

The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is printed and published every Saturday by THE BURLAND LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY (Limited), at their offices, 5 and 7 Bleury Street, Montreal, on the following conditions: \$4.00 per annum, in advance; \$4.50 if not paid strictly in advance.

## TEMPERATURE

as observed by Hearn & Harrison, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING				Corresponding week, 1882.			
May 20th, 1883.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	May 20th, 1882.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.	55°	42°	47°	Mon.	38°	16°	27°
Tue.	55°	40°	47°	Tue.	42°	24°	33°
Wed.	63°	47°	55°	Wed.	40°	33°	36°
Thur.	68°	45°	56°	Thur.	46°	33°	37°
Fri.	71°	56°	63°	Fri.	47°	33°	40°
Sat.	78°	61°	69°	Sat.	34°	32°	28°
Sun.	45°	44°	44°	Sun.	22°	5°	8°

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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, May 26, 1883.

## THE SESSION.

The session of Parliament just closed, without being particularly eventful, has proved quite important in several respects. The war of parties was not waged to any extent, the Opposition contenting itself with a proper vigilance over rules and procedure. The main lines of the Government policy, having been approved by the people at the last elections, it would have been idle to run a tilt either against the tariff, or the Canadian Pacific Railway, or the North-West land system. On the other hand, the Government were not supine. They readily consented to make such modifications in the tariff as would meet the wishes of certain branches of the trade and placed a certain number of articles on the free list. While the Finance Minister's statement announced the existence of a large surplus, there was no disposition on Sir Leonard Tilley's part to hoard that treasure, but he willingly consented to distribute a portion of it in aid of public works in the different Provinces. We are not quite clear in regard to the policy of Federal subventions to Provincial wants, but pending the future discussion of this question, which is bound to come up sooner or later, and in view of the evident leaning of Parliament in that direction, the Government may be said to have done a wise and patriotic act in assisting several lines of Provincial railway, and relieving the Harbor Commissioners of Montreal and Quebec. We fear there will be just ground of complaint against the License Bill. It was manipulated in too many ways, and should not have been kept back to the closing days of the session. The question is a large one, and now that it has been placed by the Privy Council under the jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament, it should be thoroughly elaborated before it passes into law. The reports of the Ministers and the whole tenor of the proceedings showed conclusively that the country is in a prosperous condition, and the change for the better inaugurated in 1879 has not been ephemeral, but permanent. What is now wanted to perfect the work is continuous and harmonious co-operation for the next four or five years, at the end of which time, we will have had time to consolidate. It is of special importance that the tide of immigration should be kept rolling in. At the present rate of increment, the supply will soon equal the demand, and then the problem of labour will be partially solved. In a young country like this, with such vast areas, and so few hands, assistance from abroad is imperative, and we are glad to see that it is coming. Altogether, the outlook is cheerful, and Canada appears to be on the onward path.

## BASE METAL IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

When a silly king was compelled to resort to something like highway robbery in the country he was soon to betray and abandon, his method of spoliation was somewhat scientific. James was, indeed, desperately impoverished, when he crossed from France to Ireland. He must have money, or what would answer as a sufficient substitute, until his greed was satisfied. So he ordered that the old brass, copper, pewter, etc., lying around the primitive kitchens of those days, be brought to his mints at Dublin and Limerick, to be coined. Pots and kettles, skewers and strainers, ancient firelocks and rusty spear-heads, cracked bells and shivered cymbals, were carted to the royal mint shop, and, impressed with the royal visage, became money. Whoso declined to accept it as an equivalent for his kine or his clan, — for men were needed as well as cattle, — fell into the clutches of the royal robber, and suffered pains and tortures no longer enforced, albeit some of them are doubtless still on the statute books. The coiners thought the mixture might average a few pence to the pound; and, when the coward king was gone, six millions pound sterling of the trash remained as the richest treasure of the forlorn realm. About the same time, virtue-prating fellows in Massachusetts were counterfeiting the "wampumpeag" money of the Commonwealth, demonstrating thus the superiority of their piety and brains over those of the red men, who used only genuine periwinkle and clam shells.

