

A QUAIN CANADIAN VILLAGE.

THE NAME "LAPRAIRIE" is familiar to almost every person in Montreal—I might say in Canada. It is known to some as the great camping ground for our militia; to others as the mecca of the "voyageur," in the days of big rafts; to still others as a summer resort. It is historically speaking, a place of some importance; interesting in its monuments, its buildings, its institutions, its healthy surroundings, and its magnificent scenery. Have you ever been there? No. Then you have as yet missed that enjoyable experience. I will tell you in a few words my impressions of a brief holiday at this quaint Canadian village.

We walk down to the Victoria pier just below Bonsecours market, and there we find the good, old, reliable steamboat "Laprairie," awaiting us. Despite its years of travel to and fro, the vessel seems as fresh as it was when first launched. On board is Captain McLean, a French-Canadian with a Scotch name, a real type of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company's officers. The personification of courtesy this able and experienced navigator, who by the way fills the offices of captain, pilot, and ticket collector, counts his friends by the hundred. Ever ready to impart all the information that even the most curious could require, he aids, in no small measure to make the brief trips one of real pleasure.

THE SUNSETS.—On a summer evening, when the "Laprairie" heads up stream, leaving the city with its wealth of wharves, shipping, buildings, spires, domes and cupolas behind, that journey of one hour is so delightful that it must be experienced in order to be realized. As the sun slowly sinks, until its burning disc seems to rest for a space upon the verge of Mount Royal, and the clouds around the orb become like many hued curtains suspended over his couch of gold, the grandeur of the scene would defy the pencil of Claude Lorraine and the inimitable pen of Chateaubriand. The boat steams slowly under the famed Victoria bridge, the massive masonry of Canadian engineering skill, with its solid piers and wonderful spans, which appears like some fabled monster of pre-historic ages, petrified suddenly and left standing where its fate came upon it, with its gigantic head penetrating the city, its huge tail resting on St. Lambert's shore, and its elephantine legs half submerged in the flood, supporting its mammoth carcass. Under this wonderful structure the boat pulls its way until it appears to shoot into a vast and almost boundless expanse of water. It is from this moment until Laprairie wharf is reached that a panorama of the most gorgeous scenery unrolls its slow-moving and astounding proportions before the eyes of the traveller.

The landing at Laprairie is always a charming experience. The place itself is so picturesquely situated, the houses all seem so neat and clean, and judging from the daily gatherings at the wharf and in the public park near the wharf, the people seem so pleased to see you that you at once feel at home, and free from the turmoil, heat and inconveniences of a city existence during the scorching term.

THE CHURCH AND SCHOOLS.—Here you meet with many relics of the past; for example, a house that dates back as a connecting link between the modern pleasure seeker and the characters conspicuous in Canadian history. But of all the monuments that Laprairie can boast, none surpass in interest those raised in a practical manner, to the honor of God, the glory of the Church, and the success of education. The Church itself is a most beautiful temple, rich in ornaments, large, clean, and imposing. The Rev. Mr. Lavoye, the honored curé of the parish, is one of those saintly men who leave the impress of their lives upon all who come in contact with them. He is full of energy; and all that energy is devoted to the cause of religion and education. Charitable to a fault, he is beloved, as never was priest, and he reciprocates that affection in a continued life of benefactions and blessings—temporal as well as spiri-

tual—showered upon the whole parish. Side by side with the Church is the cosy presbytery, where Father Larose and his assistants live, a modest but substantial building.

Of the educational institutions of the place the foremost is the Academy, under the supervision of the Sisters of the Congregation de Notre Dame. All over the Dominion now, and especially in the vicinity of Montreal, these noble and gifted women—worthy children of the Venerable Mother Bourgeois—have established homes of instruction, and in none more than in the convent of Laprairie are the young children of the present generation formed after the ideal of the Holy Catholic Church.

