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BENEATH THE WAVE.

This interesting story is now proceeding in large instalments through our columns, and the interest of the plot deepens with every number. It should be remembered that we have gone to the expense of purchasing the sole copyright of this fine work for Canada, and we trust that our readers will show their appreciation of this fact by renewing their subscriptions and urging their friends to open subscriptions with the NEWS.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, March 15, 1879.

A REBUKE TO PARTY SPIRIT.

Lord DUFFERIN having accepted, shortly after his return to England, an invitation to dine at the Reform Club, thought it proper, on accepting the appointment of ambassador in St. Petersburg from the Conservative chief, to explain the matter to Lord BEACONSFIELD, who carelessly replied: "I really don't care where you dine: we all must dine somewhere." To Lord DUFFERIN's previous suggestion that if he went to St. Petersburg it would be as a Whig, the Premier drolly made answer: "Oh, well! you Whigs have already almost everything among you; there is ONE RUSSELL, LAYARD and LYONS, so one more does not signify." This anecdote, reported by one of the London papers, contains a lesson beyond the vein of humour which permeates it. It shows how high political functions are exercised in Great Britain, outside of the narrow sphere of party prejudices and preferences. Lord DUFFERIN is a Liberal—although of the milder Whig type—and as such occupies a seat to the left of the Woolsack in the House of Lords. Yet, notwithstanding the fact that political feeling runs very high in England at present, and the Opposition is very bitter in its attacks on the Ministry, the Government chose the Earl of DUFFERIN to represent Her Majesty at the Court of St. Petersburg upon the recall of Lord LOFTES. In making the appointment the sole principle of fitness was consulted, the remarkable career of the noble Lord in Canada pointing him out as the proper person to hold an extremely delicate position for the honour of his country. Alluding to his appointment at the Reform Club dinner referred to above, Lord DUFFERIN stated that the offer to the post in question was made to him in the most generous and handsome manner. It was not expected, but at the same time he admitted that it did not surprise him. For four or five years he had been endeavouring to the best of his ability loyally to carry out the instructions he had been receiving from Her Majesty's Government in the dependency over which he had to preside. From time to time he had received assurances that Her Majesty's Government had approved the manner in which he had discharged his duties. When, therefore, perhaps in recognition of these services, he was offered an opportunity of again serving his country in a post which is regarded, and rightly and conveniently regarded, as lying outside of the sphere of party politics at home, he had no hesitation in accepting the offer. He did not consult any one, because on such occasions he thought that every one is the best judge of his own conduct. But it has been a sincere pleasure to him to have subsequently received from those whose opinions

he most honours and values the kindest assurances of their approval of his course. We repeat that there is a valuable lesson for Canadians in this appointment. Perhaps there is no country under the sun where party spirit rules so sharply or narrowly, and where sectional differences wield a more disagreeable influence. Both the Conservative and Liberal parties, both the Federal and Provincial Governments have this equally to contend with, and those who are acquainted with public life in the Dominion are aware of the sinister results which almost invariably ensue. A man's religion and nationality are private and personal elements and should be thoroughly eliminated from the careers of public action or distinction. The writers and the speakers who are forever keeping up these differences must not be aware of the mischief they are doing or they would desist from their perilous course. While we are all busy discussing a National Policy, we should go further and endeavor to foster a National Spirit, setting up this standard of public efficiency that a man's creed and origin should be always secondary, while the first requisite should be ability and integrity.

MUSICAL TASTE AND CULTURE.

