

[Written for the Canadian Illustrated News.]

SPRING.

My heart bids welcome to the spring.
The gentle winds that softly blow.
And the warm sunbeams' radiant glow
Fresh hope and courage bring.

Starting afresh, the hidden might
Of Nature breaks from her repose.
And off the sheltering mantle throws
Of snow—that through the wintry night
Had covered her as with a shroud.
Now watch it vanish in a cloud.
O see its changing form distil.
In fresh and fertilizing streams.
Awaking from their quiet dreams
The verdant vale and hill.

Birds in wild choral strains invite
The bursting buds again to bloom.
To fill the air with rich perfume:
And from their death, decay and blight.
The tender flowers to rise new-born.
The living landscape to adorn
In rainbow hues of light.

And thus to fade—again to bloom
Is life.—To die is but to change.
To re-assume a form as strange
As wonderful,—to re-illumine
A corner of the universe!
Endowed with more than pristine light.
Or sink obscurely out of sight.
Life's lesson to rehearse.

In patience and self-sacrifice
And labour in the cause of right.
Live out thy day, and from the night
Of Death thou shalt again arise!
To act thy part, perform thy duty.
And with unwavering eye behold.
Eternity itself unfold.
Where thou shalt bloom in beauty.

MIRAMICHI, N. B., May, 1870.

R. S.

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 32.—HON. P. J. O. CHAUVEAU, LL. D., Q. C., M. P.

PREMIER OF QUEBEC.

The creation of so much new machinery for the purpose of Government under the Confederation Act, drew largely upon the experienced talent of the Provinces, especially in those of the West, where the Local Legislature was a new creation. Of Parliamentary Candidates there is seldom any lack, but of men competent to successfully discharge the duties of administration and to initiate and direct legislation, it is not so easy to find a very abundant supply even in older countries than Canada. Especially was it a delicate responsibility to assume the chief direction of the Local Governments under circumstances entirely new. A series of blunders, or even one serious blunder, either in Quebec or Ontario, might have jeopardised the safety of the whole fabric, if it did not bring the new constitution about the country's ears. Prudence and judgment were therefore exercised in the selection of the first Chief Officers of the Local Governments. When Sir N. F. Belleau was appointed Lieut.-Governor of Quebec, one of his first duties was to surround himself with constitutional advisers, and to this end, he sent for the Hon. M. Cauchon, a gentleman of ample experience and ability, but so far destitute of the *suaviter in modo* that the *fortiter in re* became an insuperable obstacle to his success. In this state of affairs, the Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, then twelve years out of political life and filling the important office of Chief Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada, was appealed to and pressed to assume the task of forming a ministry. He accepted the responsibility and succeeded in fulfilling it, though that had certainly not been rendered more easy by the previous failure. Mr. Chauveau thus re-entered the political arena to assist in working out the new Union, in the creation of which he had taken no active part. Perhaps both he and the Premier of Ontario have some advantage in being able to say "We are not responsible for this Constitution, we are only trying to administer it for the benefit of our country."

Pierre Jacques Olivier Chauveau was born at Quebec on the 26th of May, 1830, and is descended from an old French Canadian family who settled at Charlesbourg, near that city, during the early days of the colony. He was educated at the Quebec Seminary; studied law under Messrs. Hamel & Roy, and afterwards with Mr. O'Kill Stuart; was called to the Bar of Lower Canada in 1841, and created Queen's Counsel in 1853. At an early age he divided his pursuits between law and literature. When but eighteen years of age he contributed to the press of his native city some poetical compositions of at least ample merit to give proof of the wealth of imagery with which the later productions of his pen are graced. He soon began to fish in the troubled waters of politics; as Canadian correspondent of *Le Courrier des Etats-Unis* (New York) he wrote a series of letters which attracted much attention in Lower Canada; and he also contributed to many of the serial publications of his own Province. In 1852 he published at Montreal a more pretentious work than any that had previously been written by him, viz., *Charles Guerin, roman de Mœurs Canadiennes*. This was an 8vo. volume of some 350 pages; and earned for its author very high praise. It was very favourably received in Canada, and read with great interest in France, where it won the commendations of literary circles. He also published in 1861 an account of the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to Canada; and besides his contributions to the press of Montreal and Quebec, literary and political, he has been a principal contributor to the *Lower Canada Journal of Education*.

