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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Sept. 4th, 1875.

EDUCATION IN QUEBEC.

The last Report of the Minister of Public Instruction for the Province of Quebec has been laid upon our table. The work is very large and contains a mass of the most useful and interesting information. Expression is freely given to the undeniable progress which the cause of education has made in the Province, but this praise is qualified by the statement of several drawbacks deserving public attention. There is no doubt that, in the elementary schools, geography, book-keeping and the history of Canada, are too much neglected. With regard to the latter, we have had occasion to say, on several previous occasions, that a full and reliable history of this country remains to be written. Professor MILES has published a graded series of school histories of Canada, peculiarly adapted to the mixed classes of Quebec pupils, but while these have answered a manifest want, they are certainly susceptible of improvement, especially in finish of style, and clearness of presentation.

On the question of teachers' salaries, the Report is explicit. It states that the remuneration of male teachers should range from three to six hundred dollars, and that of female teachers from two to four hundred dollars. We cannot conceive of any school master or mistress accepting employment at less than the lowest of these figures. And yet the fact is that many a worthy, talented man works at his classes for the beggarly sum of two hundred to two hundred and fifty dollars a year, while many a young girl slaves in the school room for fifteen, twenty, and twenty-five pounds. Relief in this respect must come primarily from public opinion which should be made to understand both the dignity of the teacher's mission and the amount of wear and tear which it entails, but Government might lead the way, and we are pleased to see that the Minister of Public Instruction recommends the increase of this special fund to the figure of \$200,000.

Another recommendation which we may note with approval is the increase of board and tuition in colleges. While this would lead to a certain wholesome exclusiveness, it would raise the standard of professorship, and thereby of studies, by securing better talent. There is no use denying that the multiplicity of our small colleges and minor collegiate institutions, with the cheapness of all their appointments, are among the chief causes of the low level of scholarship in the Province of Quebec.

We are informed in the Report that Quebec stands lowest among the Provinces of the Dominion, in respect to the pecuniary encouragement given to education, while it stands first among all its sisters in its need of elementary instruction. It augurs well for improvement when a Minister has the courage to tell the truth thus bluntly, and, indeed, from the statistics before us, there is good ground for the hope that we are at length

on the threshold of a salutary change in this particular.

A suggestion about Teachers' Associations deserves attention from the gentlemen concerned. It is recommended that besides the four Associations—two Protestant and two Roman Catholic—at present existing, there should be held local associations, convened and presided over by the Inspectors, where matters of detail could be discussed and acted upon periodically. The idea is a very good one and we trust that it will be carried into effect throughout the districts.

STIRRING THE EMBERS.

There is no doubt that noble efforts have been made to heal the feelings of animosity which were engendered by the late civil war in the United States. HORACE GREELEY led in the work of reconciliation and he has had many generous and successful followers. With the North the task was the easier and more showy one of forgiveness, but the South was not less prompt in bearing the burden of resignation and acceptance of the inevitable. The lapse of time must also be taken in as an important factor. A decade filled with stirring questions of national legislation has done much to efface the memories of war and unite all sections of the Union into at least a pleasing semblance of its former homogeneity. The poetry of regret for the dead, and the aesthetic influence of Revolutionary memories have furthermore aided in bringing the North and South together. The decoration of graves by women's fingers from the mounds of Gettysburg to the levels of Savannah, and the sandy stretches around Port Hudson; the centenary of Bunker Hill where Massachusetts joined hands with South Carolina and where FITZHUGH LEE was as loudly acclaimed as TECUMSEH SHERMAN, have led the youthful generation almost to forget that ten years ago the two divisions of the country were arrayed against each in mortal combat. But notwithstanding all these cheering signs, so hopeful for humanity, and so creditable to the American character, it requires no deep observation to discover that the reconciliation of the North and South is only incipient and that it would require no great excitement to open the old issues anew. An incident which occurred only a few days ago is evidence of this fact. Mr. JEFFERSON DAVIS was invited by the Winnebago County Agricultural Society to deliver the address at their annual meeting, in Rockford, Ills. The invitation was made with the best intentions and was accepted by Mr. DAVIS in the same spirit. The proper announcements were made and all promised well, until a section of the Grand Army of the Republic in Illinois took it into their heads to protest against the invitation in terms very abusive of Mr. DAVIS. That gentleman, on hearing of this, immediately withdrew his acceptance, in a letter full of calm dignity and self respect. He stated his conviction that it would not be useful or agreeable to participate in the meeting, and he hoped that neither the Association nor the Directors would suffer harm by the delay in procuring an orator or by the correspondence which had caused it. He added resignedly: "The object was to gratify a wish long entertained to see in its cultivated dress the country known to me as a trackless wilderness. But that being merely a personal gratification, it may be indulged in at my convenience or postponed indefinitely."

This incident has created a most disagreeable feeling, as well it might, throughout the South and generally in the North. The whole South feels that it has been gratuitously insulted in the person of its chief, because it was not against Mr. DAVIS in his personality, but in his former official capacity, that the protest of the Illinois fraction of the Grand Army of the Republic was directed. There is no doubt that if the North were believed to sanction the action of the Illinois malcontents, the effect on the South would be serious. Fortunately, the best inspired papers of the Union

have disapproved of the proceeding. They observe very truly that while the unthinking and unforgiving enemies of Mr. DAVIS and the South have only shown their narrowness, the ex-President of the Confederacy has strengthened his reputation for moderation and consistency, and the South has borne another gratuitous insult in a becoming temper of resignation.

THE REVOLT IN HERZEGOVINA.

