

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 70.—MR. J. D. ARMSTRONG.

We place before our readers this week the portrait of the champion short race snow-shoe runner of Canada, Mr. J. D. Armstrong, who is a true specimen of a Canadian, not an English, Irish, Scotch, or French Canadian, but of the four combined, thus being simply a *Canadian*. He is a son of Mr. James Armstrong, Queen's Counsel of Sorel, P. Q., and was born at the manor house of de Lanaudière, in the County of Maskinongé, on the 5th Feb., 1849, being now 22 years of age; his parents, grand parents and great grand parents having all been born in this Province. In form he is rather slight, and being 5 feet 11 inches in height he seems slighter than he really is. His average weight is about 144 lbs. Being naturally spare his running weight is only a few pounds less. His muscular development is very strong, but not being constitutionally so he has had great disadvantages to work against, and he has had to run all his races without training. The first race run by him for a prize was at Berthier, whilst attending school there in 1866. This race he won easily. He afterwards was absent at college for a year, and in the fall of 1867 entered the mercantile house of Messrs. Leeming & Cowie, in this city, where he remained up to a couple of months ago. His first race in Montreal was at the foot races of 1867, when he carried off the visitors' race from 16 competitors. In the winter of 1867-8 he won the Hamilton Cup, the race being a half-mile in heats, and he winning two straight heats. In a match race of half a mile he beat James Henderson, winner of the Montreal Club Cup of that year. He next won a quarter mile race at the Grand Trunk races. In the summer of 1868 he won five races at different meetings in the city, in one of these beating the champion spurt runner Durkin. The snow-shoeing season of 1869 stamped him the champion spurt runner both in hurdle and flat races, he winning 11 out of 13 races. One of his best races was the half-mile for the Stephens Cup, when he beat among others, Harper, Stevenson and Vosburg. The same day he beat F. O. Wood in the hurdle race. At the G. T. R. races on the 13th February, he won the dash and hurdle races, beating Rose and Torrance in the former. On the 20th of the same month at the Montreal Club races he won the 100 yards dash and the quarter-mile hurdle race, in the latter race coming in 40 yards in advance of any of the 17 competitors. He also won the same races at the Alexandra meeting, and at the Dominion races won the 100 yards and quarter-mile dashes. On the 1st March, at the Ottawa races, he won the 100 yards hurdle race, beating Kavanagh, the Ottawa champion. During the summer of 1869 he won three prizes, the principal one being a Cup, the prize for the hurdle race at the Athletic meeting. This was one of the most closely contested races ever run in the city, and four heats had to be run before it could be decided.

Sickness prevented him from taking part in any of the snow-shoe races of 1870. In October last he however won the quarter-mile dash at the Athletic races, beating the Prescott champion (Fraser) by 30 yards in 58 seconds. His greatest triumphs were still to come however, for though he ran in seventeen races during the past season he was not beaten in one, and the names of those he had to contend with show that he had no mean rivals; for instance, Keraronwe, Wood, Becket, Massey, &c. His best races this season were at the Grand Trunk races, where he beat Wood and Becket in the hurdle race; at the Montreal races, where he took the dash from Wood and Young, making the fastest time on record, 11 seconds; and at the Maple Leaf races, where he beat Massey in the quarter-mile race, beating the previous fastest time (his own) by 5½ seconds, his time for that race being 1:04½. His last, and by his friends considered his greatest victory, was his beating the Indian, Keraronwe, by 40 yards in a quarter of a mile. About this race there was some dispute, but the referees to whom the points were left for judgment decided that Armstrong had fairly won the race, and accordingly the medal was presented to him at the first annual dinner of the Canada Snow-shoe Club, of which he is a member. Mr. Armstrong has left this city on a business engagement, and will be absent for some years. His prizes, consisting of cups, medals, &c., are no less than thirty-nine in number, and some of them intrinsically of great value. Certainly he has won many victories for such a brief campaign.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

(From a Special Contributor.)

Prominent among the magnificent ideas evolved by the present wonderful decade, that which calls for the aggregation of nationalities must ever stand forth upon the page of future history. The germ of this stupendous thought appears to have long lain dormant, deep down in the national heart of many and diverse races. More recently, its minor key note announces the unification of Italy; and anon, its major, the Grand March of the united German hosts, accompanied by the clash of arms, and the deep bass of the cannons' roar.

The Cæsar of the north has, undoubtedly, long silently brooded over his schemes for a concentrated Pan-slavism, which, if realized, might make him the "Autocrat" of not only "all the Russias," but all the round world. Darkly he broods, persistently and constantly he plans and labours for the mighty end—which comes not yet. Why similar conceptions of national thought have not ere this pressed upon the national British, remains a problem unsolved.

She who is called "the mother of invention," seems to have suggested it, another, named "the parent of safety," counsels,

and the resistless motive power of Anglo-Saxon power urges it on; the time and tide of the great political world awaiting the event.

Britannia-Mater must have slept! and yet, throughout her long, deep sleep of insular security, as recent signs tell, she must surely have nursed dreams of rule and dominion over land and sea; wherever shines the sun.