We have always felt that our people did not deserve the reproaches made by captious critics in regard to lack of artistic taste and musical and dramatic appreciation. At least we held that they were not a whit inferior in these respects to the people of the United States. And the reason is obvious. The educational courses through which Americans pass are pretty much of the same standard as our own, and if in such cities as New York, Philadelphia and Boston there have been exceptional opportunities of enjoying exhibitions of art and thus improving the aesthetic faculty, the rest of the country has been no better off than the Provinces of the Dominion. The element of wealth has no bearing here. Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis are much larger cities than either Montreal or Toronto, but they are not proportionally richer, indeed we doubt whether they have more substantial wealth at all, and consequently they have not more chances of artistic culture. Whence then arises the notion, prevalent even among ourselves, that we are inferior to the Americans in this respect? We believe the answer lies largely in the fact that we have been neglected by dramatic and musical managers, or treated only to inferior productions. In the domain of art there has been something analogous to what has taken place in the world of commerce and industry. The Americans have made a slaughter house of Canada. For a long time our people good-naturedly endured this state of things, and when at length they rebelled against it, they were taxed by the ignorant or unreflecting with a lack of taste and cultivation. How utterly unjust is the charge has been proved during the present winter, when a judicious manager like Mr. WALLACE, of this city, for instance, who understood both the wants and the dispositions of the people, undertook to raise the standard of artistic production, and present here the self-same works that were produced in New York. He opened in drama with "Diplomacy," the magnificent "Iona" of Victorien Sardou, and closed with "Mother and Son," the "Fourchambault" of the same incomparable playwright. Both were received with enthusiasm and munificently supported. He opened in music next with "H. M. S. Pinafore," put forth here simultaneously with its appearance in the United States, and concluded with grand Italian opera. We venture to say that no city of America responded better to the call of intelligent management, than did Montreal and Toronto. Among the operas presented were three novelties: "Aida," "Carmen," and "Mignon;" not that the first and third are new, but had never been properly sung in Canada before, while the

second was the revolution of a new eclectic school, standing midway between the mere melody of the Italian manner and the continuous recitative of the Wagnerian method. To say that these works were enjoyed here with proper discrimination and with due manifestations of approval is uttering a truth all the more pleasant because it confirms the estimate we have always set upon the aesthetic standing of our people, as expressed in the opening lines of this article. We have no doubt that Mr. WALLACE is of the same opinion with ourselves and is proportionally encouraged thereby. If he continues in the same course, and we trust he may, he may rest certain of a continued and increasing patronage. Our proposition is further strengthened by the manifestations of local talent in our own midst. To take only one example before concluding. In order to meet the growing taste for high class music in Montreal, a series of chamber concerts was proposed by Mr. FRED. E. LUCY-BARNES, where would also be given an analytical and historical programme as in England, France and Germany. This was a very ambitious design, but we are pleased that it is going to be realized in three concerts, at Synod Hall, beginning on March 18th. The director has secured a most efficient staff of violinists, violoncellists, pianists and vocalists, and the classical works which he proposes putting forth will, we are confident, go far towards creating a spirit of enquiry into and relish of that high art which is one of the chief enjoyments of intellectual life.

GENEVA AND HALIFAX.

There is something to be learned from the juxtaposition of the two names. It will be remembered that the Halifax Commission awarded Canada the sum of \$5,500,000 as an indemnity for the use of our fisheries by the Americans. The American Commissioner demurred to this; the American papers backed him in somewhat violent, if not offensive language; the American Congress protested officially against the award, and the American Secretary of State, Mr. EVARTS, despatched a long diplomatic paper embodying an almost virtual disapproval of the principles of arbitration. It was only when Lord SALISBURY replied in a firm and conclusive note that our neighbours decided on paying the money, but, even then, President HAYES did so under reservation. It must be admitted that all this was unhandsome, and, to say the least, unworthy of a great people. And, what makes the matter worse, is the contrast presented by Great Britain in a similar case—that of the Geneva award. The \$15,000,000 adjudged by that tribunal were promptly paid by England, notwithstanding the energetic and brilliant recusation of Chief-Justice COCKBURN, the British Commissioner. But this is not the whole of the story, and what remains to be told is by no means complimentary to our American cousins. It is well known that of these \$15,000,000, fully two-thirds, or \$10,000,000, have never found any allotment, and until now no disposition has been made of them. The late Senate refused even to consider the matter and adjourned without taking it up. Our own papers have overlooked this singular fact, but it is pleasant to find at least one great organ of public opinion in the United States speaking its mind without fear. The *Missouri Republican*, the oldest and most influential journal in the whole of the Mississippi Valley, says "that to an outsider—located, let us say, in England—it looks very much as if Congress intended to steal the \$10,000,000 still remaining of the \$15,000,000 which the United States recovered for damages inflicted by Confederate cruisers fitted out in British ports. Stealing is just the name for it, and the only one that covers the case. If, as was alleged at Geneva, American ship-owners and sailors suffered to the extent of \$15,000,000 by the cruisers aforesaid, why should not the