Hon. M. Chauveau is also distinguished as an orator. His address at the laying of the corner stone of the monument to the memory of the "braves" who fell on the Plains of Abraham, on the 28th of April, 1760, delivered on the 18th of July, 1855, was universally applauded as a masterpiece of eloquence, faithful criticism and historical research. His speech at Montreal on the occasion of the tercentenary of Shakespeare's birth, and that delivered over the grave of Garneau the historian, have also excited much attention. But it may be said that before his re-entry into political life in 1867 his most substantial services have been rendered to his country as administrator of the Educational Department. For this important public service his cultivated mind and great love of letters admirably qualified him, and he exhibited a degree of administrative ability which more than justified his appointment to that important position in 1855. Like the Superintendent of the Western Province, he studied the best European and American systems; but unlike the latter he did not arrive at the conclusion that a purely secular system of national educa-

tion would best serve the interests of society or contribute to the stability of the State. But Dr. Ryerson was no truer interpreter of the Upper Canada feeling in this particular than was M. Chauveau of that of Lower Canada; in fact, so far as dealings with the minority went, it would be no flattery to say that M. Chauveau had the decidedly greater success, though we shall not say that for this he deserves the greater credit. His administration of the educational affairs of Lower Canada during a period of twelve years developed an extraordinary amount of progress; and when the Parliament of the old Province of Canada refused to the Protestant minority of Quebec such an amendment to the School law as already had doubtless met M. Chauveau's approval in his official capacity, they had only to renew their demands in the Quebec Legislature, where he, as Premier and Minister of Education, was enabled to secure the passage of a measure sufficiently liberal to satisfy the reasonable claims of the minority without encroaching upon the rights of the majority.

We have said that M. Chauveau entered the field of politics at an early age as a writer. He was only 24 when he entered Parliament for the County of Quebec, having defeated the Hon. John Neilson by a very large majority. He continued to sit for the same constituency until his retirement from Parliament in 1853. During his course in the Legislative Assembly he generally supported the Lafontaine party, and on the retirement of Messrs. Baldwin and Lafontaine in November 1851, he was appointed the Lower Canada Solicitor-General of the reconstructed cabinet. The troubles with which this Government were beset necessitated another reconstruction in August 1853, and Hon. M. Chauveau was then appointed Provincial Secretary. This office he held up to the defeat of the Hincks-Morin Government in September 1854, and continued in the same position as a member of the Macdoub-Morin coalition until January 1855, when he retired from the Government, and was succeeded in his office by Mr. (now Sir) George E. Cartier. In the same year M. Chauveau retired from Parliament, and was appointed Superintendent of Education for Canada East.

His next appearance in political life was, as we have said, after the failure of the Hon. Joseph Cauchon to form a ministry for the Province of Quebec after the Union Act came into force in 1867. M. Chauveau called to his assistance Mr. C. Dunkin as the representative man of the British Population of the Province, and he formed a Cabinet which has gone through three sessions of the Legislature without the appearance of coming disaster or any loss of the early prestige and popularity which commended it to the support of the constituencies. M. Chauveau is Premier and holds besides the offices of Secretary and Registrar, and Minister of Education. The educational department of the Province has, by legislation, been divided in a manner to suit the two classes of the population, and he as Minister is still at the head of the department. Though compelled to provide for a far more cumbersome governmental system than that prevailing in Ontario—two Chambers against one and the use of both the French and English languages in public documents—M. Chauveau's government has not imitated the parsimonious system of economy that found favour in the west, where the salaries of hard worked employees were concerned. Nevertheless his government has been enabled to make liberal provision for the construction of colonization roads; to continue and increase the grants for higher education; to offer liberal terms to settlers on wild lands; to render assistance to local railway enterprise for opening up new settlements and generally to encourage a spirit of material progress in conjunction with increased opportunities for intellectual culture, which, if warmly seconded by the people of the Province, cannot fail to have the most beneficial influences on its future.

