

that: "All newspapers and periodicals printed and published in Canada and issued from office of publication . . . and addressed and posted by and from the same for transmission by mail to regular subscribers or news agents in Canada, may be posted by the same on prepayment of a rate of one cent for each pound weight." Under this law we mail papers from this office for distribution, say in Toronto, where they are sorted and put in the boxes or drawers, at a total cost to us of one cent per pound, whereas we are required under the regulation of the Department, as we are informed by the Postmaster of this city, to prepay one half cent each on the same papers, addressed in the same way, and to be also put into the boxes or drawers, if the parties live in Montreal. Why is this? Why carry papers one thousand miles to British Columbia, Manitoba or Halifax, sort and deliver them from the post office, at one cent per pound, and charge us 3½ cent per pound, which is the same to us as ½ cent each, for the same service here, and no carriage to pay? It has struck us that perhaps the regulation imposing one half cent on local deliveries, (not at domicile, but in the post office), was intended to be applied to papers other than those issued and posted from the office of publication. We cannot otherwise reconcile it with the law above quoted. This regulation is not only a tax but an annoyance to all publishers in Montreal, and it is to be hoped that the Department will give due consideration to these remarks.

A report laid before Parliament a few days since gives the names and ages of the veterans who served in the war of 1812-15, together with other interesting facts which show that the climate of Canada is as conducive to longevity as any in the world. The report shows that out of between 10,000 and 11,000 men who served in the war, there are no less than 3,032 who applied for a pension, whose ages varied from 74 to 103 years as follows:

Age.	No.	Age.	No.
74.....	2	90.....	54
75.....	4	91.....	25
76.....	7	92.....	27
77.....	66	93.....	18
78.....	187	94.....	14
79.....	231	95.....	12
80.....	369	96.....	6
81.....	259	97.....	4
82.....	289	98.....	3
83.....	223	99.....	2
84.....	234	100.....	2
85.....	170	101.....	1
86.....	119	102.....	1
87.....	84	103.....	1
88.....	58	Unknown	48
89.....	47		

Number of applicants paid \$20.....	2,500
" " " not proved.....	127
" " " not enrolled.....	47
" " " already pensioned.....	18
" who left limits.....	95
" who served in Imperial Corps.....	32
" who procured substitutes.....	5
" whose service were too short.....	3
" declining to receive allowance.....	1
" died since payment made.....	112

In view of the approaching Presidential elections in the United States, we give the following table, prepared for reference, showing the political sentiments and the date of the inauguration of each President, the length of time he lived after that event, and his age at the time of his death:

1. George Washington, Independent, inaugurated 1789; lived 10 years; age, 68.
2. John Adams, Independent, inaugurated 1797; lived 29 years; age, 90.
3. Thomas Jefferson, Democrat, inaugurated 1801; lived 25 years; age, 83.
4. James Madison, Democrat, inaugurated 1809; lived 27 years; age, 85.
5. James Monroe, Democrat, inaugurated 1817; lived 14 years; age, 73.
6. John Q. Adams, Whig, inaugurated 1825; lived 23 years; age, 81.
7. Andrew Jackson, Democrat, inaugurated 1829; lived 16 years; age, 78.
8. Martin Van Buren, Democrat, inaugurated 1837; lived 25 years; age, 80.
9. W. H. Harrison, Whig, inaugurated 1841; lived 1 month; age, 68.
10. John Tyler, V. P., Independent, inaugurated 1841; lived 21 years; age, 72.
11. James K. Polk, Democrat, inaugurated 1845; lived 4 years; age, 54.

12. Zachary Taylor, Whig, inaugurated 1849; lived 16 months; age, 66.
13. Millard Fillmore, V. P., Independent, inaugurated 1850; lived 24 years; age, 74.
14. Franklin Pierce, Democrat, inaugurated 1853; lived 16 years; age, 65.
15. James Buchanan, Democrat, inaugurated 1857; lived 11 years; age, 77.
16. Abraham Lincoln, Republican; inaugurated 1861; lived 4 years and 11 months; age, 56.
17. Andrew Johnson, V. P., Independent, inaugurated 1865; lived 10 years; age, 66.
18. General Grant, Republican, inaugurated 1869.

