

church, few of those who had assembled, accompanied his remains to the grave; but departed in the belief that all was not right.

We shall give in as few words as possible the substance of the statements put forth by the Rev. Mr. Geddes, Church of England, and Bishop Farrell, for, and against, his death-bed conversion.

Rev. Mr. Geddes says that on the Monday and Tuesday previous to his death he visited, and engaged in prayer with Sir Allan. On Wednesday he did not see him, called three times on Thursday, but was refused admission; hearing however, on Friday morning that he had but a few hours to live, he hastened to Dundurn and there learned that though he could not see him on the preceding day the Roman Catholic Bishop had, and administered to him some of the rites of his church. Having reached the bedside of the dying man he questioned him in the presence of Drs. Craigie and Hamilton, two of Sir Allan's sisters and some others, as to his faith in Christ, and his desire to die in the church in which he was born and baptized and had continued a member. The answers he gave satisfied the Rev. Mr. Geddes that Sir Allan had been imposed upon, and he therefore determined to remain with him. During the day Bishop Farrell called with the intention of performing certain other rites and requested Mr. Geddes to leave the room. He refused. They finally adjourned to the hall, to talk over this unseemly state of things, and while so doing Mr. Andrew Stuart informed both that he had determined neither of them should again enter the sick chamber. He kept his word. The Bishop left, advising Mr. Geddes to do likewise. He thanked him for his advice but declined to act upon it, and remained in the hall. In a short time afterwards, it was announced that Sir Allan had breathed his last, he thereupon took his departure.

The Bishop's statement is that several months ago, while Mr. Daly, Sir Allan's son-in-law, was on a visit at Dundurn, he with his Vicar General dined with Sir Allan and his family. He then told the Bishop in the presence of his Vicar General that it was his intention to die a Roman Catholic. On the Sabbath previous to his death he called to see Mrs. McNab and learned, for the first time that he was sick; he visited him, and when he was rising to leave Sir Allan seized him by the arm and said that he had not forgotten what he told him some time ago. The Bishop thought that he spoke of the conversation they had about his dying a Roman Catholic; he therefore told him to lose no time, but do at once what his conscience dictated.

Once after this, he sent to enquire after the state of his health, and on Thursday morning was informed by letter that Sir Allan wished to see him for religious purposes. He obeyed the summons. Mr. Andrew Stuart was there when he arrived, and he asked him if Sir Allan had full possession of his reason; Mr. Stuart answered in the affirmative. The Bishop then entered the room, when Sir Allan told him he wished to become a member of his church.

After a short conversation on the doctrines of the church, he made his confessions, and in the presence of Mr. Stuart and Mrs. McNab, his profession of the Roman Catholic Faith, whereupon he was admitted a member of that church.

The Bishop visited him again early on Friday morning, when he was recognized by Sir Allan, and requested to remain with him. He left however between six and seven o'clock. At noon he learned that the Rev. Mr. Geddes was with him and proceeded immediately to Dundurn. The reader already knows the result.

A Yankee Captain once cried out in a yell, to a raw hand newly shipped on board his craft, "Let go the gib, there! let go the gib!" "I ain't a touchin' it!" squealed out the simple Down-easter in return.

THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8th, 1862.

OUR PURPOSE.

ON the threshold of a new enterprise, as yet untried in Canadian journalism, we address words of explanation to the public, which shall make clear our objects, and words of assurance to our readers and friends which shall justify our temerity in venturing on untried paths of journalistic endeavour, where the timid may see only prospective failure; but where we can perceive adequate hopes of, at least, moderate success.

We purpose to make *The Canadian Illustrated News* simply what its name implies—an illustrated paper, in which every thing Canadian, or of interest to Canadians, shall occupy the most prominent place, and be accorded the highest consideration. In it we shall diligently endeavour to illustrate, faithfully, the land we live in, its magnificent scenery, its inland seas, its mighty rivers, its dark forests, its lakelets hidden away in backwoods, and wasting their unseemly beauties there, its attractions of rapid and waterfall, and island glories, its lumberer's paradise in dense woods, its cultivated farms, its populous and rapidly increasing cities, its towns, villages, manufactories, public and private buildings, colleges, schools, banks, institutes, churches, monuments, scenes of historic interest, and scenes which need no historic associations to add to their ineffable grace and beauty, or their awe-inspiring majesty and sublimity. Portraits and carefully prepared biographies of our most notable public men,—politicians, professors, preachers, principals of public schools, orators, lawyers, chiefs of societies, and others, shall not unfrequently adorn and enrich our columns. The red skins shall not be omitted. Indians, Indian life, and Indian villages, shall find a place in our pages, and form not the least attractive feature of our undertaking. Of a class now rapidly disappearing from amongst us—the hardy pioneers—who have made our country what it is, we purpose to furnish a series of portraits, accompanied by accounts of their lives and struggles, which possess all the value of heroism, and all the interest of romance.

We purpose, also, to collect and present, in our pages, a portrait gallery of the historic names of Canada, from her first discoverer to the present time, and to furnish an illustrated history of her progress from a wilderness to a civilized country. Agriculture shall not be neglected. Improvements in stock, in agricultural implements, and every thing of interest relating to the pursuits of our hardy, free, and independent yeomanry, shall receive from us all the aid that pen and pencil can afford.

