

Our agent MR. W. STREET will commence the New Year by a visit to the various towns and villages situate on the G. T. R. between Montreal and Toronto and those on the Midland and Toronto and Nipissing Railways, collecting accounts and seeking new subscribers. At the New Year the commencement of a new volume affords such an excellent opportunity for intermingling new subscribers to commence their subscriptions, that it is to be hoped a largely increased subscription list will be the result of his efforts. Old subscribers are requested to assist him by all the means in their power.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, January 13th, 1877.

### THE LAW'S DELAYS.

We received the other day a marked copy of an American specialist paper which contained a rudely designed, but very effective woodcut to the following effect—a plump milk cow stood between two men, both of whom were falling backward exhausted, one with the horns in his hands, the other with the tail. These represented respectively the plaintiff and defendant in a protracted lawsuit. Quietly seated under the cow's haunch was a sleek individual who drew milk from the full udder with both hands. This was the lawyer who profited by the discomfiture of both litigants. Accompanying the illustration was an article entitled "Died of a Lawsuit," rather clumsily constructed, but replete with such significance that we have thought proper to reproduce it in another part of the present issue, in order that our readers might judge of it for themselves.

In young countries like the United States, Canada and Australia, lawyers as a class enjoy a prestige and authority accorded to no other profession. They almost monopolize legislative and other public honors, while in every community they hold the privilege of being considered the most experienced and best colored of men. In country towns and villages, they are looked up to as superior beings, casting the schoolmaster, the notary and even the parson completely in the shade. We should have no particular objection to this anomaly—for it is an anomaly—and should remain content to be amused by it, as we have often been, were it not that it sometimes leads to grave inconvenience, not to speak of glaring injustice.

The legal profession is critical of all others, while it will not bear criticism itself. And yet no profession should be more closely watched by public opinion, or regulated by a healthy public sentiment. There are many positive abuses in our present legal and judicial procedure, which lawyers themselves complain of when they clash with their personal interests, and which the public should animadvert on, because the public are always the sufferers. Cases come under our notice every day which may be set down as scandalous abuses of the interests of clients for the behoof of counsel. The evil depicted by the woodcut and article above referred to is only one of these abuses, but it is so common, and so hopelessly out of the public control, that it may be imputed as the chief of the abuses. It is no secret anywhere that lawyers play into one another's hands, and that what is called "legal etiquette" is often stretched to suspicious lengths. Legal technicalities have become a by-word of ridicule, and to the uninitiated present as hopeless, sometimes as fatal, an issue as the Cretan labyrinth. We have a notable instance of this in our city at the present time. A late bank officer stands charged with grievous offences, and not only the shareholders and depositors of the bank, but the whole country are interested in his speedy trial. And yet that trial has been postponed from term to term, for over a year, on what must appear to outsiders as the most futile reasons. The man is either guilty or innocent. If innocent, he ought to be anxious for ex-

culpation. If guilty, public morality demands that he should be punished without delay. As it is, the feeling grows more and more that the tricks of lawyers are almost omnipotent to balk the ends of justice.

Cases are similar in litigation among individuals. The delays and other vexatious measures referred to not only bring ridicule on judicial procedure, but they very often entail irreparable losses upon clients. In England, France and other old countries, there is no danger of such abuses being tolerated, and while the evil in this country has been after a fashion an almost unavoidable one, we think it is about time that measures were taken to circumscribe it within limits which will prevent it becoming a national disgrace.

### THE TRUE POSITION OF THE SOUTH.

Those who are acquainted with the standing of the prominent men of the South will be slow to accept the authority of the words or acts of BEN HILL, Congressman from Georgia. Mr. HILL bears the tacit reproach of not having been a soldier during the war, confining his services to the Confederate Congress where they were very little needed indeed. It is very hard that such a man should be held up as an exponent of Southern ideas and a shaper of Southern movements in the actual Presidential crisis, and if we call attention to him to-day it is because there is some reason to believe that he is in a manner the mouth-piece of ROBERT TOOMBS, the Achilles of the South, and one of the greatest men this continent has produced. But whether that is a fact or not, it is none the less true that a late utterance of Mr. HILL conveys in a few words the real policy of the whole Southern States. He is reported to have said that while he believed TILDEN to be really elected, he foresaw the contingency of the technical election of HAYES, in which case he would give the latter's administration his hearty support. The first ground for this acquiescence is given in the Congressman's graphic and pathetic language. The South needs repose and is not prepared to fight for any President of the United States, and those Northerners who judge that office worth fighting for "know not the conservative influence of a six-month shell" about to burst with devastation upon one's hearth and home. A deeper reason is that, while the South loyally accepts the results of the war, it cannot heartily throw itself into national affairs, just as France, to-day, cannot take any active part in continental complications. The South is forced by material pressure and by a sentiment of dignified resignation to busy itself with its own concerns alone. All it asks is Home Rule, the privilege of being let alone, of being freed from the terrible visitations of Carpet Beggars and the members of Federal troops. If the Southern States can have their own Governors and their own untrammelled institutions, they care comparatively little who share the spoils of the one hundred thousand offices of the National Government. Furthermore, there is a large section of the Democratic party to whom the South feels that it is under no obligation whatever, and, personally, Mr. TILDEN is not the man to excite any enthusiasm for his cause. The South voted for him and with the Democratic party in order to record its adherence to States Rights, the cardinal doctrine of American republicanism, but if it must be that, by force or diplomacy or a flaw in the constitutional procedure, Mr. HAYES is "counted in" President of the United States, the South will not raise a finger in resistance. It is enough for the Southern States just at present that by a solid vote they have had an opportunity of raising their voice against centralization and military interference, and of advancing a step towards the old ante-bellum self government.

