

# The Canadian Spectator.

VOL. III.—No. 34.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1880.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

## CONTENTS:

TORONTO AND ABOUT.  
TRADE, FINANCE, STATISTICS.  
A GOSPEL FOR THE DAY, a Sermon delivered by Rev. A. J. Bray.  
DECORATIVE ART.  
A CRUISE IN GREEK WATERS.

THE ROMANCE OF THE KOH-I-NOOR.  
A LIFE'S OPPORTUNITY, by Felton Lea.  
UP-HILL WORK.  
THINGS IN GENERAL.  
POETRY.  
CHESS.

## TORONTO AND ABOUT.

I have waited rather anxiously to see if any of our important journals, religious or secular, would take up the subject of Sunday observance in Toronto, and churches in general, under which heading I made a few short comments in the SPECTATOR a short time ago. I have discovered that many of the local papers have discussed the matter pretty freely, and several of the leading newspapers in other places; some of them denounce my statements as outrageous, and some of them endorse my comments to the letter. I have the authority of distinguished ministers of the Gospel for what I wrote respecting Toronto, and also the support of our most influential newspapers, notably the *Mail*. If it were necessary I could give the names of several of the ministers and organists and churches interested, imputed by me to be exceedingly short of funds and subjected to scandal. I am surprised that a respectable weekly like *Grip* should become incensed at what I wrote, for it must indeed be misinformed and ignorant of the state of affairs in our churches, to publish such a bitter contradiction of my statements. I should advise *Grip* to study as much as possible the true interest of Toronto and her churches before assuming to give the lie direct to a statement that can be supported by facts.

The *Mail*, as the leading Conservative organ, is in a difficulty. The *Mail* is not just exactly in favour of Mr. Beaty, the Conservative candidate for West Toronto, because some time ago Mr. Mayor Beaty denied the existence of fifty houses of ill-fame in Toronto, whereupon the *Mail* immediately gave the names and addresses of more than a hundred, and agreed to supply fifty more. At the time, the altercation between the Mayor and the *Mail* was very hot, and to this day the *Mail* has not forgotten it; however, it has to support Mr. Beaty now, and Mr. Beaty is jubilant.

Mr. Capreol persists in entering the political arena to contest the vacant seat of West Toronto with Mayor Beaty, Pat. Ryan (a Roman Catholic), and A. W. Wright. I believe the majority of the electors would vote for Mr. Capreol on account of his connection with the Huron and Ontario Canal, but they say they want a younger man; they forget that M. de Lesseps is scarcely four years the junior of Mr. Capreol. The fact of securing Mr. Capreol for West Toronto simply means the construction of the canal. If the people are so short-sighted as to leave him out in the cold, "farewell to the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal and the prosperity of Toronto" say Mr. Capreol's friends. I should like to see Mr. Capreol represent West Toronto on account of his past services, but I am afraid his chances are slim.

The London *Free Press* is being extensively circulated in Toronto. It contains the most disgusting details of the Handford scandal. The letter of Elizabeth Gorham is disgraceful and obscene, and a respectable journal like the *Free Press* should have refused to publish it. Nothing has been proved against the letter, but as a piece of disgusting literature it is perfect. So perfect is it, that all the papers throughout Ontario are copying it verbatim. It is deplorable that so much

publicity is given to such a disgraceful affair. It was right that both Mrs. Gorham and Handford should be expelled from the church, as they have been. It is to be hoped the matter is now for ever hushed up. The deacons have resigned, and a committee of management has been appointed to conduct the affairs of the church.

The retirement of Sir John Macdonald is being discussed, but without grounds. Sir John A. has often said in public that he should like to live to see the completion of the Canada Pacific Ry., and as he certainly has the welfare of the Dominion at heart we do not wonder at his wishing to see so enormous an undertaking completed, but I fancy our great statesman will have to live for a considerable length of time yet to see the completion of so great an enterprise.

Toronto for a number of years past has been desirous of securing iron works in Toronto, but without success. It is as yet a matter of doubt how much importance we are to attach to the fact of the Toronto Iron Company seeking incorporation to operate in the countries of Victoria, Hastings and Addington, with chief place of operation in Toronto; but I should doubt the chances of success for the enterprise on account of the usual difficulty of the extravagant price of coal, and Toronto being at so great a distance from both iron and coal mines. The Company has capital stock to the amount of \$15,000 at \$100 a share, but this amount is not nearly large enough to make the scheme practicable, although the name of Henry S. Howland as first director may be of some assistance.

If anything were wanting to show the reckless way in which the government of the city is carried on, it is supplied in the fact of an attempt being made and actually endorsed by the leading city dailies to consolidate the offices of city commissioner, water works engineer and city engineer into one, making one man do the work of six. How it can be possible for one man to fill all those offices is a mystery. Mr. Shanley found the work of city engineer difficult and labourious. Mr. Brough finds an assistant necessary, and Mr. Coatsworth the commissioner is beside himself with hard work. Far better to have the offices filled by good and practical men, than to reduce the salary of the engineer and make his successor do the work of three distinct officials, as is suggested. A more bungling or foolish proposition could hardly be proposed.

The *Telegram* advocates the holding of a convention of delegates from all parts of Canada and United States to discuss the question of Commercial Union between the two countries. The *Telegram* suggests the time and place, viz:—in Toronto during the Industrial Exhibition. The idea is a good one and if acted upon might be fruitful of much good. The time however is too short to permit of delegates from the States and Canada meeting without preparation to discuss so important a subject. A delegation of this description is desirable but the time for such international discussion is not yet come.

There is much talk about the tremendous size of the *Mail* newspaper building. It is prophesied that the *Mail* must "go to smash." The *Globe*, *Mail*, and *Telegram* evidently are running a tremendous race, and it remains to be seen if three can live at the rate they are going. The *Globe* certainly intends giving its rivals a tough run, when it reduces the price of its editions from three to one and one-third cents.

Queen City.