Seas which will thus be furnished the Dominion when once the Pacific Railway is built.

In agriculture, the Province is gradually making progress, as the following figures show:

1873—Flour	\$119,400
Wheat	200,046
Other grains	23,031
Cattle	67,409
Horses	39,588
Sheep	16,010

The Americans are fully alive to the importance of British Columbia, if some of our own people are disposed to make light of it. The *New York Herald* significantly says: "A country with a growing commerce like this contiguous to our own country is certainly worth our regard; and if there be any manifestation of a disposition on the part of its inhabitants to part company with uncongenial or unsympathetic, because too remote, friends, in order to draw nearer to us, it is certainly good policy, if only upon considerations of self-interest, to cultivate it."

CANADIAN AND AMERICAN POSTAGE.

Cheap postage may be set down as perhaps the chief politico-social reform of the age. The benefits which have accrued therefrom are simply incalculable, and that they may be almost indefinitely increased is proved from the new convention which has just been agreed upon between Canada and the United States. On and after February next, either written or printed correspondence from either country is to be delivered free of extra charge, and a common rate of postage to be paid precisely as if both countries were under the same government. Each country is also to retain all the money it collects on postage, as it has been discovered that the difference between the amounts of the accounts of the two countries is really very trifling. The