Will she now awake? Will she open her eyes to behold the splendid realization of the most wondrous dream which ever entered the human imagination since the whole human race congregated upon the plains of Shinar?

This present era, when the envy of unsuccessful rivals, the hatred of crowned despots, and malice of rioting, thieving, red-republican assassins, all combine to hurl their poisoned darts at the majestic brow of dear Old England—when the gathering together of hostile races and ungrateful offspring threaten her—or sedition and bigotry aim at her life, the time demands that every loyal British subject who breathes the free British air should stand ready on the going forth of the word.

I. To proclaim that it is now expedient our Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria, shall henceforth be named and styled "Empress of the United British Empire."

II. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, together with all the Dominions, Colonies, Provinces, Islands, Stations and Dependencies owing allegiance to Her Majesty, or subordinate to her Government, to be united and confederated together under the title of "The United British Empire."

III. The said united British Empire to be governed by Her Majesty and her successors, being Emperors and Empresses by and through an Imperial Parliament; composed of representative members from, and elected by, the following National Family Groups, viz:—

Firstly—The British Isles, proper.

Secondly—The Dominion of Canada, and all the British North American Provinces, Islands and Territories.

Thirdly—British India, and all Possessions, Islands and Stations upon, or adjacent to, the coasts of Southern and Eastern Asia.

Fourthly—The British West Indian Islands, and Central and South American Possessions, Plantations, and Settlements.

Fifthly—The British African Provinces, Colonies, and Islands.

Sixthly—The Australian Provinces, New Zealand, and adjacent Islands.

Seventhly—All the British Polynesian Islands.

Eighthly—All other detached civil possessions, peopled by the British races, and not herein before mentioned, which may hereafter, from motives of safety or mutual interests, apply in due form for admission into the said United British Empire.

IV. Each of the above named National Family Groups to have a National Parliament, with subordinate Local Parliaments for Provinces composing each of said groups, respectively.

V. The Imperial Parliament to hold perpetual session at the city of London, England, excepting the Lord's Day and Holy-days, and to have control and jurisdiction of peace and war, foreign relations, the army and navy, and all other matters concerning the general interests of the whole empire.

VI. The National Parliaments to meet at their several capitals once in every two years, unless convoked oftener by competent authority; and to have control and jurisdiction over all matters specially concerning its own National Family Group.

VII. The Local Parliaments to meet at their several Provincial capitals once in every year, or as often as convoked by competent authority; each to have the control and jurisdiction of all municipal and internal affairs within its own Province, and not conflicting with, or abating, the powers conceded to the Imperial and National Parliaments.

VIII. A great Pan-Anglican Convention to be summoned to meet, so soon as shall be found practicable, in the above city of London; for the purpose of adopting the preliminary measures, and inaugurating the new programme of the United British Empire, as aforesaid.

The foregoing furnishes a mere outline, or linear sketch, of an idea cherished and often spoken of during nearly half a century by the writer, who had the honour of placing it before the public, in a somewhat different dress, in the summer of 1867. Hoping that much good may come of it, both to our beloved and honoured Queen and country, it is now with much diffidence submitted in its present form, more dogmatical than argumentative, for the sake of brevity and clearness; the immense magnitude of the subject being most oppressively felt by a humble backwoods man, who, as the direct descendant of one of the U. E. L., believes that he may safely count upon the indulgence of greater minds and far abler pens in thus presuming to discuss plans of Empire and Government.

W. R. D.

COLONIAL DEFENCES.

The action taken by the British Government with reference to the self-defence of her colonies, thereby throwing on them the whole cost and responsibility, has been met in most instances, in an earnest and effectual manner, and means are being taken to organise excellent forces of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. The British colonist, in whatever part of the world he may have taken up his residence, is of a practical disposition, and whether agreeing or not with the decision of the Imperial Government, he at any rate sets to work earnestly to meet the occasion. Australia has certainly been one of the first to recognise the necessity of providing sufficient military and naval forces, both for the due performance of her own administrative functions, and for the effectual resistance to any threatened invasion. In carrying out the designs already in contemplation, the home authorities have shown a laudable desire to assist, by putting the commissioners appointed to carry them out in communication with their contractors, and allowing their own officers to inspect the various stores and equipments when completed. Perhaps in no branch of the public service is greater vigilance and foresight necessary than in that which is responsible for the prompt and skilful treatment of sick and wounded soldiers, and the experience of many years has enabled the Army Medical Department to adopt and recommend certain medical equipments and appliances which have been tested by campaigning and actual service. There are now on their way to Melbourne, by the "Thyatira," a military medicine chest for use in hospital, and two complete