The ladies will find themselves neither overlooked nor forgotten. We intend to supply them with the fashions every month, and trust to meet with their approbation, and to merit their hearty support. The sister Provinces will occasionally come in for a share of our space; and views from the gold fields of the Pacific may not inaptly contrast with views from the oil wells of Canada West, or the mines of Canada East and the lower Provinces.

In politics, "measures, not men," will be our motto; and we shall do our best towards allaying sectional hatred, the jealousies of race, and the antagonisms engendered by national prejudices and ignorance, and by interested and unscrupulous political leaders; and towards uniting all interests in one, and forming of the descendants of the two foremost nations of Europe a great people, who may build up a mighty empire in this great country of countless advantages, of boundless resources, of immense and fertile territory, of glorious possibilities. We shall give a weekly summary of the most important news, both local and foreign, and abstract from the domain of fiction, of science, and art, whatever treasures we think our readers will be pleased to receive from our hands.

Our first number is now before the public. It is not all that we could wish, nor all that our readers may expect, and it may not meet with the absolute approval of our patrons; but we shall do better, if we receive adequate support. Week by week we shall keep pace with our subscription list; and, as our circulation increases, we shall increase the number and value of our illustrations; and trust, in time, when we get fairly launched into public favour, to produce a paper which shall not be inferior to any illustrated paper in existence.

A paper like this, that can only be got up at a very heavy expense, and which we furnish at the lowest possible price, at which an illustrated paper can be made to possess any value to the subscriber, must meet with extensive support, or must cease to appear. Our fate is now in the hands of the public. If we are, as we suppose we are, what Dr. Chalmers would have called "a felt want," let us have the necessary support, and we shall do our duty.

From the foreign illustrated papers that have so large a circulation amongst us, the Provinces receive not quite so much attention as a small English county, a coral reef in the Pacific, or a contemptible German principality. We would obviate such a state of things. We believe we are wanted, and now test that belief, and await the result, whatever it may be—the support that shall enable us to proceed; or, the neglect that shall induce us to abandon our enterprise.

SPECIAL.

Through a mistake some of the pages are dated October instead of November.

To the public and friends of *The Canadian Illustrated News*, we have a few things to say. By repeated delays from various causes, and especially in getting engravings—as we desired to have them done in the Provinces—the publication of our first number has been postponed much longer than we anticipated, and even now have preferred to issue it, though containing a cut less than was intended, to delaying it for another week. We are making arrangements to have engravers of our own, and providing against some other difficulties which could not be avoided in getting up the first number. So that for the future we will be better prepared. We would, therefore, ask not to be judged too severely until our next number appears.

It will be observed that this number is dated more than a month in advance, after which it will be issued every week. This is to afford us some time to canvass for subscribers. But as it will be impossible to call upon very many in so short a period, we hope that all who desire to see an illustrated paper published in the Provinces, will order it at once, as it will be much better to have it from the commencement.

Our thanks are due to the business part of the community for their liberality, as our advertising columns abundantly testify; and we hope that the investment will prove as profitable to them as it is encouraging to us. Small cuts will be inserted in the advertisements of those who desired them in our next issue.

No. 2 of *The Canadian Illustrated News* will contain among other engravings,—each number having never less than five—a portrait of the President of the Provincial Fair, a view of the Grounds and of some animals to which prizes have been awarded.

Our Artist will be present during part of the week, on which the Fair is held, and also an Agent, who will make such arrangements with exhibitors as may be desired.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS OF HAMILTON.

BY D. D. ROBERTSON.

THE above is to be the title of a work for which Mr. Robertson, one of the most intelligent, painstaking and industrious of Hamilton Artists, is at present canvassing for subscribers. It is to be issued in monthly parts at seventy-five cents each; and, as each part will contain four views, this will be at the rate of a few cents over a York shilling for each view, which places it in point of cheapness within the reach of the poorest, while the interest in the scenes depicted and the excellence of the photographs will make it an attraction to the richest. It will be completed in twelve or thirteen parts, and will comprise, when completed, about fifty pictures of the principal buildings, private residences, and prominent localities in the "Ambitious City," whose sons and daughters, let us hope, will encourage, with their patronage, this laudably ambitious artist, whose beautiful book we trust, will find its way into a good many drawing rooms, and grace not a few cottages. Mr. Robertson has exhibited to us a few specimen views, which are really excellent, and for which we have only words of heartiest praise. Amongst the subscribers, to whom these views have been exhibited and by whom they have been approved, we notice names which are a higher guarantee of the taste and skill of the artist than any words of ours.

We trust Mr. Robertson will meet with sufficient support to enable him to complete to his own satisfaction and the satisfaction of his subscribers the most unique and beautiful book which will ever have been got up in this country. We give it our warmest commendation, and wish it every success.

When Sir Walter Scott was extending his garden at Abbotsford, an old servant was getting exasperated by digging some very stoney ground. Sir Walter saw the old man's feelings were rather ruffled, and said to him: "That's grand soil you're working on." "Soil!" replied the gardener, sarcastically, "A' think it's the riddling o' creation."