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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

Montreal Saturday, Jan. 8th, 1876.

PROSPECTUS FOR 1876.

ON THE OPENING OF A NEW YEAR we feel justified in calling upon the public in every part of the Dominion to aid us in making the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS second to no journal of its class in the world. We have accomplished much in the way of improvements, and we think we have fulfilled the promises we made twelve months ago. But we feel that there still remains much to be done, and we call upon our friends to assist us in doing it. This is the only illustrated newspaper in the Dominion. As such it has special claims upon the patronage of Canadians. It is a national undertaking, designed to reflect PICTORIALY and EDITORIALY the life, the sentiments, and the daily history of Canada. No other paper can do this in the same way, and hence the ILLUSTRATED NEWS has an intrinsic value quite distinct from any other publication.

Its principal features are:—

- 1st. The pictorial illustration of all leading Canadian events as they occur.
- 2nd. A complete gallery of all Canadian celebrities with biographies attached.
- 3rd. The reproduction of the finest works of art.
- 4th. A great variety of original and selected literary matter.
- 5th. Stories, sketches, poems, and other contributions by leading Canadian writers.
- 6th. Special attractions for the home circle.

Every Canadian ought to be interested in the success and continued progress of the ILLUSTRATED NEWS, and should consider it his duty to encourage it to the extent of at least one year's subscription. None know better than ourselves how

much it can still be improved, and we warrant that if we receive the patronage which we solicit, no effort on our part will be left untried to introduce a number of the most desirable improvements. Let the public throughout the country come forward generously with their support and we guarantee to furnish them a paper which shall be a real credit to the Dominion. We will supply the material if our friends will only furnish the patronage. Our terms are very moderate:—

1st. Four Dollars in advance, including the postage paid by us.

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THE QUEBEC CENTENNIAL.

On last Friday, the 31st ult., the old city of Quebec celebrated the hundredth anniversary of its successful resistance to the attacks of the American expedition under MONTGOMERY and ARNOLD. The ancient capital appeared for a day invested once more with its former glory of arms. Military bands played from the ramparts, a phantom sentinel appeared in the citadel, and a Royal salute thundered from the King's bastion. There were social and literary festivities in addition to the purely military demonstration, and altogether the event seems to have been appropriately celebrated.

It would have been well if other parts of the country had joined in the Centennial, for all parts of the country were almost equally interested in it. The destinies of the whole Colony lay in that one battery at the foot of Cape Diamond, on the memorable December night of 1775, and the volleys of grape that saved Quebec saved the whole of Canada as well.

It would be curious to inquire what would have been the consequences if the Americans had succeeded in capturing Canada. It appears very probable that this result would have materially altered the foreign and colonial policy of Great Britain. The foothold of England in America would have been entirely lost. We are apt to forget what prestige it gave the Mother Country to have retained all the Northern portion of this continent. If she had lost Canada in 1775-76, the great trading and fur companies would never have been established, the North-West would not have been settled as it is now, and all the romance of Hudson's Bay and its settlements would have had no existence. Furthermore, if England had lost Canada, the event might have quenched her thirst for territorial expansion and schemes of colonization. It is a question whether it was not precisely her providential success in retaining her hold in America, spite of the defection of the Thirteen Colonies, that fired her ambition to conquer new worlds to civilization and commerce in further and unexplored continents.

In mentioning the celebration of the Quebec Centennial, it is only fair to bring out one fact of prominence which unfortunately is too much ignored or lost sight of. We refer to the part taken by the French-Canadians in the defence of the city. The attack of Montgomery at Près de Ville was resisted by a body of men who were under the command of a British officer, but the attack at Sault-au-Matelot by ARNOLD was met almost exclusively by French-Canadians under a French-Canadian commander. The struggle in that quarter was more serious than in the other, and it is certain that had ARNOLD succeeded in forcing his way from the east, the death and repulse of MONTGOMERY would have been no bar to his capture of city. Hence let there be honor where honor is due, and in referring to the celebration of the eventful anniversary, let it be a source of additional pride and satisfaction to remember that Canada was saved by the patriotic and heroic efforts of her own children.

THE SECOND YEAR OF ALFONSO XII.

