

## MONTREAL THE METROPOLIS

to the corner of St. Lambert Hill. In 1837 these establishments were removed to premises on the corner of St. Francois Xavier and St. Sacrament streets, the newspaper and job printing departments occupying the upper flat and the bindery the lower flat, while the book and stationery departments extended up St. Francois Xavier Street as far as the post office, which at that time was situated at the corner of Hospital and St. Francois Xavier Streets. Gas was then introduced into the printing establishment for the first time, and was a vast improvement on the tallow candles previously used, even coal oil had not yet been discovered. In 1841 these combined establishments were again removed to more convenient premises on the south side of St. Paul Street, near St. Gabriel. Mr. Robert Abraham, it is believed in 1844, who had been for some years THE GAZETTE Liverpool Correspondent, came to Montreal and became by purchase the proprietor of the newspaper. He had brought with him a cylinder press, the first introduced into Montreal. Mr. Abraham ventured on another enlargement of the paper, and commenced issuing it daily during the summer months while it remained tri-weekly during the winter. It is believed that this was the first newspaper issued daily in Canada for half the year. Mr. Abraham was a very able journalist, and was recognized as by far the most able writer of the English newspaper press of his day in Montreal. He was assisted by Mr. H. McIver, also a very able writer, who for years after his connection with THE GAZETTE made his mark as a newspaper writer. Up to 1847, Montreal was practically without either railways or telegraphs, but Judge Breble, from Portland, had come and delivered a missionary lecture in favor of the broad-gauge Grand Trunk Railway, and his words had fallen on willing ears. In 1852 the railway was begun, and simultaneously the telegraph line sprang up. THE GAZETTE ardently supported these great enterprises. In the year 1848 Mr. Abraham, who was getting advanced in years, desired to retire from the active life of a journalist. He therefore sold his interest in THE GAZETTE to the firm of Ferres & Milne, the senior member, Mr. James Moir Ferres becoming the new editor. Mr. Ferres had previously held a position under the Government, from which he was dismissed for political reasons, and this fact was the occasion for a long series of exceedingly bitter letters in the style of Junius which were published in THE GAZETTE while Mr. Abraham was still editor, Mr. Francis Hincks (afterwards Sir Francis), being particularly attacked. In 1848, when Messrs. Ferres & Milne came into possession of the paper, they removed it from the premises formerly occupied, to others, more commodious, on the south side of St. James Street, on the site of the present City and District Savings Bank. THE GAZETTE under its new management continued to make its mark in the controversies of the day of the nature already

indicated, until 1849, when the Baldwin-Lafontaine Government introduced the Rebellion Losses Indemnity Bill in the Legislature. THE GAZETTE commenced a crusade against the measure. Mr. Ferres, who was quite sincere in his feelings, poured out a torrent of denunciation and vituperation which produced an excited agitation and the subsequent deplorable consequences. A point which largely moved the policy of THE GAZETTE at that time was the answer to a monster and strongly worded petition sent to the Queen setting forth all the iniquities of the Rebellion Losses Bill, and the indignities to which it exposed the loyal population. The answer was not long in coming. It was to the effect that Canada had been granted Constitutional Government, that the will of the majority must prevail, and therefore Her Majesty's Government could not intervene.

Salutary as that medicine in the end proved itself to be, it was at that time an exceedingly bitter potion. It rankled deeply in the hearts of the excited petitioners. It led many of them to the signing of an Annexation Manifesto, which followed shortly after in a year of bad times. But THE GAZETTE, badly snubbed as it had been by the answer from England, was not to take its place *une telle galette*. Mr. Ferres denounced this movement as bitterly and vehemently as he did the Rebellion Losses Bill, and overwhelmed the signers with ridicule. Events soon showed that the movement had no real foundation in the hearts or feelings of the people, though it caught, for a time, such men as Messrs. John Rose, Alexander Galt, Peter Redpath and John J. C. Abbott. In a short time it utterly collapsed, and the best men who had taken part in the movement became ashamed of what they had done. It may be said that THE GAZETTE by its very energetic action at that time did a public service.

In 1853 the firm of Ferres & Milne sold out their interest in THE GAZETTE to the firm of Lowe & Chamberlain, both of whom had been regular attaches of the paper since 1849. When THE GAZETTE passed into the hands of the new firm it had a cylinder Taylor press and no steam engine, a very strong and very black negro and another, working a fly-wheel that supplied the motive power to the press. A steam engine was soon procured, and the single-cylinder Taylor was followed by a single cylinder Hoe press, which in its turn was followed by a double-cylinder press. The offices and plant were removed in a short time to the opposite side of St. James Street, where still larger premises were obtained, the building extending back to Fortification Lane. Almost immediately after coming into the hands of the new proprietors, THE GAZETTE commenced publication daily all the year round, instead of only in the summer months, taking this action simultaneously with the Herald, these being the first all-the-year-round