money be given them? If it is not given them, the Government is either pocketing what belongs to private persons, or our claim for damages was more than it ought to have been, and the unexpended balance should be returned to England. If the balance is neither distributed nor returned, then the Government is guilty of what plain folks call stealing." The same paper urges further that it does not speak much for Congressional ideas of honour and honesty that such a matter should be allowed to drag on year after year, every effort to obtain a final settlement failing for lack of sufficient support. The only excuse for this delay that our contemporary can discover is that Congress has no intention of being either honest or honourable, but wishes to avoid an official declaration of its purpose. "Our British cousins are certainly justified in saying all they have said, or wish to say, in regard to the sharp practice of which they are the victims." This is strong language, but who will say that it is undeserved?

We received the March number of the *Rose-Belford Magazine* too late to give our usual review of it in the present issue, but our eye having fallen upon the initial paper, "Nelson at Quebec," we read it through at once. The article is by Dr. HENRY H. MILES, the well-known historian and educationist, who must have bestowed a great deal of search to the collation of his materials. The facts adduced by him are new and controversial of several accepted data, but, as we cannot discuss them to day, we shall reserve our analysis for our next number.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE MASQUE OF WELCOME.—Full details of this splendid entertainment appeared in our last issue.

THE HERMIT OF WESTON.—A singular and weird specimen of a human being has taken up his abode in the woods near Weston. There he lives without other shelter than an open bark shed, built beside a log, and before which he builds a fire. His bed consists of a few poles to keep him from the damp ground, and his only extra covering, beyond a worn, but not ragged, suit, is a common camp blanket. His utensils comprise only a tin cup and tin pail. A ruded sled of his own manufacture is used for drawing brushwood for his fire. During the early part of his residence here, he begged about the neighbourhood, but would never enter a house. Now he does less, if any, begging, being supplied by those who take pity on his forlorn condition. This odd mortal is a man of about fifty, of medium height and somewhat stout of body, with dark, shaggy hair and beard, the latter inclining to grey beneath the mouth, greyish eyes and nose a little flat above and quite sharp at the point. He converses readily with those who go to see him, and displays a good deal of shrewdness, though his mind is apparently of light cast. He amuses his visitors by rattling the bones and singing songs, some of them of his own composition. He has a love song, medicine song, tea song and one referring to the mode of life he has chosen. He says his name is George Williams; that he is a Canadian, though he has spent most of his time in the United States; that he was born at Hogsback Falls, near Ottawa; and that he has been a waiter. He talks of having walked from Philadelphia to New Orleans and back by the eastern coast, of having been nearly frozen and lying in hospital for some time.

A LITTLE HEATHEN.—The Princess Louise and the Marquis were waiting on the Sunday-school scholars at a recent entertainment given them at Rideau Hall, and the former asked a pretty little girl if she wouldn't take more cake. The little guest declined with awe, and her hostess, fearing that bashfulness was standing in the way, pressed her again. Again she declined. Her Highness, struck by the sweet modesty and child-like simplicity of the pretty creature, cut a large slice from the cake and said, "Well, my dear, you must, at least, take this home as a present from me; let me put it in your pocket." The child hesitated, blushed, and exhibited a decided unwillingness to accept the proffered gift. And the more unwilling she seemed, the more charmed the Princess became with her innocent look and blushing diffidence. Using a gentle force, she found the pocket of her young visitor, when lo! to her infinite astonishment, she discovered that it was already filled to overflowing with cake which this bland little heathen Chinese had stealthily abstracted from the table.

THE CHAMPION SKATER.—We are the more pleased to insert this sketch because the subject of it is a fellow-journalist and artist, Mr.