

THE BURLAND-DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY issue the following periodicals, to all of which subscriptions are payable in advance:—THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, \$4.00 per annum; THE CANADIAN PATENT OFFICE RECORD AND MECHANICS' MAGAZINE, \$2.00 per annum; L'OPINION PUBLIQUE, \$3.00 per annum.

All remittances and business communications to be addressed to "The General Manager, The Burland-Desbarats Company, Montreal."

All correspondence of the Papers, literary contributions, and sketches to be addressed to "The Editor, The Burland-Desbarats Company, Montreal."

When an answer is required stamps for return postage must be enclosed.

One or two good reliable carriers required—Apply to the MANAGER, BURLAND-DESBARATS COMPANY.

City subscribers are requested to report at once to this office, either personally or by postal card, any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

We are happy in being able to announce that we are preparing to issue an exceptionally brilliant

### Christmas Number

of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, which will be published on Thursday, the 24th inst. Besides the usual literary and pictorial attractions of our ordinary issues, this number will contain several

### Splendid Illustrations

symbolical of the season, and CARTOONS of a political nature connected with the celebration of Christmas in Ontario and Quebec, together with the portraits of the principal office-holders of

### THE QUEBEC GRAND LODGE

of Free and Accepted Masons. These portraits will be acceptable on the eve of St. John's Day. The letter press of the number will likewise be appropriate to the Christmas holidays.

### THE NEW STORY.

In this issue we give a further liberal instalment of WILKIE COLLINS' new story,

### THE LAW AND THE LADY.

This story, considered the best yet written by Mr. Collins, was begun in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS of Nov. 7, (Number 19).

Back numbers can be had on application.

We beg to call the attention of News Dealers throughout the country to the fact that we have secured the sole right for Canada of publishing "The Law and the Lady" in serial form.

### FIRST-CLASS AGENTS WANTED

for the advertising and subscription departments of this paper. Good percentage, large and exclusive territory, given to each canvasser, who will be expected, on the other hand, to furnish security. Also for the sale of Johnson's new MAP OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

Apply to THE GENERAL MANAGER, The Burland-Desbarats Company, Montreal.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

Montreal, Saturday, Dec. 19th, 1874.

### THE BURLAND-DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY.

The first annual general meeting of this Company was held on Monday last, at the Printing Office, 311 to 319 St. Antoine Street. A full and influential gathering of Shareholders assembled. Mr. G. B. BURLAND, Provisional Manager, occupied the chair, and Mr. W. SALTER acted as Secretary. The Manager read a report of the present state of the Company's affairs, shewing good progress and indicating a liberal and at the same time economical management. The By-Laws of the Company were read and passed *seriatim*; and the Charter under signature of the Governor General, was laid on the table for the inspection of Shareholders.

A board of seven directors was chosen by ballot. Messrs W. D. MCLAREN, and BOND acting as scrutineers, who declared the following gentlemen elected:

G. B. BURLAND,  
G. E. DESBARATS,  
GEO. LAFRICAINE,  
T. E. FOSTER,  
CHAS. GARTH,  
W. G. ROSS, M.D.  
W. D. MCLAREN,

Subsequently, at a meeting of the Board of Directors, Mr. G. B. BURLAND was chosen President and General Manager, Mr. GEORGE E. DESBARATS, Vice-President, and Mr. J. H. ROSS, Secretary and Treasurer of the Company.

We are happy to state that since the assumption of the business by the new Company, our advertising and subscription patronage has largely increased; and we hope that the public appreciation of the efforts still further to be made to improve the *Canadian Illustrated News*, will extend its circulation and influence into every Canadian Home.