Ample precautions are now universally in vogue to keep pure the filthy lucre said to be the root of all evil; but little care is exercised in protecting from the debaser and the counterfeiter the source, next to virtue itself, of all good in this world, — knowledge. In that commonwealth, everything has a chance of passing for coin which has a stamp upon it; and the most efficient alloy is brass.

The American recently lamented the passing away of the old time academy, taught by men graduated from Continental or British universities, and designed to give capable lads a thorough preparation for college, a course in which in every age and country but ours, has been the essential preliminary to medicine, law, or theology. In our country and our day, a man need know little more than the English primer to enter any of the professions and make money in it; but the fifth number of the "Statistical Abstract of the United States" throws a flood of light on the counterfeiters which have taken the place of the honest and learned, simple and sincere, academy, — institutions over whose portals high sounding names are read, and whose gilded pretensions surpass those of the great mediæval mob universities.

It appears by the census that there are three hundred and sixty two higher institutions of learning in the United States, — an increase of sixty four in ten years. The instructors in them number 4,360, and the students 62,435. The estimated value of the grounds, buildings and apparatus is forty million dollars; and their libraries are valued at two million dollars; the receipts from tuition were about \$2,000,000 in 1881, and a sum slightly in excess of this accrued from productive funds. It is noteworthy that of these temples of letters, many of them "universities," and none of them less than a "college." California has eleven, Tennessee nineteen, Illinois twenty-eight, Iowa eighteen, Missouri sixteen, Indiana fifteen, Kentucky fourteen, and Ohio thirty six, against twenty-seven in New York. The resplendent spot is the District of Columbia; it boasts of no less than five. But, when one has counted about a dozen schools in the entire country justly entitled to the designation of college or university, the question arises: "What are all the others?" Are there not three hundred and fifty more universities and colleges, and is not the American youth the most crude that walks the planet? Does not every American parent, whose hopeful is growing his virgin beard in one of these three hundred and fifty, feel that the boy will some day receive the encomium visited on Thomas Aquinas: "The radiant gem of the clergy, the flower of doctors, the most spotless and exalted mirror of our University of Paris, shining with the effulgence of his life, teaching and fame, like a resplendent morning star?"

It is not, indeed, a theme for jest or satire; for these spurious universities and sham colleges work serious and lasting evil. They lower the standard and injure the reputation of learning; they spread shallow pretension, and send into indigence and seclusion genuine scholarship; they shield fraud behind the lecturer's desk, and enthrone charlatanism in the pulpit; they are crowding incompetency and criminal ignorance into medicine; they are robbing the plow, the forge, the mine, the tailor's goose, and the barber's brush, of highly available recruits. They are imposing on the judicial bench men who would honor the bench of the carpenter; and into ribbons and laces, hosiery and hair goods, their failures drop back, to crowd out women and starve their own families. These shams attract by their trumpets and tinsel an immense number of boys whose welfare would be promoted by keeping them in agriculture or apprenticing them in the useful arts; and their pernicious influence has rendered almost dishonorable the following of any mechanical avocation. We are paying high wages to the skilled artisans of Switzerland, Belgium, France and Germany, while too many of our own men are sentenced to poverty or crime by

these fraudulent colleges, which only make them unfit to earn a good living at anything.

They have, it is true, their comical aspect, and to read the curriculum of many of them is to be provoked to hearty laughter. They teach everything, of course. One prospectus reveals that in the preparatory department the student may learn "orthography, spelling, etymology, prosody, grammar and rhetoric;" while the category of sciences and tongues imparted in its higher forms makes the head swim. Their "professors" are often men who never saw the interior of a college, and who are ludicrously uninformed. Indeed, the very term, "professor," has lost its intrinsic value and traditional significance, and is now magnanimously applied to the chiropodist, the manicure, the dancing-master, the juggler, the dog-fancier, and the pugilist. The honorary "degrees" of some of these mints of base coin are scattered about with a freedom singularly consistent with their worth; the D.D.'s include nearly everybody with good preaching lungs, and the LL.D.'s are not restricted to persons well acquainted with Vattel, or even with Lindley Murray. But, while this is very ridiculous, it is also very pitiable; for it promotes dishonesty, intellectual, moral and commercial.