sets of medical field panniers of the latest patterns, designed and supplied by Messrs. Savory & Moore, of 143 New Bond Street, London, for the use of Her Majesty's Army. These equipments are intended for the use of the forces about to be raised at Melbourne for the protection of the flourishing colony of Victoria. The medical field panniers are designed to convey all the appliances, both medical and surgical, that may be required by a Regiment in the field and during a march. Within the compass of two panniers of ordinary size, and the regulation weight, are contained, on the one side, some thirty different drugs, with all the required accessories of scales, weights, &c., each so accessible as to be obtained in a moment; medical comforts for the sick and wounded, such as brandy, concentrated beef tea, arrowroot, &c.; a lamp with reflector, and such adjustment as enables it to be used in warming a small quantity of food. In the other pannier may be found the case of operating instruments, tourniquets of different kinds for field use, bandages, plasters, sheeting, splints, and everything to hand. The panniers may be used on or off the mule's back, and are so constructed that they can be made to form a very good and firm operating table by placing them on the ground, throwing open the lids, and securing them in the required position. The advantage of this arrangement, when the surgeon is in the open field, far from houses, is obviously very great. Many of these panniers have been purchased by foreign Governments, including Russia, Prussia, Peru, &c., and Messrs. Savory & Moore obtained the silver medal at the last (1867) Paris Exhibition, as well as the London Exhibition of 1862, for "excellence of manufacture of medicine chests, and for an ingenious method of fitting medical panniers for military service." We have given a drawing of these appliances, and hope that the corresponding appointments of the other branches of the service will be selected with equal discrimination.

THE GUN-BOAT "PRINCE ALFRED."

The gun boat "Prince Alfred" which for more than four years has been the pride of the Canadian Navy (!) was formerly a passenger steamer running between Sarnia and Green Bay, Michigan. The vessel was purchased on behalf of the Canadian Government by Captain Wyatt in the early part of 1866, when the Fenian raiders had aroused the Government to the necessity of making some preparations for defence on the Lakes. Under Captain Wyatt's superintendence the "Prince Alfred" was transformed so as to adopt her for gun-boat service. She carries the 12 lb. Armstrong guns and four 14 lbs. brass howitzers; she has accommodation for seventy-five men, including officers, and is at present commanded by Capt. Fraser, a most efficient officer who has seen long service on the Upper Lakes. The "Prince Alfred" is 170 feet long, 30 feet beam, and 13 feet hold. She is one of the fastest screw steamers on the Upper Lakes. During the coming season the boat will be used as a training ship for the several artillery companies stationed at the Lake ports, so that they can be made available for defence, either on land or water.

LONG LAKE.

We are indebted to Professor Bell, of the Geological Survey, for the view on Long Lake, which we publish in the present number. It is from a sketch taken last summer by Captain Edgar A. Dickinson, who accompanied one of the exploring parties sent out by Government. Long Lake is situated north of Lake Superior, and is likely soon to become of interest from the fact that it lies directly across the course of the proposed Canadian Pacific Railway. Professor Bell informs us that its proper, or Indian, name is Kenogami, which means "Long Narrow Lake." It discharges northward by the Kenogami-Sibi, or Long Lake River (known also as the English River) into the Albany. The height of land separating the waters of the St. Lawrence from those flowing into Hudson's Bay, lies, therefore, between Lake Superior and Long Lake, passing very close to the latter. Long Lake has been supposed to have a length of from 100 to 200 miles, and to approach within four or five miles of Lake Superior. Prof. Bell, who made an accurate survey of it last summer, reports that this is not the case. He finds its total length to be about 54 miles, and its southern extremity to lie at a distance of about 30 miles from the nearest point on the shore of Lake Superior. Its general course is about N. N. E., its breadth varies from two chains to two miles, averaging, however, one mile and a quarter, except towards the south end, where it is very narrow. The same gentleman informs us that the whole country between Lake Superior and Long Lake, and for some distance down the latter, is rugged and mountainous, and, indeed, that this is true of most sections for 50 or 60 miles north of Lake Superior. But at this distance the hills diminish rapidly, and a vast extent of level country stretches to the north. Our view is taken near the northern limit of the hilly region, the commencement of the great level tract being seen in the distance. The point of observation is at the intersection of the line run by Mr. Beatty in 1870, and the western shore of Long Lake.

PRINCE BISMAROK.

The Emperor-King has conferred the title of Prince upon Count von Bismarck, just as in 1814 his father, Frederick William III., rewarded the greatest general Prussia had reared since the great Frederick with the title of Prince Blucher de Wahlstadt, in remembrance of his victory over Marshal Macdonald and a French army, whom he drove out of Silesia in 1813. To support his new dignity he gave him the estates of Wahlstadt and Kriebowitz, in Silesia, which his grandson now possesses. It is intended to deal in an equally liberal manner with Bismarck, by asking the German Parliament to vote him a million of thalers, equivalent to \$750,000. The title of prince, conferred upon Bismarck, will be limited in its descent to his eldest son—otherwise, according to the European practice (and this accounts for the immense number of titled persons abroad), his sons and daughters would be princes and princesses to the end of the chapter. The Blucher title was first perpetuated, by the order of primogeniture, by a royal decree in 1861. Bismarck, who was born on April 1, 1815, was created a count in 1865. The title "Von," appended to his name, indicates that he is noble. His principal estates, purchased in 1867, are in Pomerania, as well as his father's estates.

WHAT NEXT?—A petrified whale has been discovered in Los Angeles county, about 10 miles inland, near Aliso Springs. Petrified trees are at a discount.