At the last General election in 1867, Hon. Mr. Chauveau offered himself for his old constituency, the county of Quebec, as a candidate for its representation both in the Local Legislature and in the Canadian House of Commons. He was returned by acclamation for both Houses. In the House of Commons he takes a prominent part in the debates; insists on the punctilious observance of the rules requiring the reading of motions &c., in both languages; and is otherwise a sturdy champion of the rights of his Province. His long retirement from political life seems in no way to have circumscribed his vision as to the merits or bearing of public questions; and while his parliamentary speeches are generally of the severe cast that fail to elicit admiration where they do not inspire sympathy, his addresses from the platform on occasions of public assemblies of a social character are always conceived in that happy vein which can only spring from enlightened appreciation of and hearty accord with the best feelings of human nature.

THE CITIZENS' BALL TO PRINCE ARTHUR.

On Monday, the 2nd instant, the ball given by the citizens of Montreal to H. R. H. Prince Arthur, previous to his departure for England, took place in St. Patrick's Hall. This hall, the most spacious and roomy in the city, was eminently suited for the occasion, and was decorated in a very tasteful and elegant manner. At nine o'clock, the hour appointed, the company began to gather. Entering by the broad stairway, which had been specially carpeted for the occasion, the first thing that met the eye was a fountain, playing over greenhouse flowers, which stood in the middle of the corridor. The corridor had also been carpeted, and on each side were ranged eleven statues, bearing lighted candelabra. A large mirror stood at each end of the corridor, reflecting and increasing the brilliancy of the scene. On either side were two large supper-rooms, dressing-rooms for ladies and gentlemen, and a private dressing-room for the Prince. Above this, ascending by various flights of stairs, was the ball-room, which had been handsomely and artistically decorated under the direction and supervision of Mr. Spence. The platform was handsomely carpeted, and on this was placed a species of throne, surrounded by a canopy lined with green silk, and supported on either side by two figures of Fame and Victory, surmounted by two Cupids, supporting a shield bearing the Prince's monogram and a Royal Crown. On either side were two large mirrors, surmounted with Crowns. The numerous windows in the ball-room were covered with frescoes in arabesque, and in the centre of each was placed a large mirror. At the base of every mirror was an ornamental frame with various coats of arms; and placed at the circular heads of the windows were the stars of the different orders the Prince wears, alternated with the monogram of the Prince and a Crown. The pilasters were frescoed in gold and coloured; in the centre of each were candelabra containing wax-lights. In the large recesses in

the gallery were three large coats of arms, the centre one being the city arms, and on each side of this the Prince's own arms, and the arms of the Dominion. The front was boarded, covered with crimson cloth, and ornamented with a portrait of the Queen, surrounded with flowers, &c. Below the gallery stood three vases of greenhouse plants and baskets of flowers. The first quadrille was composed of sixteen, the sides being extended. The Prince danced with Her Excellency Lady Young, with Colonel Hamilton and Lady Cartier for *vis-a-vis*. Mr. Consul-General Gauthier danced with Mrs. W. E. Mackenzie; Mr. Hugh Allan with Mrs. Geo. Stephen; Mr. E. H. King with Lady Northcote; the Hon. H. Starnes with Mrs. Masson. The Prince led Lady Northcote to supper; the Mayor, Lady Young; and Colonel Elphinstone, Lady Cartier. The dancing continued till an early hour, there being twenty dances. The following ladies had also the honour of dancing with His Royal Highness during the evening:—Miss P. Allan, Mrs. Ogilvie, Mrs. Masson, Mrs. D'Orsonnens, Miss Young, and Mrs. Pomminville. On another page we give an illustration of the ball, leggotyped from a sketch by our own artist.

COLLISION BETWEEN THE STEAMSHIP "GERMANY" AND S. S. "CITY OF QUEBEC."

In our last issue an account was given of the collision which took place on May 1, between the "Germany" of the Allan line, and the "City of Quebec," by which the latter vessel was sunk, and two lives were lost. In this number we give an illustration of the accident. The "Germany" is just bearing down on the ill-fated "City," and strikes her on her starboard side, doing such damage that the smaller vessel sank half-an-hour after the collision occurred. The "Germany" also received considerable injury; her sides were stove in a couple of feet above the water-mark, and her bowsprit and fore-top-mast, and the ropes connecting them, were much damaged. She will remain here until the necessary repairs have been executed, and will then proceed to Liverpool, where she will be thoroughly overhauled and refitted.

