

The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is published by THE BURLAND-DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY on the following conditions:—\$4.00 per annum in advance, \$4.50 if not paid strictly in advance, \$3.00 for clergymen, school-teachers and post-masters in advance.

All remittances and business communications to be addressed to G. B. BURLAND, General Manager.

All literary correspondence, contributions, &c., to be addressed to the Editor.

When an answer is required stamps for return postage must be enclosed.

City subscribers are requested to report at once to this office, either personally or by postal card, any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

### NOTICE.

We are constantly receiving letters and messages for back numbers or extra numbers of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. Our friends should remember that, in every case, a sufficient sum should be enclosed to pay for the price of the paper and the postage.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 24th June, 1876.

### THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND PLATFORM.

RUTHERFORD B. HAYES, Governor of Ohio, was nominated last Friday, at Cincinnati, on the seventh ballot, for President of the United States, in the Republican interest. It is another case of "available mediocrity," the great Presidential test since the days of ANDREW JACKSON. Such prominent leaders as CONKLING, BRISTOW, MORTON and BLAINE were set aside by local and personal jealousies, and the highest gift of the people offered to a man of no national repute. It is the old story of

"Ingratitude, the vice of Republics."

Thus POLK superseded CLAY, and LINCOLN replaced SEWARD. In the present instance, however, it is questionable whether the obscure and untried HAYES is not really as much of a statesman as BLAINE, CONKLING or MORTON. Indeed, these men are not statesmen. They are mere politicians, whose record for public honesty and patriotism is more or less suspicious.

It is too early to speculate on the chances of the new candidate. We can judge of nothing until the Democratic Convention at St. Louis has made its nominations. The only clue we have to the claims of the party to public support is drawn from the platform passed at Cincinnati. Its principal "planks" may be summarized thus:—

In the first Act of Congress signed by President Grant, the National Government assumed to remove any doubts of its purpose to discharge all just obligations to public creditors, and solemnly pledged its faith to make provisions at the earliest practicable period for the redemption of the United States notes in coin. Commercial prosperity, public needs, and national credit demand that this promise be fulfilled by a continuous and steady progress to specie payment. Under the Constitution the President and heads of departments are to make nominations for office. The Senate is to advise and consent to appointments, and the House of Representatives is to accuse and prosecute faithless officers. The best interests of the public service demand that these distinctions be respected, that Senators and Representatives who may be judges and accusers should not dictate appointments to office, the invariable rule for appointments should have reference to honesty, fidelity, and capacity of appointees, giving to the party in power those places where harmony and vigor of administration require its policy to be represented, but permitting all others to be filled by persons selected

with sole reference to efficiency of the public service, and the right of citizens to share in the honor of rendering faithful service to their country. The public school system of the several States is the bulwark of the American Republic; and with a view to its security and permanence, they recommend an amendment to the Constitution of the United States forbidding the application of any public funds or property for the benefit of any school or institution under sectarian control. The revenue necessary to current expenditure and the obligations of the public debt must be largely derived from duties upon importations, which, as far as possible, should be so adjusted as to promote the interests of American labor and advance the prosperity of the whole country. It is the imperative duty of the Government to so modify existing treaties with European Governments that the same protection shall be afforded to adopted American citizens that is given to native born, and all necessary laws be passed to protect emigrants in the absence of power in the State for that purpose. It is the immediate duty of Congress to fully investigate the effect of the immigration and importation of Mongolians on the moral and material interests of the country. The Republican party recognize with approval the substantial advance recently made toward the establishment of equal rights for women by the many important amendments effected by Republican Legislatures in the laws which concern the personal and property relations of wives, mothers and widows, and by the appointment and election of women to the superintendence of education, charities, and other public trusts. The honest demands of this class of citizens for additional rights and privileges and immunities should be treated with respectful consideration. We charge the Democratic party as being the same in character and spirit as when it sympathized with treason, and with making its control of the House of Representatives the triumph and opportunity of the nation's recent foes; with reasserting and applauding in the National Capitol the sentiment of unrepentant rebellion; with sending Union soldiers to the rear; with deliberately proposing to repudiate the plighted faith of the Government; with being equally false and imbecile upon the overshadowing financial question; with thwarting the ends of justice by the partisan mismanagement and obstruction of investigation; with proving itself through the period of its ascendancy in the lower House of Congress utterly incompetent to administer the Government. We warn the country against trusting a party thus alike unworthy, recreant and incapable. The National Administration merits commendation for its honorable work in the management of domestic and foreign affairs, and President Grant deserves the continued and hearty gratitude of the American people for his patriotism and his immense services in war and in peace.

