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NOTICE.

We have acquired the sole right for the Dominion of publishing in serial and later in book form,

BENEATH THE WAVE :

A NEW NOVEL

BY

MISS DORA RUSSELL,

Author of "Footprints in the Snow," "The Miner's Oath," "Annabel's Rival," &c., &c.

The publication will begin early in November. We shall take occasion next week to say more about this enterprise of ours. Meantime we append the following notices of this new and promising writer's works.

OPINIONS OF THE PREES ON DORA RUSSELL'S NOVELS.

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW.

"Footprints in the Snow" is entitled to stand well in the fiction of the year. — *Graphic*.

"With a deep knowledge of the ways of wicked aristocrats." — *Standard*.

"Miss Russell uses the pathetic, and uses it with effect." — *Queen*.

"The incidents are skilfully dealt with." — *Pictorial World*.

"The interest is fairly sustained throughout the book." — *Saturday Review*.

"Several characters are drawn with a skill that deserves much praise." — *Spectator*.

"Elizabeth Gordon's character is well drawn. The story is fairly told." — *Athenaeum*.

"Elizabeth's struggles for independence in London are particularly well described." — *Whitehall Review*.

"Footprints in the Snow" is a novel which can be read with satisfaction and even enjoyment." — *World*.

"Miss Russell's story is unquestionably clever, extremely amusing, and will, we doubt not, be a favourite in the libraries." — *Academy*.

"There are here all the elements of tragedy, enough to have satisfied Webster or Marlowe, and Miss Russell's scenes are of a dramatic kind." — *Daily News*.

"A plot which will highly interest romance readers." — *Stamford Mercury*.

"Miss Russell has effected considerable progress as a novelist." — *Carlisle Journal*.

"Miss Russell writes with so much vigour and gives so much flesh-and-blood interest to her novels." — *Scotsman*.

"Novel-readers should find 'Footprints in the Snow' very much to their taste." — *Birmingham Daily Post*.

"The best and truest thing we can say of it is, that it is extremely popular." — *Warrington Guardian*.

"Miss Russell has made herself a name by this work which must bring her considerable fame." — *Bury Times*.

"The authoress has displayed considerable skill in the way in which she has put her figures into contrast one with another." — *Bradford Observer*.

"Will be read with interest. . . . There is a good deal of originality in the plot, and its elaboration is skilfully carried out." — *Leeds Mercury*.

"We have read this story with great pleasure, and consider it deserves to be classed amongst the best specimens of English fiction." — *Monk's Herald*.

"There is a freshness of description and a facility of expression which is a treasure beyond price in these days. . . . One of the best novels that have come under our notice for some time." — *Nottingham Guardian*.

"A really interesting and well-written story, and one which we can heartily recommend to our readers. When we say that it is rather sensational we have mentioned almost the only fault we have to find with it." — *Hereford Times*.

"Racily written, and full of stirring incident, brilliant description and spirited dialogue, the tale is one of the most successful and interesting pictures of modern life which have come under our attention for several years." — *Kent Messenger*.

"Is well—and in parts powerfully—written; will become—and deservedly—a popular story. . . . The female characters are admirably drawn, the style is excellent, and the incidents are so varied that the interest never flags." — *Sheffield Telegraph*.

"Is one of the really good novels which have been published during the last few months. . . . It shows a firmer and more practised hand, has more strength of plot, and is altogether more complete and artistic than any of the writer's earlier stories. Miss Russell is steadily marking out a line for herself." — *Newcastle Chronicle*.

"We regard Miss Russell as a very successful follower of some of the most popular novelists. . . . The characters are fairly and consistently drawn, while the leading one only falls slightly short of real excellence. . . . 'Footprints in the Snow' is the work of one who has a real talent for this species of literature." — *Sussex Daily News*.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

Montreal, Saturday, Oct. 19, 1878.

THE AFGHAN DIFFICULTY.

We learn from our latest European exchanges that the Ameer of Afghanistan had forewarned the Government of India some time since that Russia would advance into his country, and that he wanted England to guarantee him its assistance if what he feared should occur. If he was really in earnest in asking this assistance on that occasion, when a Russian advance was only a thing of the future, and a state of things he professed to dread, what, it may be asked, is it that has so altered the Ameer's views of Russia's movements in Cabul that he can now receive her envoy with apparent satisfaction, and by his conduct leave the English in ignorance whether he will receive their mission? The answer is not difficult to find. When the Ameer sent his representatives to the English, what better opportunity could there have been for creating a firm foothold at the Ameer's Court? Why should they have refused what he asked, unless it was to drive him to listen to the first Power that flattered him? The Ameer, being human, will no doubt have some little wish to side with the Power least likely to crush him. The advances of Russia in Central Asia of late years may make him consider if the wisest plan after all may not be to side with England, especially if it can be proved to him that it is the wish and intention that Cabul should remain independent. He must be made to see, however, that he will be courting subjection if he favours Russia and allows her a footing in his territory. He ought to understand that he is safe as long as he trusts England, but that if he confides in Russia he not only runs the risk of being invaded by British troops, but that Russia must have something tangible to gain by acting in direct opposition to her statement that she considered Afghanistan as outside her sphere of action.

