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It is pleasurable to report that our circulation increases steadily and surely, and we believe we are not over sanguine in anticipating that before the completion of Vol. II. the circulation with which we commenced the volume will have been doubled. Nor is it alone in Montreal and vicinity that the paper has a growing *clientèle*; we have readers in every section of the Dominion, for whose flattering encomiums we are indeed grateful. Being so widely read in the family, and circulating chiefly amongst householders of means, our columns offer a medium for advertisers which cannot be excelled, and of which they will doubtless be prompt to take advantage.

Our constant aim and endeavour will be to make the paper, in matter, manner and typography, attractive to the intelligent amongst our families, and to continue its acknowledged usefulness as a healthy, vigorous and high-class publication—ever active and anxious for the reform of abuses, yet courteous and forbearing; “with malice toward none and charity for all.”

MANAGER.

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N.B.—During the summer months the SPECTATOR will be delivered free to subscribers residing in the country, who, as well as city subscribers who have changed their residence, are requested to send their new address to the Office, No. 162 St. James Street, to prevent irregularity in delivery.

PRIZE QUESTIONS IN CANADIAN HISTORY.

On a previous occasion we expressed our gratification at the interest which our announcement of a prize in this matter had awakened. We scarcely wish to retract this, but when we regard the amount of labour which it has brought upon us it makes us think whether it was not premature. *Over seven hundred pages of manuscript* (for the most part carefully prepared and with a most exemplary amount of painstaking, and all-worthy of careful reading) is the result; and in the face of the task of digesting such an amount of information we have yet to ask the patience of our contributors, and we assure them that we shall be happy when we can reach the end. Those who have sent replies will realise the necessity of our not coming to a too hasty decision. In many instances we had arrived, as we fancied, at an indisputable conclusion, when some fresh *date* or *theory* has rendered a new enquiry necessary before announcing a final verdict.

We have already said that the proposition of these Prize Questions originated with the late Mr. S. J. Lyman, and if his life had been spared, without doubt, with his plodding and patient perseverance, all would have gone on without interruption; but seeing that at the time of his sudden decease he had only the answers to six of the questions settled and verified, we at that juncture became as much students in the matter as the competitors themselves. We can now only hope that our friends will still have patience.

THE TIMES.

It is not a little significant that the despatch of the Home Government *in re* M. Letellier's dismissal was addressed to the Marquis of Lorne and not to the Governor in Council. This would seem to imply that there is some information or advice for the private ear of His Excellency which bodes better for M. Letellier than for Sir John A. Macdonald. It may happen that the British Cabinet wouldn't mind doing something to bring about another general election in Canada. For although the appeal to the electors would be on the part of the Ministers as against the Governor-General, nothing is more certain than that the National Policy would be tried over again. No amount of stump orating could make the Constitutional question, supposed to be involved in the Letellier *coup*, plain to the understanding of the mass of voters; in truth, I very much doubt if, beyond the Province of Quebec, any interest in the matter could be evoked—so that the issue would be the N. P., for that is still engaging the attention of the people.

AND to raise that issue again now would be manifestly unfair. The promises of a sudden prosperity, so recklessly made by irresponsible vapourers, have not been redeemed, and the unreasoning