

LIKE JONAH'S GOULD.

THE WONDERFUL GROWTH OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG.

George Sladen Tells of Its Past and Present, and Predicts Bright Things for Its Future - A Burst Blister Leaves No Lasting Scar.

A city of the plains! It sprang up like Jonah's gourd, but not to wither away. For it has become a great railway centre, and the capital of a country that announces its intention of putting Ontario into the shade.

Like most Canadian towns, Winnipeg has first-rate wooden sidewalks, carried over on piles when it comes to depressions, but they get very greasy in damp weather.

But Winnipeg need not care what it is when it is wet, for it hardly ever is wet, though it can be very cold or very hot at a few hours notice.

It is quite a city. The goose and goat outskirts are very conspicuous by their absence, though there is prairie loosely dotted with cottages not a great way from the City Hall.

Talking of the City Hall, it is fine enough for the city when it has 100,000 inhabitants. So is the Post office. So is the way in which the main thoroughfares are laid out.

In these invasions of prairie it has two charming residential quarters. Fort Rouge, near the crumbling arch of the old fort of the Honorable Hudson's Bay company, and Armstrong's Point, unsuccessfully rechristened Victoria Park.

Neither is Winnipeg altogether new, for apart from old Fort Garry, and Kildonan, historic for Lord Selkirk's foreseeing colonization, there is St. John's, the Cathedral church of Rupertsland.

Under its shadow on the banks of the Red river, is St. John's Episcopal school - an old school - and the new theological college, which will one day bear the same relation to Winnipeg's university as Trinity College to Melbourne University, or St. Paul's to Sydney.

Driving back along the Main street, one sees Indians in plenty, squaws carrying children slung on their backs, braves in blankets and braves in white men's rags.

What a contrast these to the Manitoba club, rivaling the best clubs in eastern Canada. The Manitoba club gave a dinner to the governor-general which, in the good taste of its decorations (cut flowers brought a thousand miles from Chicago), the admirable drill of the waiters, the cooking and the champagne, was an example to a club dinner anywhere.

So his excellency seemed to think, for he did not rise from the table until 1 p. m. - Winnipeg time.

Of the prosperity of Winnipeg I feel sure. At present it is suffering from a steam blister. But this is only temporary, and those who hold on will reap their

reward, when they see another Toronto with its railways feeding it from a province emulating Ontario - and itself the distributing centre of manufactures to a population numbered by the hundreds of thousands.

DOUGLAS SLADEN.

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

An idyl of Canadian life is what the critics style McKee Rankine's new play, The Kanuck. The character of the old French Canadian is certainly new to the stage, and affords opportunities which, if handled properly, would make a decidedly interesting drama.

Among the many Shakespearian revivals promised during the present season, none is attracting as much attention as Richard Mansfield's production of Richard III. His support will consist of no less than 35 principals, 4 court ladies, 25 supernumeraries, 3 costumers, stage carpenters, scene painters, and the regular outside staff, making in all 83 people.

It will be remembered that last year Louis Aldrich and A. O. F. made a very determined but unsuccessful effort to have the alien labor law construed or amended so as to cover English actors.

Those who favor the building of a large theatre in this city should read Mr. Boucault's forcible objections to these kinds of playhouses from the actors, managers, and auditors standpoints, which appear in the current number of the North American Review.

What an amount of smallness there can be in a really great man has been shown by Henry Irving's recent and successful attempt to stop Frederick Leslie burlesquing him at the Gaiety theatre, London.

I have to thank George Fawcett for two very excellent photographs of himself in the character of Curroo the Anarchist in Paul Kavar; the role in which he made such a decided and pronounced hit as to call from men like Nym Crinkle - the most unstinted praise. This week he makes his bow in Sig. Salvini's cast at Palmer's N. Y. theatre.

Many of our local singers might note with advantage the following clipping from the Chicago Indicator: "A vocalist who can look pleasant can do much to atone for her faulty singing, whereas good singing is often marred by facial gymnastics that would put a comic pantomime to shame."

Stanley Macy will go on the road in a few days for the sixth time with C. O. D. He is backed by James A. Price, a stock broker. It is reported that he desires to come this way.

The choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, will tour America this season, giving concerts of old Irish ballads, songs, etc. under the directions of the Redpath Lyceum bureau.

May Hampton is without an engagement. The Spider's Web has succumbed to bad business.

Mrs. Edward Harrigan is playing with

her husband in the West. It is her first appearance on the stage.

Mrs. E. L. Davenport is teaching dramatic classes in Boston.

The success of Shenandoah has been so great as to necessitate two companies. One to remain in New York city, while the other fills the road bookings.

Thomas Q. Seabrooke desires to purchase Col. Milliken's Half Seas Over.

Adele Payn has secured from Kate Claxton Bottle's Baby.

This will be Salvini's fourth farewell tour.

Thomas F. McCabe, whose Curate in The Wages of Sin made him many friends in St. John, will be with Joseph Murphy this year.

The little actress who signs herself "Patrice" is a daughter of Dion Boucault.

A pleasant note from William Gill informs me among other things that his engagement at the Tremont theatre, Boston, is only temporary, as domestic affairs prevent him accepting anything of a permanent nature.

Be it as it may, however, no one wishes him better luck than OWEN T. CARROLL.

He Had Her There.

Mrs. Brown - I made that chalk-line on the floor to see if you had been drinking again, and I find that you have.

Brown - Pah! What's that prove? Don't you know that a woman can't make a straight line? - Exchange.

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Table with 2 columns: Description, Amount. Original amount insured \$10,000 00. Dividend additions 12,630 00. Total paid by the Company \$22,630 00.

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