Yakoob Khan, who will be perhaps now declared heir-apparent to the throne of Cabul, dislikes England and has rather a liking for Russia, so that it is to be hoped the mission to Afghanistan may not be delayed. Abdoola Jan was the son of Shere Ali's favourite wife, whom he married in his old age. It is supposed that by her influence the Ameer was induced to raise her son regardless of his other offspring to the position of heir-apparent, a step that produced ill-feeling in Afghanistan. Yakoob Khan is a very warlike person, with much determination, and his succession to the throne of Cabul will be more likely to secure internal peace to that State than that succession of Abdoola Jan would have been. There is no proof at present for the statement that Abdoola Jan has been poisoned, but, if it is true, the story will not be authenticated for some time. Ghuznee is said to be the place to which Yakoob Khan has escaped.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

It is well to remind our readers that a permanent conference on the subject of the metrical system, in which thirty States are represented, exists since 1870, and has its seat at Paris. This conference is about to order the manufacture of international standards.

The metrical system exists in Spain since the 1st June, 1852, and partially in Portugal since 1864. The kingdom of Sardinia, now Italy, adopted it in 1845-46, and Belgium as far back as 1836. Holland admitted the metric even before France, but the designations were Dutch. At present, however, the French names are coming into vogue. In Germany, the metric system which was optional in 1868, became obligatory in 1872. In Austria proper the obligation was enforced in 1876, and Hungary will probably soon follow the example. In Serbia the obligation

will begin in 1880; in Roumania it dates from 1865. It likewise exists in Greece and Egypt.

Among the nations where the metric system does not as yet exist, England stands first. Its optional use is authorized and it is taught in the schools, but there is no telling when it will be made obligatory. Still a first step has been made, inasmuch, as a member of the union, England has admitted the unity of weight of 15 grammes which corresponds to nothing in her present system. But England does not confine herself to resistance within her own borders; she carries it into her colonies. India having adopted the system, it was vetoed by the Imperial Parliament, so that only the optional use exists in India, where the metre is called the *sen*. It is the same for Canada.

In Norway, the introduction of the metric system dates from the 1st July, 1878. Sweden will follow suit very shortly. Denmark has been refractory up to the present, but the example of the other Scandinavian States will probably shortly have its effect upon her. Russia is still backward, and Turkey ordered 70 standards, six years ago, but nothing has been heard of them since.

In the United States, the optional use of the system exists since 1866. An association, having its centre in Boston, and represented in the Congress by Mr. Appleton, is carrying on an active propaganda by means of pamphlets and explanatory fly sheets. Mexico has the metric system as well as the South American States. Switzerland is as backward as Russia.

The nations which employ the system represent a total population of 600,000,000. This mass will surely serve as a centre of attraction for the rest of the globe.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET CLUB.—The match of the Australian eleven against twenty-two Montreal cricketers took place on Thursday and Friday, the 10th and 11th inst. It was so completely one-sided in favour of the Australians, that we do not consider it worth while to describe it. But we append the score:

	SCORE.
Murdoch, b McLean	45
C Bannerman, c Badgley b Gordon	125
Horan, c Bell b Badgley	32
Spofforth, stumped out, b Badgley	18
Gregory, c Starke b Dawson	4
Boyle, c Hare b Badgley	19
Garrett, b Hare	15
Bailey, b Dawson	22
Conway, c Bell b Badgley	3
Allen, not out	7
Blackham, not out	2
Byes	19
Leg Byes	2
Wides	6
Total	319

RUNS PER WICKET.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	96	181	217	257	265	269	289	300	310

ANALYSIS OF BOWLING.