On the river front the attractive edifice of the Sisters of Providence, under the supervision of Rev. Mother Arcade, the beloved superior of the institution—lifts its fine proportions and challenges the admiration of all who visit the place. The work of charity which this building represents can only be properly estimated after a visit of a few hours to its interior. The old and the young alike are cared for with that attention and goodness so characteristic of those self-sacrificing nuns. The aged man, or woman, whose hair has grown white in an unsuccessful struggle against the real miseries of life, can here, amidst all the benefits bestowed by religion, calmly and peacefully "husband out life's taper to the close." Here the orphan children are taken from the very cradle, in many cases, and fittingly prepared for the battle of life that inevitably awaits them adown the future. Here, also, is an asylum, or home, for those holy-minded women who seek to spend the waning years of life in closer touch with religion, in closer connection with God. It is in a real sense of the word a model home of the religious. This institution depends entirely upon the generosity of the people. The beautiful chapel in connection with the establishment is much frequented as Mass is frequently said there for the people, as well as for members of the community.

A little to the west of the Providence Nuns' buildings, stands another Catholic institution of no small importance—the Provincial House and Novitiate of the Brothers of Christian Instruction. This Order is doing noble work in the education of the French-Canadian youth, and is spoken of in the highest terms of praise by many of the residents with whom the writer held brief interviews. I expect to have an early opportunity of presenting a sketch of this admirable educational institution.

SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.—Laprairie is fairly well supplied in hotels, and well equipped homes for families. I might mention the old "Montreal House," with its picturesque dining-room, now kept by the genial and hospitable Mr. Lamarr; also the cosy and well conducted private establishment, mostly for families, under the direction of Mrs. Racine, which is patronized by many leading citizens of Montreal and their families during the summer. The public buildings, if not numerous, are, at least, surprisingly fine for such a small town. The new post office, would do honor to many more pretentious towns, and even cities. The industries are of a class to afford work for the inhabitants. The great brick manufactory is one of the best equipped in Canada, and has been the means of bringing Laprairie more conspicuously under the notice of the outside world. The general stores and private residences go to make up a most attractive summer resort. What is most surprising is the fact that Laprairie is not better known to the citizens of Montreal. Already some of our leading families, French-Canadian and Irish-Canadian, make things very pleasant in that sweet, silent village.

Were such a town near any of the great American centres it would long since have grown into a regular city. The future possibilities of Laprairie, however, are incalculable, and the Montrealer of another generation may find it become a regular suburb of the commercial metropolis—the home of thousands of its citizens—More anon.

HUMILITY AND REPENTANCE.

Since the conversion of the famous French litterateur—Francis Coppee—his elegant pen has contributed some splendid pages to the Catholic literature of the world. Possibly nothing could be more beautiful, as an illustration, than his article "Out of the Crucible," or "Blessed Ashes," which is given in a recent issue of the "Ave Maria." As an example of how profane, or secular literature may be made to serve the purposes of religion we extract the following few paragraphs from that article. Coppee writes:—

"Apart from any religious sentiment, even for him who expects from death but total destruction, humility and repentance are two beautiful conditions for any soul. For if a man does not live like a mere brute—he solely to satisfy his appetites,—he exacts from himself a moral progress, and wishes to become wiser and better. He always hopes to succeed, and the presence of the aged is that they have been instructed by experience. So they console themselves—badly and feebly—for their physical decline, and rejoice over the hold they have taken on their possessions when, we must confess, if they are but vanquished by the weakness of old age. The fact is that among the hosts of self-esteem and vanity decrease with the years, and regret for humbles of heart blossoms. And how sad it is to see, as we do today, the old and miserable triumph of

head high. I have nothing to reproach myself with. It may be possible that he has fulfilled the laws of probity, and even those of honor, such as society has made them. But before his inner conscience he lies, or at least he reveals a pitiful ignorance of himself; a soul without scruples, a heart without delicacy and without true goodness. "For none of us has the right to lift his head with so much assurance and proclaim himself irreproachable. None of us can examine his past without discovering many wrongs toward his neighbor, many failings in the presence of duty. We have all committed grave misdeeds,—if not through perversity; at least through unpardonable egotism, through admiration and love of our beloved person. Yes, all of us, even the most pure. And it is precisely, the most pure who suffer most from these important recollections.

"Humility is a very great virtue. She alone can bridge the distance that laws place between men; she inspires superiority with sweetness and charity, and inferiority with respect and obedience. She alone can attenuate and render lighter the inevitable injustices of life and of society, in destroying in the strong the instinct of tyranny, and in the weak that of revolt. But how rare are the humbles of heart blossoming! And how sad it is to see, as we do today, the old and miserable triumph of

pride and envy, that claims absurd equality for all in the enjoyment of pleasure!

