

1874.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

The month of December of this year closes the eighth volume of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, under the most favourable auspices. The paper has not only retained the success which it enjoyed from its inception, but it has gone on adding to its popularity, and, at the beginning of a new year, finds itself with a large and

STEADILY INCREASING CIRCULATION.

This state of things is so far satisfactory that we have been encouraged to introduce new and important improvements both in the management and editorial composition of the paper. Henceforward, particular attention will be given to

REGULAR DELIVERY,

so that newsdealers in all parts of the Dominion will be punctually served, and readers may rely upon having their paper in good time, every week. Experience shows that, while this country is well provided with a daily press, there is an ample field for the development of weekly family papers, which shall embrace, besides the usual amount of literary matter, a comprehensive account of the current events of the day. It is our ambition to take rank with the best weekly papers of Britain and the United States, in both ability and influence, and our new arrangements to compass this end are complete. Our political course will be, as usual, independent and non-partisan.

LITERATURE,

in its lightest and most attractive phases, such as serials, short stories, sketches, and poetry, will receive unremitting attention; and an immense variety of miscellaneous matter will be furnished in every issue.

The specific character of the paper will be maintained in the department of

ILLUSTRATIONS.

We have every facility for producing them in a style that defies competition. Besides the pictorial representation of interesting incidents all over the world, we shall continue our gallery of PORTRAITS of male and female celebrities. Occasionally an ART-PICTURE from one of the masters will be produced, and the periodical FASHION PLATE will appear at appropriate seasons. It is intended also to make a specialty of

CARTOONS,

setting off leading events of the day. These will be finished in a style of high art, and, from their historical interest, will form a collection worth preserving.

In addition, then, to a summary of current events, political intelligence, religious news, literary, scientific, and artistic progress, the readers of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS will have a weekly series of pictures and sketches so disposed as to promote, in the highest degree, the great desideratum of art culture.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.....	\$1.00 per annum.
THE FAVORITE.....	2.00 "
THE CANADIAN PATENT OFFICE RECORD AND MECHANICS' MAGAZINE.....	1.50 "
L'OPINION PUBLIQUE.....	3.00 "

THE DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY;
Montreal; Publishers.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

All remittances and business communications to be addressed to,
THE MANAGER—DESBARATS COMPANY, Montreal.

All correspondence for the Papers, and literary contributions to be addressed to,
THE EDITOR—DESBARATS COMPANY, Montreal.

When an answer is required, stamps for return postage should be inclosed.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1874.

THE DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.

The Engraving, Printing and Publishing business founded and heretofore carried on by G. E. Desbarats, will henceforth be continued by a Joint Stock Company under the above title. This Company, which will shortly be incorporated by charter under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada, has acquired the property of "The Canadian Illustrated News," "The Favorite," "The Canadian Patent Office Record and Mechanics' Magazine," "The Dominion Guide," "L'Opinion Publique," and other publications issued by G. E. Desbarats, also his Patents, in Photo-typing, Photo-lithographing, Electro-typing, etc., and the good-will of his large Lithographic and Type Printing Business.

The Company proposes to build a magnificent structure in a conspicuous and convenient locality in this City, where the business can be permanently established on a footing second to none of its kind in America.

Meanwhile, the ample Capital at its command will enable it to push the existing business to the utmost extent compatible with its present location; to improve the above mentioned publications in every particular, and to satisfy its customers, as to promptness, style of workmanship, and moderation in prices.

The Patronage of the enlightened Canadian Public in every part of the Dominion is solicited for this new Company, which will strive to build up a business alike beneficial and creditable to Canada.

It seems that the dissolution of the present Parliament is decided upon. The fact merits consideration for more reasons than one. In the first place, it argues an unexpected change in the designs of the party in power. It is remarkable that when the advent of Government took place nearly two months ago, an appeal to the country was hinted at as desirable, but the suggestion came from Conservative papers and was vigorously opposed by the Reform press. At present the tables are completely turned and the Reformers advocate dissolution, while the Conservatives argue against it. What is the reason of this change? We think the recent elections have something to do with it. They have gone so unmistakably for the Government, that high hopes of a stable and lengthy administration are conceived, replacing the natural dubiousness which existed before. It is believed that by taking the public opinion at the tide, and following up the advantages already won, the country may be swept by the Reformers and a powerful Parliamentary majority insured. This would be plausible strategy indeed, and we can quite understand that it approves itself to the judgment of the Cabinet. We go farther and give expression to the belief that such general elections would result in a decided triumph for Mr. Mackenzie. But in such a matter, it is the part of wisdom to look very far ahead and consider ultimate, rather than proximate or immediate results. Would such majority be a real source of strength to the Government and would the Prime Minister be justified in regarding it as the guarantee of a long tenure of office? The answer appears clear. It is in accordance with constitutional usage that general elections, outside of the usual quinquennial term, should be made to hinge on some or other question of policy, upon which the two parties in presence stake their fortunes. Now, in this instance, there would be absolutely no such question. The government have not vouchsafed even a hint of their policy and all that the electors would be called upon to decide is: "Do you or do you not approve of Sir John's conduct in the matter of the Pacific Railway?" Of course, there will be no trouble to obtain a large and influential negative vote on this issue. But clearly this is not enough. It is not a direct approval or endorsement of the new government, or at best, it is such only inasmuch as the new government succeeds the old. The members of Parliament elected on that issue will not and