	Balls.	M.	O.	Wkts.	Wides.	Runs.
McLean	108	16	27	1	1	16
Dawson	256	33	64	2	0	25
Hare	64	7	16	1	1	19
Gordon	100	2	25	1	1	71
Badgley	128	7	32	4	1	60
Brodie	84	12	21	0	1	13

The above is the analysis of six of the principal bowlers.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK EXHIBITION BUILDING.—The external dimensions of the building are 75 x 200 feet, with a centre transept on either side 20 x 75. Externally the design is Italian, with bold, projecting cornices, airy gables and minarets, and a lofty, grand central convex tower. The height of the latter from the main floor to the top of the deck is one hundred feet. The main room is a finely illuminated, clear story, 46 x 200 feet, and has an elevation above the aisle roofs of 18 feet; height of nave, 54 feet. The internal arrangements are complete and ample, and will afford a convenient space for a grand exhibition. The main floor's total area—75 x 100 feet—is supplemented by a gallery 16 feet wide, extending around the entire building, a distance of 550 feet, which is rendered accessible by four grand staircases, and will afford a fine promenade, commanding delightful views of the entire exhibition and a vast amount of space for the display of light wares, fabrics and art works. The end gallery opposite the main entrance is elevated about four feet above the side galleries to give it prominence as a musical dais, and on the main floor, directly below, a speaker's spacious stand has been devised, which

may be moved on rollers to any position desired. The construction is entirely of wood, with heavy timber trusses, slatted and well bolted, the style of the truss being a triple stilted arch; and the view from either end through the interlacing curved lines and powerful but very graceful bracing of the roof is decidedly fine and fanciful, giving great vista to the interior. The transepts are to be occupied as committee rooms, and a portion is set apart for the accommodation of a first-class restaurant. The floors are well supported and laid from good material, well smoothed up, and may be very pleasantly employed for dancing, or conveniently used for drilling a regiment of soldiers, when not occupied as an exhibition hall. The well-broken and ever-varying outlines, and bold, clear details of the building, heightened by the waving of the national standards from numerous points around it, produce an effect at once pleasing and picturesque. Its projectors deserve great credit for their enterprise, and the Celestials may congratulate themselves upon having in their city one of the handsomest exhibition palaces in Canada. We are indebted for this description to our excellent contemporary, the *St. John Telegraph*.

ECHOES FROM PARIS.

THE American colony is described as the gayest portion of Parisian society.

FRIDAY being unlucky, the captive balloon records reduced receipts on these days.

It is announced that it has been definitively decided the Exhibition shall remain open till November 20.

Père Hyacinthe is thinking of erecting a church in Paris, and is about to apply to the Government for the authority.

THE latest novelty in lace copied from the Paris Exposition is a mixture of black and white leaves on a groundwork of black Chantilly.

THERE is some talk of a grand *fête exotique* to be offered to the Parisians by the foreigners resident in Paris. A committee has been organized, amongst the members of which is Sir Richard Wallace.

M. EMILE DE GIRARDIN proposes, in *La France*, to close the Exhibition on October 31, but to reopen the Champ de Mars on May 1, next year, for another six months, the exhibitors having the option to remove their goods, to replace them, or to give up their space altogether. *La parole est aux exposants*. Six months is too short a period to study all the products of France.

THE fashion in Paris is to have a private railway carriage built for one's self, as costly as possible, of course. They are moved on to the line like the travelling furniture vans. If one of them should be the cause of an accident, and a loss of life some day, there will be a people's outcry against the rich. That they are in the way is shown by the fact that the companies will not take them by express trains.

MACADAM is the odd name given by the Parisians to the sweet white wine of Bergerac, the arrival of which is one of the signs of approaching winter. Already the wineshops in the quarter of the Halles are beginning to display a magnificent card bearing the inscription, *vin doux de Bergerac, récolte de 1878*. The final sign of the arrival of winter will be the appearance of the roasted chestnut sellers.

FROM some interesting statistics published by the *Temps*, we learn that the Français played during the past year seventy-six pieces, of which twenty-five belonged to the ancient and forty-seven to the modern repertory, while four were new. Next in the order of number of plays performed comes the Gymnase with fifty-eight pieces, the Palais-Royal with forty-six pieces, and the Odéon with forty pieces, of which thirty-two were pieces of the ancient repertory played at *matinées*, and the remaining eight were new pieces.

THE change which has come over the spirit of France has effected none whatever in its national gaiety. The Republican institutions seem to be favourable to diversion, as the receipts at the Exhibition continue to increase with rapid strides, the average receipts at the theatres having also progressed rapidly since the adoption of the present régime. At the close of the Empire the receipts of the operas and theatres and other places of public amusement amounted to sixteen millions; they have annually increased up to twenty and twenty-eight millions, and this year they will surpass thirty millions of francs.

A FRENCH authority has just published an interesting study on the relative number of accidents by rail and road, and some elaborate statistics showing the proportion of accidents to railway travellers in various European countries. From the figures adduced, it appears that there is no comparison between diligences and railways in the matter of safety. In France, in pre-railway times, there was one traveller killed to every 335,000 carried, and of every 30,000 one was wounded; whereas out of 1,782,403,678