

CANADA:

A Monthly Magazine for Canadians at Home and Abroad.

EDITED BY

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TERMS.

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Send us two new subscriptions, and we will send you your own copy for one year FREE. This is the best number we have issued yet; use THIS NUMBER to canvass with. Begin the canvass to-day.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

MR. STEAD, in his paper on "The Czar and Russia of To-Day" in the January *Review of Reviews*, poses as an apologist for the "Little Father" and the Russian Government in reference to the way they have dealt with the great famine. Mr. Stead's sympathies are apt to blind him to the sins of the particular person or cause which he is engaged in championing for the time being. We cannot help contrasting the selfishness of the Czar and his Government with such examples as the following, and even heathen history can furnish many similar ones. We quote from Prof. Rawlinson's "Ancient

Monarchies." He says concerning a famine that occurred in Persia during the 5th century: "We are told that the drought in the reign of Perozes was such that at last there was not a drop of water either in the Tigris or the Oxus; all the sources and fountains, all the streams and brooks failed; vegetation altogether ceased; the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air perished; nowhere through the whole empire was a bird to be seen; the wild animals, even the reptiles, disappeared altogether. The dreadful calamity lasted for seven years, and under ordinary circumstances the bulk of the population would have been swept off; but such were the wisdom and the beneficence of the Persian Monarch, that during the entire duration of the scourge not a single person, or, according to another account, but one person perished of hunger. Perozes began by issuing general orders that the rich should come to the relief of their poorer brethren; he required the governors of the towns and the head-men of villages to see that food was supplied to those in need, and threatened that for each poor man in a town or village who died of want he would put a rich man to death. At the end of two years, finding that the drought continued, he declined to take any revenue from his subjects, remitting taxes of all kinds, whether they were money imposts or contributions in kind. In the fourth year, not content with these measures, he went further; opened the treasury doors and made distributions of money from his own stores to those in need. At the same time he imported corn from Greece, from India, from the valley of the Oxus, and from Abyssinia, obtaining by these means such ample supplies that he was able to furnish an adequate sustenance to all his subjects. The result was that not only did the famine cause no mortality among the poorer classes, but no one was even driven to quit the country in order to escape the pressure of the calamity." Allowing for whatever of exaggeration there may have been in the sources from which this account was drawn, Perozes, the Persian king, furnishes an example which the Czar of Russia might well have imitated.

A young *litterateur* of much promise died at Wolfville, N. S., on the 4th ult.

Goodridge Bliss Roberts, a younger brother of Prof. Roberts. He was only 22 years of age. He was a graduate of Kings College, Windsor, had chosen the ministry as his life work, and was undergoing a theological training with the expectation of being ordained next

winter. He preached the Sunday before his death, was attacked by *la grippe* and died after a few days' illness. His writings in prose and poetry were prophetic of a successful literary career. He was editor of the Canadian section in Douglas Sladen's *Younger American Poets*. We understand that he left several articles ready for the press, one of which will appear in the *Dominion Illustrated Monthly*.

THE usual instalment of "Montcalm and French Canada" has been crowded out this month; next month the instalment will be a larger one to make up for the omission.

THE Toronto Public Library is making every effort to complete its collection of Canadian literature. Mr. Bain, the chief librarian, wishes us to say that he is desirous of obtaining a copy of every book, however small, published in the Maritime Provinces; and that if authors will send him a copy of each book they publish, accompanied by an invoice, the amount will be remitted them or, if it is already in the library, the book will be returned free of expense.

THE editorial and literary notes in this number were for the most part written on the train between Benton and St. John, or St. John and Halifax, while going at the rate of thirty or forty miles an hour. With our good friend, the Remington, we found it almost as easy to write as at home in the study. It was certainly more satisfactory than trying to read small print in newspaper or book.

OUR advertising patronage has obliged us to add eight pages more to the magazine this month. This number is 32 pages and cover, and contains a table of contents that would adorn a much more pretentious monthly. Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are represented among the contributors. Let each subscriber send us two subscriptions when he renews his own and we shall keep improving every month.

SEVERAL of the leading papers have been drawing attention lately to the fraud practised on the Canadian public in the sale of American books. The *Montreal Witness* says: "We take up an American Atlas of the World. It gives about 400 pages to the United States and about 100 to other countries. It gives 55 maps to the United States and 31 to other countries." We can well remember having received our first ideas of Geography from