### EBB AND FLOW.

In ordinary circumstances, barring a crisis or a revolution, the current of popular opinion follows the laws which govern the tides of the sea. It has its rise and fall, its ebb and flow. The attentive observer of public affairs whose vision is not blinded by personal ambitions or partisan hopes, can trace out the regularity of this course with almost mathematical precision. Men are not precisely machines, but they are largely governed by routine, and their political action runs steadily along a certain level for a considerable length of time, till it stops hesitatingly, then gradually recedes. The masses of men, the bulk of electors, are dominated by the idea of power. Without much reasoning, they cling to the government in office, and it requires a long while, before they can be persuaded to withdraw their confidence from it. Examples of this are abundant in quite recent history. In England, the Tories held power for some forty years continuously, from the days of Pitt to those of Wellington. Then the Whigs succeeded them and have kept the ascendant, with only slight breaks, down to our time. In the United States, the Democrats were in office almost uninterruptedly from 1800 till 1860. They were replaced by the Republicans who, from that date to within one month ago—a period of nearly fifteen years—have ruled the Union. In Canada, the Conservatives had the upper hand for nigh twenty years and were followed, only a twelve month ago, by the Liberals, who at present command an overwhelming preponderance in Parliament.

A careful study of the history of these governments will show the steady onward and retrograde march of public opinion to which we have referred. During the first half, or two thirds of their existence, they were almost universally supported by the people. Then came a turning point, next a downward movement, till finally it ended in their withdrawal from office. The late GLADSTONE administration is an example. It took office in the autumn of 1868 with an immense majority. For the three first years it ruled supreme. Then symptoms of weakness began to appear, partial elections were lost, and two years later, when Mr. GLADSTONE again appealed to the people, he found himself unheeded and cast off. The same thing happened to the late MACDONALD government. In 1867, it swept the country and maintained its strength till 1871, when the tide began to turn, majorities decreased, and the Pacific Railroad only precipitated a fall, which could not have been long delayed in obedience to the natural law of reaction.

This review of the movements of the popular will, gives curious insights into the existence of political parties. When a new government comes thundering into power on the full tide of popular favor, the death knell of the opposing and defeated party is always pronounced by the reckless or despondent. Thus when DISRAELI was ousted in 1868, the Liberal papers in England declared that he would not live to be Prime Minister again. When SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD and SIR GEORGE E. CARTIER stood forth triumphant at Confederation, their exultant friends predicted that the Rouges were dead for ever, and GEORGE BROWN buried out of sight. Since Mr. MACKENZIE carried the country

by storm in January, it has been said over and over again that the Conservatives would never hold up their heads in Canada. Such prophets overlook the fact that the two parties in a State represent the ebb and flow of public opinion, the upward and downward movement, the voice of the people, first supporting, then opposing the existing government. The Reformers of Canada are not dead, but rule to day. The Conservatives of Canada are not dead, and may rule to-morrow.

It follows that a government, like Mr. DISRAELI'S, or Mr. MACKENZIE'S, in the first year of its existence, is nearly all powerful. It follows too, that it is next to impossible to defeat a government candidate, when that government is in the full flush of its strength. The hotly contested election of Montreal-West is a striking proof of this fact. There is as yet no symptom whatever of reaction against the present Federal administration. Not only has it carried every partial election in its own contested constituencies, by increased majorities, but it has won two Conservative seats, and when the strongest men of the Opposition, such as Mr. COCKBURN and Mr. WHITE presented themselves against it, they have been obliged to go under. This is all very natural, as we have shown. There is nothing in it to induce undue exultation among the Liberals, or undue disappointment among the Conservatives. It is the repetition of the history of all constitutional governments, in normal times and circumstances. The MACKENZIE government is simply the expression of the opinion and wishes of the Canadian people for the time being, as the MACDONALD administration was before it, and as somebody else's cabinet will be after it. It is the part of statesmanship, on the one hand, and of patriotism, on the other, to recognize this fact and to act accordingly.