### THE SOFTAS.

The latest intelligence received through our European exchanges confirms the impression which we have already published, that the Softas are really the present masters of the situation in Turkey, and that it is mainly from them that we must expect the future policy of the new Sultan and his ministers. The Softas are striving to take the place of the Janissaries, with this difference, that while the latter used to make tumults and depose or strangle the Sultans, from hatred, revenge, harem intrigues, or hopes of large bakschisch, the students of theology rise, in the name and for the benefit of the country, against the disastrous omnipotence of the Padisha, and they want to render him subject to a Syndicate, and to surround him with institutions which may restrain his extravagance and caprices, and enable the Ottoman Empire to save from complete shipwreck the last remains of its power and dignity. According to information received by the *Temps* from Constantinople, the Softas insist upon the entire realiza-

tion of the revolutionary programme which they presented to the astounded Sultan on the day of the memorable demonstration. We call it a revolutionary programme because this is the first time that the daring proposal has been made to restrict the absolute powers of the sovereign. The Softas wish the civil list to be reduced to a reasonable figure, and subjected to a control which may prevent the Sultan from increasing it at his pleasure by putting his rapacious hand into the public treasury, which is for the future to form a distinct and independent fund in fact, and not only in name. They further demanded that Abdul-Aziz should pay into the treasury, to meet the wants of the Empire, a portion of that gold which he is said to have buried in the vaults of his own palace, and to be accustomed to worship with all the jealous passion of a miser. Abdul-Aziz united in his character the closest avarice and the most unbridled prodigality, and while he would pledge his Empire to raise money to satisfy a momentary caprice, he did not scruple to leave without pay, not only the high dignitaries of the State, but even the servants of the Palace, eunuchs, butlers, and cooks, and suspend the allowances of the members of his own family, and oblige them to reduce their expenditure. . . . No one has ever been able to calculate exactly what the Sultan squandered upon palaces, villas, table, and objects of luxury; but it is known that the resources of the Empire were not sufficient for the demands of this double passion of avarice and prodigality. Now, if the Softas propose to put an end to an economic mis-government which is leading Turkey to certain ruin, they deserve praise and encouragement. In Turkey no reform is possible unless it begins with the head of the State. This is a truth recognized and proclaimed by all who have any acquaintance with the condition of Turkey, and therefore it ought not to cause surprise that the movement of the Softas, which is aimed at the root of the evil, receives the approbation of the London and Vienna press. We find that the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Neue Freie Presse* hail this movement as one which, if wisely directed, might inaugurate a new era in the Ottoman Empire. There is another important point in the programme of the Softas. They demand that the Sultan should give up the title of Caliph, that is to say, the Vicar of Mahomet, which would, it appears, be equivalent to a separation of the spiritual from the temporal power. Although theologians, and perhaps precisely because they are theologians, the Softas recognise the incompatibility of the two powers in the head of a State, and in this they give a lesson to our clerical party. In abdicating the title of Caliph, the Sultan would divest himself of his semi-divine character, and becoming an ordinary sovereign might be rendered subject to that control which the nations are wont to exercise on the other monarchs of Europe. Then a Constitution of the Empire would be thought of, and a Parliament, of which the national Council, demanded by the Softas, would be the first rough sketch. Finally, let us call attention to a circumstance which has an important significance. The Softas propose the appointment of a European as Minister of Finance. That the Turks should recognise the administrative capacity of the Christians is not surprising; but it is somewhat surprising that they should determine to use this capacity in one of those higher positions which have not hitherto been profaned by the presence of a Giaour. This a rather encouraging symptom, the more so as it comes after the sad doings at Salonica, which might have raised apprehensions that a universal outburst of Musulman fanaticism was at hand. In short, the political programme of the Softas, rudimentary as it is, would save Turkey from the fate which threatens her, if it could be realized peacefully and without a shock, and would render superfluous the undesired guardianship of the Powers. But is this possible? The early future