### CANADIAN CENTENNIAL AWARDS.

The project of holding a grand banquet with other appropriate ceremonial at the awarding of prizes and diplomas to the Canadians who won distinction at the Philadelphia International Exhibition, is one which deserves to receive from all quarters the heartiest support and encouragement. There are artistic, scientific, and industrial, as well as patriotic interests, involved in the scheme, and therefore, while it will recommend itself to the approbation of the public in general, it will be sure to receive particular favor from specialists of nearly every description.

It is proposed that the banquet and distribution shall be held at Ottawa, on as early a day as possible, and shall be presided over by the Governor-General. Both the locality and the presiding officer are appointments of the fittest kind. It is further intended to invite the Board of United States Commissioners who managed the Centennial with so much judgment and courtesy, as well as several State and Federal officials from over the borders. Invitations will be sent also to the principal authorities of each Province of the Dominion, and it is expected that all the great bodies of the State will be suitably represented. Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal have already taken the lead in contributing money towards the necessary expenses of such an event, and we have reason to believe that Quebec, St. John, Halifax, and other enterprising cities of Ontario will follow the good example with proper generosity.

We make no doubt whatever that the movement will culminate in a real success, and that it will be one of the marked incidents of the present year. Canada did so very well indeed at the Centennial that she surprised not only other nations, and notably the United States, but even herself, and it is meet that the rewards of those who contributed to her triumph at Philadelphia should be celebrated with salient demonstration.

Another benefit which we look for from this gathering at Ottawa is that, then and there, effective steps will be taken to lay the sure basis of a great representation at Paris, in the Spring of 1878. This is a matter which will admit of no delay. We shall be expected at Paris and our place is already set apart, as we saw from plans of the grounds and buildings the other day. If we did well at Philadelphia, we can do vastly better at Paris, and therefore the golden opportunity must not be lost.

The amendments added in the House to the Bill of the Quebec Corporation contemplated the protection of the city from the recurrence of great fires by Government Inspectorship of Buildings, and by the substitution, within given periods, of fire-proof roofs in place of shingled ones, all wooden buildings being prohibited from being erected within the limits, for all time to come. These amendments were lost on division by a majority of one, all the Ministers present voting in their favor. Mr. JOHN HEARS, M. P. P., who is fully in favor of legislation for fire prevention and reduction of insurance rates, approved of the postponement of all but the Inspectorship, the clause for which he introduced, in consideration of the ratepayers having been taken somewhat by surprise. All this must be looked upon as a hopeful state of things, and as shewing that the Legislature will not ultimately determine that vast conflagrations are to be legalized. The fire at the convent of St. Elizabeth, in Joliette, adds sad point to our reflections—thirteen lives—chiefly poor little children—being lost there! The interest on loans for renewal of roofs would be a trifling matter if the Insurance Companies see the full benefits to accrue to them, for it would be mainly covered by the reduction of premiums.

We beg to call attention to the beautiful poem published in another column over the signature of Mr. ISIDORE G. ASCHER. Mr. ASCHER is remembered in Montreal, as indeed throughout Canada, for his fine literary productions, and his poem shows that, at the Christmas season of reminiscences, his heart is still with us. In a letter written from London, (and accompanying the verses, Mr. ASCHER says: "Mrs. A... and I always enjoy your publication, and look forward to it each week with pleasure. It is a link that binds me to the dear old city and institutions."

It is contended by some that the Provincial Legislatures are not Parliaments. They divide the work of Parliaments with Ottawa at any rate, and what is the status of an M. P. P., if he is not a Member of the Provincial Parliament!

### THE FREE LANCE.

Brown on the rampage.

The people of Ontario do not want the Hon. John Young for Sydney Commissioner. B-nighted people.

A fair widow was very disconsolate. A friend called to console.

"Glad to see you looking so well to-day!"

"Ah! if you had only seen me yesterday!"

The management of the Academy of Music will be soon consolidated. It will be governed in part by a Revue.

There was some engineering off the track on the Grand Trunk last week.

Pouch says Britons never will be Slavs. No. But if Gladstone's Russian policy prevails, they may yet become serfs.

A paper says that there is a scheme about to build a bridge across the St. Lawrence at Quebec. That would be a floating bridge.

There is plenty of snow in New York, and the papers say it will last till March. Don't tell Venuor, or there will surely be a thaw.

The London *Advertiser* goes to France for a joke. It quotes the words:

Pas de Lien  
Rhoque que nous.

If you read them rapidly and consecutively they give you the words of a popular English song. The whole town was exercised over the riddle. At length two unfortunate fellows sneaked into the back office with the solution: "Paddle your own canoe."

This atrocity reminds me of another. In the late Red River Expedition under Wolseley, there was a chaplain, of course, and that chaplain was both a scholar and a wit. He thus travestied the watch-words of the expedition from Virgil:

Arma, viri, quoque canes!

One reminiscence brings on a second. In the India mutiny, the General who took Seind despatched this single word to England:

"Pecuni!"

It is not generally known that Napoleon III. was toothless in the last year of his life. How did that happen? Because he had lost Sedan (see dents).

It is indignantly denied that it was a Prentice hand that floated the *Graphic* bonds.

"Who's to pay?" was the stupid question asked by the local authorities when summoned to enforce the peace during the Grand Trunk strike. As if the poor public did not have to pay in any case.

The latest temperance axiom. One swallow does not make a summer, but it often makes a big drunk.

It was made of unbleached linen and about the size of a medium pillow. She didn't throw it at him, but belabored his head and shoulders with it until he was forced to take refuge in the street. A great crowd gathered to see the bustle.

Beaver Hall Hill is called Butcher's Row because so many doctors live there. St. Francois Xavier street is called the Banker's Quarter because it has so many brokers.

LACEDS