The effect of this system of sham is seen conspicuously in the overloaded course of study in the public schools. If the so-called "university" can make an A. B. in two years, an A. M., in three, and an LL.D. in twenty four hours, the primary school must be up and doing. The emulative instinct is one of the strongest, and the child must be "father of the man." So, in the few years that most American children can remain on the benches, they must absorb — heaven help them! — more subjects than were spoken of in Plato's groves. They must at least pretend to grasp everything that Aristotle knew, and be more learned in their own conceit than was Socrates. The result is everywhere visible. The boys leave the public schools with the worst possible handwriting, with not enough arithmetic to compute interest, and with no practical understanding of English grammar. The time they should have spent on these fundamentals of knowledge, has been frittered away in absurd efforts to become Crichtons. They have been given counterfeits of even the clam shells. Their money is not current beyond the realm in which it has been coined out of sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. It is high time that educational reformers proceeded earnestly to purge the country of the universities and colleges, and to eliminate from the primary schools the supernumerary studies which bar the way of knowledge.

M. F. S.

## GOVERNOR TILDEN'S HOUSE.

During the last two years extensive alterations and additions have been going on at Nos. 14 and 15 at Gramercy Park, New York city, the residence of Ex-Governor Samuel J. Tilden. These improvements are not yet finished, and probably will not be until next spring. Meanwhile the Governor has been occupying his country house, Greystone, in the vicinity of Yonkers, on the North River, though coming down to the city at irregular intervals, for a few hours, to superintend the progress of the work, or to keep appointments with friends.

No. 15, Gramercy Park has acquired a national celebrity by reason of the events that took place there during a memorable Presidential campaign, and the visitor who has not entered it since that time will find few changes, except in the dining-room, which is now entirely transformed. But the Governor has added to it the adjoining house, No. 14, Gramercy Park, has torn down the front walls of both houses, and in their place has put a freely adapted Gothic facade of Belleville and Carlyle stones, adorned with many trophies of the sculptor's art, and provided with two entrances, a general one and a library one. Among these sculptured trophies are medallion heads of Milton, Shakespeare, Dante, Franklin, and Columbus, cut out of Belleville stone, near one of the two double-story bay-windows; high-relief heads of the four seasons in the brackets of the principal portico; and a low-relief head of Michael Angelo on the key-stone of the arch of the secondary entrance. These works of art were modelled in this city, and are of no ordinary merit.

We enter by the principal entrance, at No. 15, Gramercy Park, and after stepping into the main hall, find everything as formerly, with a single exception—the stained glass of the inner vestibule doors, where Mr. John Lafarge has produced some simple, beautiful, and very sane results. A large mirror at the left of these doors and a small one at the right make the effect fourfold: while looking into them you see four double doors with stained-glass decorations. But the black walnut staircase and door trimmings, the white marble floor, say sixteen feet wide and forty-five feet long, and the rear hall, with its butler's pantry and its kitchen stairs, are unchanged. Nor in the drawing-room and the old library, into which the main hall opens by double doors, do we see any alterations. These apartments have sedulously preserved their identity. The austere simplicity of the drawing-room—austere as modern drawing-room go—with its painted walls of a neutral monochrome, its conventionally frescoed ceiling, its large but unobtrusive brass chandelier, its two book-cases filled chiefly with massive volumes like Brydell's *Shakespeare Illustrations*, the