will tell us. Turkey is in a state of fever, and all are anxiously watching for the moment of the crisis to see whether she will be a corpse, or a patient still capable of being cured.

### THE PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The Canadian Government has issued an advertisement saying that it expects to be able, on or before January, 1877, to invite tenders for the building and working the sections of the Canadian Pacific Railway between Lake Superior and the Pacific Ocean. The advertisement is published in Canada and England, its object being to induce contractors who may be desirous of building, to make such examination into the character of the country along the line of the projected road as may enable them to intelligently frame their proposals. The Act of 1874, under which bids are invited, provides that contractors for the construction and working of the road shall receive lands, or the proceeds of lands, at the rate of 20,000 acres, and cash at the rate of \$10,000 for each mile of railway constructed, together with four per cent. bonds, to run twenty-five years from the completion of the work, on any further sum which may be stipulated in the contract. This announcement, however, does not indicate any purpose of the Canadian Government to immediate completion, as the terms of the advertisement would naturally lead one to infer. The present Government has determined upon the policy of building the proposed road only so fast as the resources of the country will permit, but, in the construction of such sections as are undertaken, to keep in view the feasibility of making them ultimately available for a complete road, if the great project should ever be carried through. Canadians watch the proceedings of the Government upon this subject with a careful eye. It is now the purpose of the Dominion authorities to open to immigration the prairie region, extending from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, as soon as practicable, and it is not probable that there is any real intention of extending the proposed road any great distance beyond Red River for a long time to come. There are now contracts let for grading and bridging the road for sections aggregating 288 miles of the whole distance of 414 miles between Red River and Lake Superior, of which the contracts for 77 miles are for sections extending from Red River eastward.

### NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT BURLINGTON.

On May 29th the interesting ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new Presbyterian Church in Burlington Ont., took place. Owing to the unpropitious state of the weather in the early part of the day the attendance of people from a distance was not so large as anticipated. On the platform we noticed Prof. Cavan, D. D., Professor of Knox College, Toronto; Revs. Messrs. Fletcher, J. C. Smith, James Little and A. Henderson, Hamilton; Rev. J. Chrystal, Lyndoch; Rev. Wm. Spencer, Pastor Church of England; Rev. Mr. Chalmers, Canadian Methodist, and Rev. Mr. Fisher, Pastor of the new church, Burlington. The ceremony commenced by singing and reading a portion of Scripture and prayer. An historical sketch of Knox Church congregation was then read and placed in a jar with copies of several newspapers. The jar and contents were then placed in the cavity of a stone in the south corner of the building. Everything being in readiness the corner stone was laid by Professor Cavan, who delivered a very interesting address. The silver trowel presented to the Professor was a very handsome and valuable one purchased at the establishment of Mr. Wilkes, Toronto; upon the trowel were the following words artistically engraved:

PRESENTED  
to  
PROF. CAVAN, D. D.,  
PRINCIPAL KNOX COLLEGE  
on the occasion of his  
LAYING THE CORNER STONE  
of  
KNOX CHURCH AT  
BURLINGTON.

Addresses were delivered by Revs. Messrs. Fletcher, Chalmers, and Spencer. The proceedings were brought to a close by singing the Doxology and pronouncing the benediction. The church will be a very handsome structure built of white brick and stone facings and will be capable of seating a large congregation.