

PICTORIAL TIMES

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

BY THE

PICTORIAL TIMES PUBLISHING CO

1592 NOTRE DAME STREET

MONTREAL.

JAS. G. ARMSTRONG, Manager.

TERMS:

PER ANNUM \$2.50
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MONTREAL, 15th. JANUARY, 1887.

TO THE READER.

Canada wants an illustrated paper and the present journal is an attempt to supply that want. The publishers,—practical men, brought up in the business—are aware of the difficulties attendant on such an undertaking. But they mean to do their best to overcome these obstacles and merit public favor by conscientious hard work.

For a beginning the dimensions of the paper will be modest, limited to eight pages, fully one half of which will be adorned with illustrations. The object is to make these pictures sharp in outline, clear in impression and diversified in design. The subjects will be chosen from current events, drawn by our own artists, and occasionally there will be a diversion in the way of a copy of a work of art.

The letter press will be confided to trained hands, thoroughly experienced in journalism. The general tenor of the matter will be light, so as to make the reading popular to all classes, but a literary character will be maintained throughout, so as to render it acceptable even to the most cultured.

A living, active paper must necessarily take note of the incidents of the day and while the PICTORIAL TIMES will do this, especially in regard to matters of Canadian concern, its spirit will be strictly national, and free from any ties of party.

We respectfully invite the public to give our venture a fair trial and trust that, with the growth of their favour, the PICTORIAL TIMES will gradually grow in size, appearance and general usefulness. We make a special call on the young people of both sexes, to whose young particular attention will be paid, and who will always find in our columns a warm welcome for the contributions of their talent.

Our promises are not many, but such as we make we mean to keep.

In Toronto the municipal election was eminently satisfactory. The issue was sharply defined on the lines of good government and the triumph proved decisive. Mayor Howland posed as a reformer in the rational sense of the word, setting his face resolutely against all elements of disorder and the splendid majority which he received will strengthen his hands. The other cities of Canada cannot do better than watch closely the example of Toronto.

The appearances are that the Carnival of this winter will be the most successful ever held in Montreal. The management have gained much from previous experience, and the features introduced are such as will best conduce to the general amusement. A great deal of artistic taste can be displayed in the glacial structures and decorations throughout the city and we shall look to something novel in this respect.

The forthcoming mayoralty election in Montreal has this peculiarity that it is a distinct step toward reconciliation and good feeling among the different classes of the population. The choice of Mr. Abbott is so singularly good that it should further this object without opposition. But unexpected opposition has been offered, and it would be better that Mr. Abbott threw up the nomination at once, without submitting to the humiliation of a contest.

The people of Canada have all the more cause for union and self reliance that they can expect no assistance at present from their neighbors across the border in the matter of a commercial treaty or a workable arrangement of the fisheries controversy. In both cases we have to remain content with the *status quo* until this passive hostility—for it is nothing else—on the part of the United States, is removed. A concerted movement in this direction by the Imperial and Dominion authorities is one of the needs of the present year.

The sudden return of Sir Charles Tupper has its importance in this connection. Sir Charles is essentially a strong man and, while all his methods may not be approved of, his aims are Canadian and he will work for the strengthening and perpetuation of our institutions. No matter what party is in power—either by maintenance or recovery—the policy of policies is to keep this country together, advance its material interests and put down all its enemies.

There are tactical reasons both for and against Federal elections at the present time. Now that all the Provinces have spoken at the local polls, it might not be amiss to hear the voice of the whole people on Dominion issues, after which there would be a much needed rest from political turmoil. On the other hand, it might be advisable to effect such a reconstruction of the cabinet as would consolidate the national sentiment on the seaboard and take time to present to the people a strong homogeneous policy, apart from local jealousies and animosities.

In the Upper Provinces we have not sufficiently understood or attended to the Lower Provinces. They have local requirements of which we have not taken proper account, and even our commercial relations with them have been more selfish than broadening. The statesmen of those Provinces have a greater responsibility than others and we must depend mainly on them for the maintenance of those fundamental principles, without which our experimental scheme of Confederation will be impossible.

Whether the Federal elections take place at present or not, a vigorous appeal to public sentiment must be made at once. There have been disintegrating agencies at work in every one of the older Provinces, during the past year, and these should be checked before further mischief is done. This can best be done by a broad general policy which shall unite all interests and tendencies. Every elector should feel, and act on the feeling that while he has Provincial duties and rights, he is a Canadian before and above all.