Houghton Gallery, and *Les Noces de Raphael*, that stand three feet high behind glass doors, its black walnut furniture covered with garnet plush, is unrelieved by oil-paintings, or bric-à-brac, or knickknacks, although special mention is due to the graceful statue of Flora in white marble, her extended left hand holding a rose-bud, her right hand pressing her breast with a bunch of the same flowers, her attitude as if she had just alighted from above, while a brisk wind is blowing behind her the ends of the gauzy drapery that covers but scarcely conceals her very pretty figure; and also to the marble bust of the Governor himself, which stands opposite, diagonally across the room. As for the old library behind the drawing-room, its black walnut furniture, with dark green plush, and in some instances with light green rep, its oaken book-cases ten feet high, almost entirely hiding the wall spaces, its large oblong writing table, also of oak, covered with green baize, on which the many ink-spots speak of much usage, and with pamphlets and foolscap MS., are by no means extraordinary. A bust of Cicero on one side of the room looks across the table upon a bust of Molière; and in one of the book-cases appear the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, the *Edinburgh Encyclopædia*, full sets of the *Banker's Magazine* and of Hunt's *Merchants' Magazine*, Bohn's Classical Library complete, Scott's novels, poems, etc., in perhaps eighty 12mo volumes, Burns, Akenside, Chaucer, Spencer, Milton, Collins, Churchill, Swift, and Thomson side by side, with Bryant, Rogers, Michael Angelo, Tennyson, Shakespeare, Pope, Bacon, and Johnson below. Another book-case is devoted chiefly to history—to Alison, Freeman, Palgrave, Hallam, Smollett, Lecky, Hume, Grote, Gibbon, and Bunsen; to Froude, Milman, Niebuhr, Rawlinson, Rollin, and Curtius; and still another, to the *New York Statutes at Large*, and law-books, the Governor's law library proper, one of the largest and best in the country, being in his down-town office. The surroundings of these interesting volumes are the reverse of showy: a frescoed ceiling above, a worn tapestry carpet below, and four walls tinted a pale green.

But this library opens into a thirty-thousand-dollar dining-room. And the remarkable thing about the costly apartment is the quietude of its beauty: decoration that allures and charms, appealing neither to the sense of wonder nor to the love of noise. The general tone of this very artistic banqueting chamber is that of satin-wood, although the wainscoting to a height of four feet is of black walnut, as are also the two sideboards against the eastern wall, together with the furniture. Above the wainscoting the wall spaces are filled with a series of panels of carved satin-wood placed side by side and extending entirely around the room, each about five feet high by two and a half feet wide; above these panels is a plain belt of satin wood, from which protrude many gas jets; above the belt a diapered frieze of satin-wood, say two feet wide; above the frieze a band of blue tiles, four inches wide, connecting with the satin wood and blue tiles of the ceiling.

After resting itself on the mellow ivory tone of the satin-wood, the eye is attracted first of all by the wood-carving of the juxtaposed panels, which the architect has treated as good pictures that deserve place on "the line." Pictures indeed they may be called, since their subjects of birds, leaves, and flowers manifest true pictorial feeling, and are treated in all the stages from the grave of realism to the gay of impressionism, yet always presenting some aspect that shows the artist to have been intent in reproducing the processes of Nature rather than her forms. Here, in one panel, appears a serpent coiled about a bird, amidst a thick abundance of leaves, berries, and flowers, while two birds near one corner and three birds near another corner watch the fate of their comrade. Several matters of technique are to be noticed. The first matter is the roughness of the ground on which these animals, leaves, berries, and flowers are cut. Suppose the ground were plain and flat: in that case the animals, leaves, berries, and flowers would seem to be stuck on, whether they really were so or not, and the pictorial effect of the carving as a whole be lost. The second is the gilding of the ground, so as to heighten the effect of the tone of the satin-wood. This gilding appears also in the diapered frieze and in the carvings of the ceiling, and its color value is precisely that of a warmer old ivory. The third is the solidity and security of the carvings, owing to the fact that the artist has refrained from under-cutting them. No ordinary heat will crack, warp, or chip these works of art. The fourth is the lowness of the relief, which gives to their appeal a pleasing air of modesty and mystery.

The visitor, indeed, is sure to feel the moral modesty and mystery of this thirty-thousand-dollar dining-room; and when he turns his eye toward the ceiling, which is divided transversely by four beams of satin wood, and then into octagonal panels of blue encaustic tiles eight inches square framed in satin-wood, the modesty and mystery are found there too. The abundant light from the large mullion-window and the large bay window on the south side causes the surface of the tiles to shimmer and change enchantingly from a blue that is almost sapphire to a blue that is almost gray, and the old ivory tone of the satin-wood is heightened again by the application of gilt to the grounds of the carvings. In a large central panel of satin-wood, from which the chandelier depends directly over the oblong dining-table, the carvings are of fruit, and somewhat bold, since too distant to be