THE AIR WE BREATHE.

On Friday evening, last week, Dr. Baker Edwards delivered, in the St. Patrick's Hall, Montreal, the first of a course of lectures on the philosophy of health, the subject for the evening being "The Air we Breathe." The lecturer first treated very fully of the chemical and physical properties of air, and stated that the results of the analysis of air collected in balloons, and at high altitudes on mountains, from the mid-ocean and from deep mines, showed that the normal proportions of oxygen, the vital element of air, was one-fifth only of its volume; and that in respiration four-fifths of the air inhaled was unchanged in the lungs, being nitrogen, which in no way assisted to support life, although it might aid in carrying away aqueous vapour. Average sized human lungs contained 12 pints of air, and about one pint was removed at each expiration and the same amount of air supplied by fresh inhalations; 18 such respirations take place in a minute, so that 18 pints a minute, or 1,080 pints per hour are required to supply the lungs of an audience. In the course of 24 hours 60 hogsheds of air are presented by the lungs to 30 hogsheds of blood. During exercise, speaking, or singing, much more is required. An increased proportion of oxygen stimulates the nervous energy and all the powers of secretion, whilst further dilution of the oxygen in a corresponding manner depresses the nervous system, and lowers all the vital actions.

Experiments conducted in the British House of Commons showed that the minimum supply of fresh air to a sitting and speaking assembly was 10 cubic feet for each individual, but if the temperature was raised over 60°, and the air admitted warm, from 40 to 50 cubic feet per individual was required. In a room containing 10,000 cubic feet of air, therefore, an audience of 200 persons would require a supply equal to its whole capacity every five minutes, and with a less supply they would soon begin to inhale the exhalations of each other's lungs, skins, and clothes, with the most deleterious effect upon health. Ventilation must, therefore, be directed to two ends: 1st, supply of fresh air, and 2nd, removal of exhaled vapour. At night the combustion of oxygen by gas lights, oil lamps, and candles, should also be taken into account. One person, however, vitiated as much air as 12 gas burners, each consuming 5 feet per hour, and the products exhaled were more unwholesome. Gas, containing a large quantity of hydrogen, gave large quantities of steam as the product of combustion, whilst petroleum oil lamps, and colza oil lamps gave out more carbonic acid, in proportion, than water. In this respect they compare thus:

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| For the same amount of light, Gas yields of Carbonic Acid..... | 5 |
| Coal Oil, of Carbonic Acid..... | 7 |
| Seed or Sperm Oil..... | 10 |

An amount of illumination from coal oil or fixed oil, equal to that we now employ from gas, would, therefore, seriously deteriorate the atmosphere. But the most serious emanations from the human body are the seeds of disease: such as the small-pox virus, the typhus, cholera, and other miasma, which may be retained in woollen clothes, hair, &c., and thrown off in a close cab or close room, and communicate disease. Dr. Budd of Bristol, has established very interesting facts in relation to those microscopic spores of disease. Dr. Angus Smith and Mr. Crookes established the same facts in relation to the infection of the English cattle plague; and Dr. Tyndall has shown the organic nature of dust, and its destruction at a red heat. The large dilution of these spores with air renders them harmless, but as they are borne upward in a room, upon aqueous vapour, to the ceiling, it is better not to tempt them down again to be inhaled as they pass to a fire-place or floor ventilator, but to allow them to escape from the ceiling at once.

The lecturer enlarged on the importance of ventilation from the ceiling, or from the stove-pipe holes of apartments, and the importance of large apertures for the admission of fresh air. To avoid draughts, the apertures may be covered with double foldings of wire gauze or perforated zinc, which will distribute the current. A small hanging curtain between these is sometimes most effectual in regulating its admission. In Canada the winter and summer conditions are so different that the necessities of each season should be separately provided for. Some buildings which the lecturer had recently inspected were most insufficiently provided, and he could not say much for the room they were now assembled in. The lecture room of the Natural History Society used to be peculiarly offensive, but since the supply of air to the floor, and the withdrawal of the foul air by the sunburner in the ceiling, the ven-