cannot hold themselves pledged to vote for all measures of Mr. Mackenzie. It is a glaring mistake to imagine, as many leading Reform journals do imagine, that the Conservative party is disrupted and that the country is prepared to recede from the splendid policy which has made it prosperous and great during the past seven years. The Macdonald Ministry has been defeated on a question of management, not on a question of policy. One may not wish to reinstate Sir John personally, but neither is it certain that one wishes to maintain Mr. Mackenzie. For ourselves, we believe that the new Cabinet have a fine opportunity of ruling the country, but they have to be very careful, and we fear for them that a dissolution of Parliament, without sufficient reason, and risking general elections for the sake of a momentary triumph, is not calculated to add to their strength.

The affair of the "Virginius" has entered upon a new phase. It seems that the Spanish Government has furnished evidence going to prove that this vessel, at the time of her capture, had no claim to be considered as American. The facts in the case were communicated to the President of the United States and by him submitted to the decision of the Attorney-General. It is generally understood, at the present writing, that the latter officer has given the opinion that the vessel had forfeited the right to bear the American flag and at the time of her seizure was flying it under false pretences. In view of this opinion the government of the United States will, in accordance with the terms of the protocol, institute an inquiry and adopt proceedings against the "Virginius" and against any of the persons who may appear to have been guilty of illegal acts in connection therewith. The salute of the American flag, on the 25th inst. which was also a clause of the protocol, was dispensed with, as not now requirable, but the United States will exact a disclaimer of the intent of indignity to the flag in the act which was committed. From the proofs submitted by Spain, it would appear that the papers of the "Virginius" were obtained by perjury. Further, but less reliable, despatches represent the feeling in Madrid, consequent on the altered aspect of the case, as so enthusiastic, that a pressure will be made upon the Government to demand from the United States the immediate restoration of the "Virginius." What might be interpreted as giving a colour of plausibility to this intelligence is the further information that General Sickles, American ambassador at Madrid, has tendered his resignation and insists upon its acceptance. From other quarters we learn that serious complications in regard to Cuba have arisen between the Spanish and British Governments, and that in consequence the British West India squadron is to be speedily and largely increased. It is stated that the Havana authorities complain of undue British interference in Cuban affairs. Whatever importance may be attached to these dispatches, it now appears likely that one important result will flow from the painful episode of the "Virginius." That incident has called the attention of the whole world to the lamentable condition of affairs in Cuba, where for the past five or six years an internecine war has been carried on, which is positive despair to civilization. Public opinion will now demand that the law of nations be rigidly enforced in regard to that contest, and that it be speedily terminated.

Some of the Conservative papers are asking whether the Hon. George Brown is "the sort of man who either by nature or training is fitted to take a place among the 'grave and reverend seigniors' of the Senate." As the grave and reverends, however estimable individually, are collectively rather a bore one is disposed to hail with satisfaction and anticipation the arrival among them of a legislator who may be expected to impart to the proceedings of that august assemblage a spirit of greater liveliness than has hitherto characterized them.

It is no use ascribing the success of the Government at the last elections to trickery and corruption. At every change of administration there is some hesitancy, a certain revulsion of feeling, and the party in power gets the advantage of it. On the other hand, the conquerors must not be too elated. Their strength will not and cannot be truly tested till they are seriously at their official work.

What good reason is there for not observing of the law succession on the Bench? Surely the senior Judge of the U. S., Supreme Court ought to be able to succeed Chief Justice Chase, unless physically disabled. And in Quebec, now that Chief Justice Duval's resignation is announced, a politician should not be pitched upon for his successor.

It is said that of the five milliards of indemnity paid by France to Germany, considerably over two milliards have already returned to the former country in the regular course of trade. This is wonderful, if true.

The death of Henri Rochefort, at New Caledonia, is announced. Should this intelligence be confirmed, it would go far to brand with cruelty the authorities who sent the unfortunate man thither.

We see it stated that the contract between the Allan line of steamers and the Grand Trunk will shortly expire and will pro-