We have received several letters in regard to the words "Homeward Bound" which were employed by us in connection with the last stormy voyage to Portland of the steamer Circassian. Our correspondents contend that the vessel was "outward" and not "homeward" bound, because they assert that her papers are British, and her crew British. Turning the subject around in all its aspects, we believe there is as much to be said in favor of the expression which we used as against it. It may be that the papers of the Allan steamers are English, but the vessels belong to a Canadian firm and are exclusively subsidized to carry the Canadian mails. It may be that the officers and men are for the most part British, but the owners are Canadians, resident in Canada, and raising families in Canada. It may be that Englishmen born when they cross to England speak of going "home," but it is equally true that Canadians born when they cross to Canada speaking of coming home. It is also grammatically true that when a vessel of a Canadian line sails to Canada we, in Canada, may say that she is "homeward bound" to us. However, as the point is pleasant enough, we invite the critically inclined to discuss it for further elucidation.

It would doubtless be wrong to suppose that the great Dependencies of the Crown are not interested in the outcome of the Royal Titles Bill. While no one could imagine that they could desire the title of Empress as the expression of their own relations to the monarchy, it is also pretty certain that the recognition involved in the separate mention of "The Dependencies" in the Royal Titles, designed as these are to express the facts of Sovereignty during a long contemplated future, would be generally acceptable and really valuable to their citizens as not merely loyal subjects of the Crown, but also owing to a sincere and hearty reverence for the Royal Lady who now adorns it.

Mr. Cook has withdrawn his Bill to provide means of escape for persons falling into the water in the vicinity of wharves and docks, and thus are probably doomed (negatively) a number of citizens of the Dominion to the calamitous loss of their lives during the Legislative year 1876-77. The measure had been well received by the Press generally, as it deserves to be, and Mr. Cook, had he succeeded in passing it, would have been recognized as a public benefactor.

#### COMMONPLACES.

A writer, signing A. B. C., whom we may therefore call the *literal* contributor, puts a few etymological queries in the last number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. Among other things, he is exercised about the spelling of the word "absciss," which he believes should be written "absciss." The gentleman forgets that its derivative is the Latin "abscido," and try as he will, he cannot get rid of the "abs." I fear his phonetic attempts will be unavailing as they have been in the case of most influential scholars in all languages. The late Firmin Didot, bibliophile as well as bibliophile, tried hard to simplify the French language in that direction, but he met with no success. In orthography, pronunciation and even definition, the old rule holds its own.

Si volet usus  
Quem penes arbitrium est, et ius et norma loquendi.

Herr Hiller, in a remarkable article on the Wagner works in the *Deutsche Rundschau*, contrasts the composer's career with that of the third Napoleon, and predicts that Bayreuth will be Wagner's Sedan, as his cause is based altogether on false principles, like those of the late Emperor. This, from a German critic and such a musical authority as Hiller, appears very conclusive of the ultimate fate of the "music of the

future." Music, like poetry, must be absorbed and assimilated, not gulped down. It falls as the gentle dew from heaven into the minds of men. If you have to study to make it out, it may be something wonderful, but it is not music. Wagner's music, like Browning's poetry, may be wondered at, but can never be relished, because it is not understood.

Now that Spelling Matches are the rage in the United States and England, I have come across several definitions of the word *bee* which is more commonly applied to them. Some trace the term directly, and naturally enough, to the busy insect. A patriotic Scotchman claims the word for his countrymen, and in confirmation, tells this wonderful story: "A teacher in Forfar, being one day in a merry mood put the question to his class 'whether is a 'B' or a bull's fit (foot) the biggest?' With one voice the urchins shouted the bull's fit! when taking the chalk and writing up a 'B' the full size of the black-board, he appealed again to his pupils whether they had ever seen a 'bull's fit' as big as that 'B'?" They unanimously replied in the negative, but added, "O, but we thought it was *bun-bun* and *meant*." This is fantastic enough, and it encourages me to suggest my own definition. I claim that the word is of French Canadian origin, that it has been corrupted into English by our lumbermen, and thus exported to the United States whence it crossed to England. *Faire un bis ou le* (I'm sure I can't spell the word), is an expression used among the *habitués* to denote combined volunteer work. Thus when women get together for a quilting party, they call it a *bee*. When farmers club together to haul their winter supply of wood from the bush, they employ the same term. It is the equivalent of the better known *courée*. Now it is not improbable that our lumbermen on the Ottawa and elsewhere caught this word from their French comrades, and turned it into *bee* just as they have made *shanty* out of *chantier*. I submit my derivation to the critics and would like to hear from them.