PERSONAL.

Sir Charles Tupper is homeward bound.

Good news. Colonel Van Straubenzee will not be removed from Montreal.

Mayor Howland, is one of the handsomest men in Toronto. Hence his large female vote.

Dr Casgrain will represent the 125,000 French Canadians of Ontario in the Senate.

Mr Samuel Mesner is the new Senator appointed to represent the Germans of the Dominion.

Hon. J. J. C. Abbott is one of the foremost men in all Canada and would be a credit to Montreal.

The New York Canadian Club did honor to itself in giving a banquet to Mr Bengough, of *Grip*.

Erastus Winan is proud of his Toronto birth. He worthily leads the Canadian Colony in New York.

Mr J. M. Le Moine, the veteran author of "Maple Leaves", has two new volumes almost ready for the press.

Mr W. H. Fuller, of Ottawa, is about to issue a series of weekly sketches, entitled "Mr Sprouts—His Opinions."

Mr George Martin's beautiful Canadian poem "Marguerite" is being received with general favor.

Mr George Stewart jr, editor of the Quebec *Chronicle*, lately lectured in that city on the poet Whittier.

Mr. Sellars, of Huntingdon, has valuable material on the battle of Chateaugay.

Sherbrooke has a Waterloo pensioner, aged 92. He has had 50 years military experience in Canada.

Hon. Dr. Wilson, Manitoba minister of Public works, has married Miss Annie Armstrong, of Milburn, Ont.

Winnipeg may congratulate itself on having Sir Donald Smith to represent it in Parliament.

Mr. Goschen is a coming man for the British Premiership. He belongs to the remarkable race of Israelites.

The newly-elected Mayor of Ottawa is one of the wealthiest citizens of the capital and altogether a worthy representative.

It is stated that general Bulley, author of the "Great Leno Land" and other works of travel and adventure is a native of Nova Scotia.

The jaunty form and fine hands of the head of Judge Ramsay will be missed in the legal, literary and social circles of Montreal.

Erastus Winan says that, in nine hundred and ninety nine cases out of a thousand, there is no investment which will pay so well as courtesy.

Congratulations to Henry J. Morgan, the literary statistician, who has risen one step higher in the State Department at Ottawa.

Mr. G. Mercer Adam, in collaboration with Miss A. A. Ethelwyn Wetherald, has produced a new Canadian story, "An Algonquin Maiden."

Professor Chas G. D. Roberts, of Nova Scotia, author of "Orion" and other poems, read a paper, last week, before the Canadian Club, of New York, on "Echoes from Old Acadia."

The well known French-Canadian poet, Louis Fréchette, is preparing two new volumes of poems, illustrating the chief epochs of the history of New France.

Ontario has just lost two military heroes, Lieut Col. Arthurs, and ex-Alderman Davids, who served side by side at the battle of Ridgeway during the Fenian raid of '66.

CANADIAN HISTORY.

A column will be devoted exclusively to points of Canadian History. There is a wide field for it and no facilities therefore have ever been offered to the course public. The study of our history has been unaccountably neglected up to the present time, even in schools and academies.

The special feature which we wish to introduce is the research into the unknown portions of our annals. Any thing new, odd, recondite or dubious will be received and discussed. Let any one who has a doubt, or desires information, send on his question and it will be answered. If the answer is not easily accessible, other readers will be called upon to help and thus the field of knowledge will widen.

Let our young people, of both sexes, cultivate this column. They will find it a source of unexpected enjoyment, and of rare instruction. They will be agreeably surprised at the richness of the material within their reach. Some of them may even unconsciously contribute a detail or two, either entirely overlooked or not sufficiently dwelt upon before. Work from every quarter is eagerly solicited and will be warmly received.

We shall not confine ourselves to the more antiquities of Canadian history, however abundant and interesting these are. More modern periods should be studied also, such as the origin of townships in Upper and Lower Canada, and the origin of the names of towns and municipalities scattered over the country since the Conquest.

Anecdotes from family papers, accessible only to a few, will also be accepted especially if briefly written and having real technical or biographical bearing. The Indian etymology of names is likewise comparatively unknown and deserves particular attention.