It is a remarkable circumstance and one that naturally detracts from the interest which we might otherwise feel in the event, that we have received no definite intelligence of the causes leading to the present insurrection in Herzegovina. The province is under Turkish domination, and, of course, there must be some ground of discontent against the Porte, but what that is, and how far it justifies the extremities to which popular violence has reached, we have no means of determining. It is easier to judge of the political and military connections of the struggle and its chances of success.

Austria is the European power most directly interested in the revolt, both on account of her contiguity to the Danubian Principalities in general, and because Austrian Croatia bounds Herzegovina on the North. The population of Herzegovina is very much akin to that of Croatia, but it is doubtful whether the Court of Vienna would countenance any support to the insurgents. The reason is that such a step would open out the much larger and more perilous question of a Slavonic kingdom carved out of the Northern Provinces of Turkey, a measure which has threatened war in Europe on more occasions than one, and which Austria herself is not prepared to approve, on account of the automatic tendencies which it might develop in Dalmatia. Prussia might be said to have some distant relation to the revolt from the fact that a Prussian prince thrones in Roumania. But Roumania need not necessarily be drawn into the contest, for, besides that it has no affiliations of race or language with the Slavonic circle of provinces, it is separated from Herzegovina by the whole breadth of Bosnia and Serbia. The old and unabated jealousy of Russia against Turkey would naturally lead us to look for some movement on the South-west Russian frontier, but, so far, we have read of nothing of the kind. Nay more, the province of Wallachia, through which Russia might be supposed to operate, on account of their mutual sympathies, is occupied with a conspiracy against its own government, and Bucharest is arming against its own citizens instead of sending military help against Monastir. Austria, Germany and Russia have united in an offer of friendly intervention between the insurgents and the Porte, but beyond that we do not read that they have gone. Even when the cabinet of Constantinople politely but firmly declined any interference, as we are assured has been the case, the alliance of the three Kaisers has not judged it fit to insist.

With regard to the neighboring Principalities, Serbia and Montenegro are the only ones which, by tradition and interest, might be led into the contest. But unless backed secretly by Austria or Russia, the Serbs are in no condition to engage in war with Turkey. Their population is only a million and a half, the army is not even in proportion to the population, and, what is more, the province has no just reason for quarrel with the Porte, which, since the evacuation of Belgrade, has acted very fairly with its old possessions in the valley of the Danube.

Montenegro contains a race of wild and untamed mountaineers who are always ready for a fight and who have ever kept alive their old grudge against the Turks. They are also sticklers for a rude Christianity of their own, and if unfortunately this insurrection should have been inspired by motives of religion, or if such motives could be inducted into it, there is reason to fear that the Montenegrins would

rush down from their mountains and plunge headlong into the conflict. These reinforcements would retard the work of suppression on the part of the Turkish army, but could not possibly prevent it, as the Porte is able and determined to maintain its authority in the few Danubian provinces which still remain under its sway.

RELIEF TO OUR LITERARY MEN.

There are two obvious causes quite sufficient of themselves to explain the difficulties of the literary career in Canada. The first is the rudimentary state of the higher education among us and the consequent embryonism of the public taste. The second is the necessary absorption of all our writers in the material pursuits of life. The former cause checks the sources of demand. The second partially closes the avenues of supply. Between the two, Canadian literature languishes, and the Canadian literatus, if he had no other means of support but his pen, would starve. In the old countries, a happy medium has been found, whereby a man of letters is enabled to earn his bread, at the same time that he is furnished with sufficient leisure to pursue his literary avocations. In France and Germany, public offices are thrown open to such men, and DUMAS, LAMARTINE, GAUTIER, and FEUILLET wrote some of their best works while employed as Ministerial scribes. We have the same experience in English literature for centuries, and in our day, from CHARLES LAMB to ANTHONY TROLLOPE, EDMUND YATES, ARTHUR HELPS, and THEODORE MARTIN, we meet the pleasing spectacle of a certain official patronage accorded to letters. Even in French Canada something of the same spirit has been exhibited. The efforts to create a French Canadian literature, amid continuous and other exceptional difficulties, we have always regarded as among the most remarkable events on this continent, and one of the means employed to compass this end has been the sort of paternal care, taken by French Canadian Ministers, of young writers of promise. Most of these have been secured positions in the Civil Service, either at Ottawa or Quebec, where, while they have generally proved themselves the most intelligent and effective of officials, they have found time and opportunity to prosecute their literary labors. LAJOIE, LEMAY, DRAPEAU, SULTE, TASSE, FAUCHER DE ST. MAURICE, MARMETTE, GELINAS, TACHE, PARENT, and others were or are thus circumstanced to the mutual advantage of themselves and their readers.

We think that we, the English speaking friends and votaries of letters, should not be above profiting by these examples. Encouragement of some similar nature extended to our own literary men would infallibly result in a revival of the literary spirit among us. Few, if any, of our writers are blessed with this world's goods. If they were, they would probably set themselves to enjoy them, without caring to cater to an ungrateful and unappreciative public. They have to work to make a living. Those who take to business find no time to write. Those who engage in the makeshift of journalism, where they grimly exercise a rough-and-tumble literature, blunt the fine edge of their faculties by hasty composition and the grinding out of "local items." If these men were helped ever so little to a public function congenial to their tastes, and affording them a competent leisure, they would cultivate their talents, improve their powers, and produce works of lasting interest which would do more to raise the prestige of Canada, than the commercial successes of the business man, or the legislative acts of the politician. If CHARLES HEAVYSEGE had not been allowed to wear himself out in the obscure drudgery of the newspaper we might have looked to him for twenty years more of intellectual vigor, wherein this man of genius could have enriched the literature of his country with unrivalled poetry. If CHARLES SANGSTER is even now removed from that correspondence desk of the money-order branch of the