I learn with regret that Montreal is going to lose the distinguished violinist, Prume. It is a pity that we cannot appreciate a good thing when we have it. There is nothing to prevent M. Prume forming a school here. He has the qualifications for it, and there is abundant talent in our midst. Is it possible that the Philharmonic Society is irretrievably defunct? Certainly it would be worth while to make one more effort and some of our wealthy patrons of art might have an understanding with the eminent Belgian. Quebec is heading the way towards the formation of a Musical Conservatory, under the auspices, I believe, of Laval University. If our principal institutions could cooperate to the same or a similar end, the union of all these efforts might later result in something substantial. Of course, we are not in a condition to embark on a very ambitious project, but we ought to make some sort of a beginning at any rate.

A. STEELE PENN.

#### LACROSSE.

The Dominion of Canada, after the manner of all nations and peoples, has its national sport, and that sport is Lacrosse, a game till lately almost peculiar to Canada, but now, under the influence of the proposed visit of a team of Canadian white players and a team of Indians to Europe, it is becoming adopted in the United Kingdom, where already five or six clubs have been organized during the last twelve months, and there can be no doubt but that new clubs will spring up through England, Scotland, and Ireland, after the people have witnessed it as it will be played by the two teams chosen to represent Canada in the "Old Country." The origin of the game of Lacrosse is shrouded in mystery, but it is certain the originators of the game are the North American Indians. Some writers claim a similitude between it and the ancient Irish game of *Comran* or *trundling*, but this is very unlikely, and Lacrosse as at present played is widely different from the old Indian game. By them, it was played with a different shaped stick, or as it is technically termed "crosse," and by some even with two crosses carried, one in each hand, the shape being somewhat after the fashion of a Racket Bat, but of rude construction. By them too it was a game midway between a sport and a deadly combat, often lasting three or four days, and joined in by several hundred players, while now it is simply a healthy sport, played by twenty-four to forty-eight players.

It was not till about the year 1856, that Lacrosse became popular as a field sport to the white men; but for years its practice was limited to a very small number, and it was not till the arrival of the Prince of Wales in Canada, in 1861, that any very strong revival in the game took place. But even that revival did not last long; the game became unfashionable and remained so till early in 1867, when a party of Montreal men—not the Montreal Club—were defeated at Cornwall, Ont. That defeat awakened the spirit of young Montrealers, and the new Dominion being about to be proclaimed, it was proposed by Dr. G. W. Beers, in a letter published in the *Montreal Daily News*, in April of that year, and distributed throughout Canada, that the proclamation of the Dominion of Canada and the adoption of Lacrosse as Canada's national game should be simultaneous. This proposal was eagerly taken up throughout the country, and was duly accomplished.

The first laws of Lacrosse were framed by the Montreal Club in June, 1867, and in September

