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TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

In the matter of subscriptions some of our friends have responded promptly but a great number are putting the matter off for a more convenient season; we ask such to remember that subscriptions are due *in advance*, and the amount is so low as to make promptness in paying not only desirable, but absolutely necessary.

THE TIMES.

I have it on reliable authority that Mr. Mackenzie and his Cabinet will resign office within a week from now. That is commendable, for they would add nothing to their reputation by retaining office to the last possible moment. A willingness to bow promptly to the will of the nation will be remembered in their favour in days to come.

The Liberals have accepted their defeat in quite a becoming manner; but it can scarcely be said that the Conservatives have accepted their victory in the same spirit. They not only sounded their peans of triumph in their highest and loudest notes, but have continued to abuse Mr. Mackenzie as if they had some object in view. And they have. It is to turn away attention from their Protection policy, and to convince the nation that they have been elected to office not merely and mainly to readjust the tariff and protect our industries, but to administer our affairs in a better way. But that is not it at all. The Conservatives have gone in on the Protection cry, and we wait to see what they will make of it.

There is some talk about shunting Sir John A. Macdonald from the Premiership and putting—say Mr. Tilley, to fill that position. The notion is absurd. The country made choice of the National Policy, with Sir John to carry it out. All the promises came from him, and all our hopes centre around him, and we can recognise none besides. It must be Sir John, gentlemen, if you please.

It has often occurred to me to ask why there is no public library in Montreal? It would be a great boon to many of our young men. The supply of reading matter would, in all probability, create a taste for reading. And few things are more needed by us than that taste. Our young men, and our men who are not young, are too much neglecting the important work of mental culture. It would be well for them, and for the future of the country, if they would pay more attention to books. Will some of our wealthy citizens who wish well to the nation make a move in that direction? A small library to begin with, as a nucleus, would induce others to give money and books. We are going to have a fine arts gallery, and why not a public library?

Some Montreal gentlemen are talking of forming a debating, or conversational society—for the purpose of having friendly controversy on local and national questions. I hope it will not end in talk. For what we need is fiction of the better sort; debate free from personal abuse and violence. It would do the hearers good; it would be a fine school for training young men who aspire to a seat in the House of Parliament some day; also young lawyers; and so the country would in time reap a benefit from it.

Can it be that happier, because more peaceful, times are at hand for us? The Irish Protestant Benevolent Society held its annual picnic on the Shamrock Lacrosse Grounds—had a friendly "tug of war" with the Irish Catholics, and lived for the day like very brothers. And along with that goes the pleasing fact that the *Evening Post* has parted company with violent abuse, and walks abroad in a peaceful manner; it advocates the inauguration of the reign of mutual goodwill, and holds out the hand of friendship. And it can play this *role* better—that is, with far more ability—than ever it played the part of the injured and irate faction. It looks as if the lion and the lamb will lie down together yet, and the signs of the times are cheering.

The proposal to build a magnificent palace for the Marquis of Lorne and his royal wife on the Mount Royal of Montreal was still-born—but I see that some enterprising traders intend that he shall feel

quite at home among us as to the wherewithal of drink, for they are advertising "Lorne Whiskey." The Marquis has written some poetry, and a play or two, and now we want him to drink Lorne Whiskey: and yet—we call ourselves a patriotic people.

The good times coming in Canada are not to be compared with the good times coming in the States. Here is the future, as sketched by one who ought to know—he being the Editor of the *Advocate*, the Greenback organ:—

"The Greenback party will elect a Congress which shall issue \$1,500,000,000 and shall spend the money in a vast system of internal improvements. The Erie Canal will be widened so as to admit sea-going vessels, and will be extended from Toledo to Chicago. Western grain will then be exported to Europe at a cost of twenty cents a bushel instead of the present eighty cents a bushel. The Mississippi River will be widened as far north as St. Paul. The southwestern territories will be traversed by railroads, which shall open up the resources of the land, while the land itself will be given freely to whoever will till it. For three years \$500,000,000 will be issued by the national government and paid to laboring men. There will be no such thing as an unemployed laborer. Production will increase, business enterprises will be stimulated, money will be plenty, and prosperity will return."

The issue of the money is easy: convert bonds into greenbacks and it is done. The greenbacks are never to be redeemed, but to be made a legal tender. There is madness abroad in the States.

The Toronto Exhibition was a great success, as it deserved to be; and now Hamilton has opened its Seventh Central Fair, in the grounds of the Crystal Palace. These are good institutions, these exhibitions, and likely to promote not only our industries but a taste for the fine arts. As a young people, we should cultivate all things that will cultivate us.

Poor Scotland—speaking in a theological way—has fallen upon troublous times. The disestablishment agitation goes on, and grows formidable. But controversies of still graver import are forced upon the Church—orthodoxy is put at risk; and the Scottish head is waking slowly, but very surely, to the fact that changes of creed are not only needful, but inevitable. Professor Smith still gives trouble—or the Presbyteries still take trouble with him—and the storm raised will make some commotion before it has blown itself out. But good will come of it.

The yellow fever plague—which is happily abating—has demonstrated that the old heroism of women and clergymen has in no way decreased. Brave women and brave ministers remained at their posts, waiting on the sick and the dying, administering to the wants of bodies and souls, willing to die "in harness." Gentlemen—who boast themselves as being "men of the world," and take a pride in hardness, and sometimes think that woman's mission is not yet defined and that clergymen could be done without as an institution—in your days of peril and plague and prospect of dying you have need of them: pay some tribute to the heroes of the fever-stricken cities of the South.

I see in some papers that the British Government are willing to consider a reconsideration of the Fisheries Award, with a view of reducing the amount. But that can never be. The present Grand Vizier of England has entered upon a "spirited foreign policy." In the East that policy has been a bit too spirited and reckless, but surely we in the West may hope to see a little of its working. The United States have done a good deal towards making future arbitration impossible; they have tried hard to destroy confidence in it as a court for the amicable settlement of international difficulties. If England join in that work the case is hopeless. And England will join in that work if the question of the Fisheries Award is to be reopened; and Canada will feel herself hurt in the house of her friends.

A letter from Odessa presents a startling picture of the Nihilist movement in Russia. The sect, it says, has penetrated the universities, and even the military academies, and the police are afraid to make arrests fearing the sentence of the secret revolutionary tribunals. It is wonderful that such an organization should have reached a state of development which apparently gives it an efficient working strength under a despotic government like that of Russia.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP, for Children Teething, and all Infantile Diseases.