There is always a certain interest of romance in studying the situation of such a country as Spain. There, as indeed among all the Latin nations, political questions are so involved with personal passion, that they attract not only in themselves, but on account of the parties who are engaged in them. In England, the United States, Canada and other Anglo-Saxon countries, the ordinary course of statesmanship is more or less prosaic, because it is usually confined to details, and our involved phraseology of legislation is at best but very dull reading. There is besides another peculiar feature in present Spanish affairs in that they consist of a series of tentative efforts towards constitutional reform which are so complicated that there is no telling, in a given year, whether any real progress has been made, or the contrary. When Alfonso XII mounted the throne, one year ago, he called to the Presidency of the Council CAXOVAS DEL CASTILLO, the man to whom he was chiefly indebted for his accession. The policy of this able and patriotic minister was a tangible one. In the interior he aimed at a coalition of parties on the basis of gradual, but real reform. In the exterior he advocated a vigorous prosecution of the war against the Carlists. For several months he appeared to meet with substantial success. The campaign in the North was vigorously prosecuted and Don Carlos was driven to the foot of the Pyrenees. At Madrid, political intrigue was kept under and the Cortes seemed to work harmoniously. But during the summer the Moderados were discovered working at an under-handed game. They counselled compromise with the Carlists, strove to introduce disaffection in the Alfonso's Army, and favored the restoration of the Concordat of 1851 several of whose provisions are plainly impossible of execution in the present altered condition of the country. Thereupon CAXOVAS DEL CASTILLO resigned and for three months, from September to December, the reins of Government were held by General JOVELLANO, leader of the Unionistas. During this interval, however, CAXOVAS seems not to have been idle. He urged with success the energetic resumption of hostilities, secured the cooperation of the two principal generals—QUESADA and CAMPOS—and obtained from Rome substantial modifications in the Concordat. The way was thus paved for his return to power and we were pleased to learn, early in December, that the King had recalled him to the head of his council.

CAXOVAS may not be a statesman of the first rank, but he is certainly best suited for the actual condition of his country. He is firm, yet moderate, progressive yet not impulsive, and he has much of that common sense so much needed in the South. His resumption of the administration is especially opportune at the beginning of the new year when a general election to the Cortes is to take place and grave constitutional questions are to be submitted to the people. If he can secure a majority favorable to his policy, his hands will be so far strengthened that we may expect from him an early termination of the war. This accomplished, one half of his troubles will cease and he will be able to address himself wholly to the reorganization and consolidation of the Kingdom. It is to be hoped that he will be successful in keeping Ex-Queen ISABELLA out of Spain. Her very presence there would thwart all his designs, awakening personal and partisan complications which outsiders have a difficulty in understanding. With Carlism and Isabellism eliminated, the minister will have only new elements to deal with and may possibly succeed in effecting a union of all parties.

Archbishop Ledochowski's imprisonment terminates on the 3rd of February next. Catholics of all Germany propose to celebrate the day in an appropriate manner; deputations from the Reichstag and Landtag will wait upon the Arch-

bishop, and tender their congratulations. Archbishop Ledochowski persists in his refusal to acknowledge the jurisdiction of the new Ecclesiastical Court, or the validity of his deposition. It is expected that Government will intern him, as it did the Bishop of Paderborn, unless he prefers quitting the country. The whereabouts of the Archbishop of Cologne is still a secret. The Volks Zeitung invites decessans desiring to present him with their felicitations, to leave their cards at its publishing office for transmission.

There is at least one prophet in Israel. Mr. VEXNOR, our well-known geologist, predicted, two months ago, that the present winter would be an open one. When the first cold snap came, binding the river within a couple of nights, we all laughed at him. But the present weather has turned the laugh against ourselves. Bright sunshine, balmy winds, dry footpaths and not a sleigh on the 3rd January. It is very nice, but most of us wish that Mr. VEXNOR had not proved so good a prophet. We live in fear that we shall catch it yet.

His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Quebec has done a very considerate thing. He decided to put off his annual ball this year and devote the amount usually spent by him thereon to charitable purposes, and generally for the relief of the suffering poor of Quebec. He therefore placed the amount (\$21,200) at the disposal of the Mayor for the purpose of distributing. Mayor MEARNS supplemented the Lieutenant Governor's donation by the kind some personal subscription of \$500.

The note drawn up by Count Andriassy, Austrian Premier, relative to reforms in Turkey, has received the approval of Russia, and is understood to have been dispatched to the Guaranteeing Powers. The note proposes the equality of all religious denominations, and the introduction of provincial and communal self-government, and that the just results of these reforms in the insurgent Provinces shall be the imposition of taxation by the Provinces themselves and the abolition of seditious

A decree has been issued at Madrid imposing penalties upon the press for attacks upon the King, royal family and constitutional monarchy, and instituting a tribunal composed of three judges in each of the royal courts to try newspaper offences. This is better than the arbitrary suppression of newspapers, and is a striking tribute to the merits and power of the press.

We were perhaps the first to call attention to the propriety of celebrating the centennial anniversary of the republic of Montgomery at Quebec, and are, in consequence, pleased to know that the event has been appropriately commemorated at the ancient Capital. We hope to be able, in a subsequent number, to give some illustrations of the interesting ceremonies.

The Grand Vizier recently requested the Pope to use his good offices with the Catholic insurgents in the Herzegovina, with a view to peace. The Pope has accordingly instructed Cardinal Franchi to inquire into the condition of affairs there. The Vatican will take no action until the reports of the Catholic prelates of the Herzegovina are received.

In answer to a request made by the Prince of Montenegro, to be allowed to enter into action, Russia has advised him on no account to depart from the policy of neutrality. The Prince has given assurances that he will follow this advice. The report that Montenegro had raised a loan is contradicted.

Senor Castelar has issued a manifesto, offering to contest Barcelona and Valencia for a seat in the Cortes. He declares himself in favor of universal suffrage, free universities and separation of Church and State, and rejects any alliance with the Federalists.