of the same year that Club called a Convention of Canadian Clubs, at which the "National Lacrosse Association of Canada" was formed; the laws were amended and a constitution framed and adopted. Since that date, Lacrosse steadily became more popular, and is now the means of affording a good healthy amusement to thousands of our Canadian youth. The present game of Lacrosse, as reduced to rule by the whites, employs the greatest combination of physical and mental activity white men can sustain in amusement, and is as much superior to the original as civilization to barbarism, or a pretty Canadian girl to an uncultivated squaw. One of the most popular features of Lacrosse is its extreme simplicity, thus making it so much more interesting to spectators than almost any other national pastime. Unlike Cricket, or Baseball, it requires no explanation. Lookers-on can see at a glance that the object of both sides is to put the ball through the goal of his opponent and preventing him getting it through; and all the running, throwing, and endless variety of play tends to that end. It has the merit, too, of being a cheap game, in which all can participate without much outlay. It is not exclusive; every player has his innings, so to speak, at the same time, and no one monopolizes the best part because he happens to be an extra good player. Lacrosse dislikes snobs of any kind, it has no sympathy with grumpy, selfish brutes, whose science consists in swiping and who think more of their individual performance than the honor of the game. Neither has it affinity for those model specimens of propriety who think a young man is on the road to perdition, unless he is always reading good books and making himself a nuisance to his friends by stale, hypocritical conversation, who never can take a joke, and who prefer Bagatelle and *Bélique* with other "nice young men" to healthy Lacrosse. Lacrosse dislikes all hypocrisy, unnaturalness, and assumption, and is the very thing to knock all such out of a man. As a beneficial exercise it has no superior, combining as it does the benefit of several. It brings into operation at one time more muscle than any other game, requires a steady concentration of the mind while it is being played, sharpens the faculties of the dullest and equalizes its exercise over the entire system. The following brief description of a match between a team of Indians and a Montreal Club team, taken from Dr. Beers' valuable and interesting work on Lacrosse, may convey to the reader some faint idea of the excitement felt by the spectators of a Lacrosse Match. "It was marvellous to see, as the ball for the first time flew up in the air, those statues spring into life instantly. The field is dotted with groups of struggling figures, now running with jostling knots, now fanning out in swift lines like skirmishers before a grand army. Every now and then there would break away from the rest a sinewy, subtle runner, who, winding and twisting like a serpent, would dash between the eager ranks of his rivals, avoiding every blow, now stopping, now leaping, now turning, quick as a greyhound and artful as a fox, and then, as the ball was shot between the crimson flags of the Montreal men, the Indians would give a war-yell that echoed again."

A chosen double team—twelve of the Montreal Club and twelve Chagunawaga Indians—proceeded to Britain on the 29th inst., to give a series of games in the principal cities of England, Ireland, and Scotland, and perhaps even in Paris. We shall endeavor to keep our readers advised of the progress of this interesting tour. Dr. Beers, Captain of the Team and President of the Montreal Lacrosse Club, leaves to day with Mr. C. W. Massiah, a well-known and esteemed journalist of this city, as agent. We congratulate the party upon having secured the services of so competent a man as Mr. Massiah.

#### MARAT AND CHARLOTTE CORDAY

A house of sinister historical interest is about to be demolished to make way for the Boulevard St. Germain, Paris—that in which Marat was assassinated by Charlotte Corday. The room where this event took place now forms part of an apartment occupied by Dr. Gaudier, and it appears that the preceding tenant several times received a call from Mademoiselle Albertine Marat, who used to visit the spot where her brother was stabbed; she died in 1842, in extreme poverty. Another person used to visit the house, M. Pillet, who died quite recently, and who was the last person who spoke to Marat before Charlotte Corday was admitted. He brought Marat a bill, and the terrible member of the convention, who was in his bath, asked him to open a bit of the window. As Pillet was leaving the house he met Charlotte Corday, who was trying to persuade, and who finished by persuading, Simonne Evard to allow her to see Marat. So writes a chronicler in the *Gaulois*. According to Lamar-tine, who calls Charlotte Corday the Jean of Arc of liberty, her name was not Charlotte but Marie, and Catherine Evard was Marat's servant, who assumed the name of Albertine Marat.

A large class of men express dissatisfaction at the conduct of the Government in not making a change in the protective duties. Some even go the length of accusing the Government of cowardly calculating the number of Nova Scotians who for "coal" reasons wish the tariff to remain as at present and of sacrificing the majority interest for the minority. This argument, if it is used by the Government, is a fallacious one, because it is impossible to separate the prosperity of the city from the prosperity of the country districts. The *Canadian Illustrated News* has very aptly pictured the position by representing Mr. Cartwright conjuring up, by means of his budget, "Hart Times," or "The Black Crow Back Again," in place of the fine fat goose which it is thought would have been secured by higher protective duties.—*New York Daily Graphic*.