### AGREEMENT WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Important news has arrived from England respecting the obligation of the Dominion as to the period of time within which the Pacific Railroad shall be built. As is known to every one, the McDONALD Government pledged by Act of Parliament the good faith of Canada to complete the work within ten years after the passage of the Bill. This the MACKENZIE Government declared, as soon as it came into office, could not be done; that it was, in fact, an impossibility from the delays and the failure of negotiations which had taken place during the tenure of office even of the Ministry which recommended Parliament to make the pledge. This announcement of the new Government caused the greatest excitement in British Columbia, which found vent in threatening public demonstrations. Mr. MACKENZIE, recognizing the full force of the obligation of Parliament, sought, if possible, to make some compromise; and for this purpose sent Mr. EDGAR on a mission to the Pacific coast. But Mr. EDGAR found the British Columbia Ministers in a very excited state. The consequence was he could do nothing, and the negotiation came to a rough rupture. The British Columbia Government now, more angrily than before, charged the Dominion Government with Punic faith, and sent its Attorney-General, Mr. WALKEM, to England, to make a protest to the Imperial Government, and to endeavour to induce it to take some steps to compel Canada to respect its publicly pledged faith to fulfil those conditions on which alone that Province was induced to enter the Confederation.

We shall probably not learn what course Mr. WALKEM'S negotiations took with the Imperial Government until Parliament meets, but we are now informed of one result which is in the highest degree important for Canada, and Mr. WALKEM appears to have gone home highly satisfied, if we may judge from what took place at a banquet recently given to him in London, at which Sir John Rose presided. Mr. WALKEM stated that he could not announce in that place what had transpired, but he

gave it to be understood that he was content therewith.

It appears, however, from what has leaked out, that the Imperial Government has given very prudent advice, and suggested that the year 1890 should be fixed for the completion of the Pacific Railway, a sum of not less than \$2,000,000 being spent annually within British Columbia upon the works. We believe also that the Imperial Government has specially approved of Mr. MACKENZIE'S proposal to utilize the magnificent water stretches which nearly reach all the way across the continent, pending the construction of the railway. The whole compromise is not very different from that which Mr. EDGAR was authorized to propose. The principal difference is that he offered, on behalf of Mr. MACKENZIE'S Government, the expenditure of a million and a half, instead of two millions a year.

The fact of this understanding, apart from all question of its merits, is one on which the country may be congratulated, and sixteen years from this date is a reasonable time within which to fix the completion of so great a work as the Pacific Railway.

It was not a desirable thing for the success of the Confederation to have a recalcitrant Province, declaring that the Dominion is guilty of breach of faith solemnly pledged by Act of Parliament, however imprudently that pledge might have been made. The public faith once pledged, should be held sacred.

Another feature of great interest which this matter presents, is the fact of the Imperial Government acting as a referee. We have no Supreme Court, as in the United States, to which questions of public obligation may be referred; and that has been held by many to be a fault of our Constitution. It was proposed to be remedied by the creation of such a court by the late Ministry. And we noticed that Lord DUFFERIN, during his recent tour in Ontario, made some allusion to this question in more than one of his speeches. He indicated plainly that the Imperial Government might stand to us in the position of a kind, disinterested and enlightened friend, to arbitrate in possible matters of difficulty.

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The message of the President of the United States is at all times a document of public interest, but this year it assumed particular importance from the position of General GRANT, in presence of the overwhelming defeat of his party at the November polls. The chief point to which we naturally turned was the currency question, on which it was supposed that the President would change front, in favor of the inflationists. Almost the first lines of the message proved to us that the President had manfully maintained the position he had taken in his celebrated veto of last spring. He says emphatically that the first duty of the American people is to secure a currency good wherever civilization reigns, one which, if it becomes superabundant with one nation, will find a market with some other; a currency which has as its basis the labor necessary to produce it, and which will give it its value. Gold and silver are the recognized medium of exchange the entire world over, and to this Americans should return with the least practicable delay. In view of the pledges of the American Congress, when the present legal-tender system was adopted and debt contracted, there should be no delay, according to General GRANT, —certainly no unnecessary delay—in fixing by legislation a method of return to specie. With regard to the doctrine of inflation, the President utters no uncertain sound. He pronounces it neither honest nor prudent. His views on the disadvantages of a paper currency are sound, if not novel. He holds that a nation dealing in a currency below that of specie in value, labors under two difficulties. First, having no use for the world's acknowledged medium of exchange—gold and silver—these are driven out of the country, because