"Alas! absolute equality exists only in death. And when I read the deceptive word 'equality' over all our monuments, I come to the point of regretting the sombre wisdom of the Middle Ages that painted on the walls a skeleton playing on the violin with a thigh bone as a bow, and leading to the same abyss the crowned king, the pope with his tiara, the captain armed at all points, the beautiful lady smiling into her mirror, the doctor weighed down with heavy books, the farmer with his hammer on his shoulder, and the beggar limping in his rags."

INTERESTING SNAP-SHOOTS.

THE TAX BILLS NOW.—The city assessors have concluded their labors so far as outdoor work is concerned, but they have hard work before them in the hundreds of complaints. This year they have taken the precaution of notifying all parties upon whose property the valuation has been increased.

THE ASSASSIN, if reports are true, is now turning the point of his dagger towards the great Republic to the South. A despatch says:—Commissioner Fitchie stated that late Saturday evening a letter was received from Consul Byington, of Naples, inclosing a copy of a letter dated August 2, in which an anonymous writer stated that he had overheard a conversation between Maresca and another Italian in a saloon, during which Maresca, said to have been intoxicated, had said that he was about to sail for the United States to kill President McKinley.

A FORTUNE IN CRACKERS.—Some pessimists are everlastingly crying out that it is impossible to make a fortune now-a-days. It does not seem much like it, when a firm can amass nearly a million as a result of biscuit manufacturing. A Toronto despatch says:—The will of the late William Christie, the great biscuit manufacturer, was filed on Monday, and disposes of \$926,000, of which \$499,500 is the share of Mrs. Christie in the business that bears his name.

Have courage ye pessimists!

KNIGHTS OF THE QUILL.—The newspaper editors of Minnesota have visited this city, and had a royal time. They left on Monday night for Quebec city in a special train provided by the Grand Trunk, in charge of Mr. D. O. Pease.

A BOOM FOR ONTARIO.—Mr. H. M. Murray, Dominion Government agent in Glasgow, has forwarded to Ottawa a communication from the Glasgow, Glasgow and Omnibus Company, commenting highly upon Canadian produce used by them last year. It says:—"We have found the hay which is designated as coming from the Province of Ontario best, and it is better baled, and the tariff was regular in quantity and better made up. Their small, regular size make them preferable."

CREMATION FOR PROTESTANTS.—Sir William Macdonald, the tobacco manufacturer, is determined to carry out another of his pet projects by the erection of a crematory in the Protestant cemetery. It is said work has been commenced on it.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.—A daily journal says:—"Very satisfactory progress has been made with the new vaults in the Protestant cemetery, which are being built to meet the demand which the increasing population of the city imposes upon the trustees to provide for the disposal of the dead in winter, when interment in the burial ground is impossible. The new vaults are being built to accommodate 1,000 bodies, about double the capacity of the old ones."

APPEARANCES OFTEN DECEIVE.

It is not always well to judge strangers by their appearance, sometimes people are greatly mistaken regarding persons of importance. The following story we clip from the "Chicago Ledger"—it has a moral, even if the story be funny:—"It takes some time to learn the social ropes in Central America," remarked a gentleman in the banana trade, "and a stranger is very apt to put his foot in it. The first time I ever went into the country myself was as the representative of an American machinery house. There was a good field for us in one of the republics, but the tariff was prohibitive, and I concluded to go over to the capital and have an interview with the minister of agriculture, hoping to persuade him to recommend a reduction. I spoke pretty fair Ollendorf Spanish, but was otherwise green as a gourd, and as soon as I arrived I made a big lime for the administration building.

"While I was cooling my heels in an ante-room, waiting for a chance to speak to somebody in authority and ascertain how the minister could be seen, a very black, fat little negro waddled in, wearing what I took to be a species of livery. He had exactly the air of an impudent, overfed house servant, and he looked me over in a way that made my blood boil. 'Hi, boy!' I said sharply, 'how long must I wait here?' 'How should I know,' he replied in Spanish, 'if it doesn't suit you get out.' He chuckled as he spoke, and his answer so infuriated me that I lost my head.

"Jumping up I seized him by the collar and the slack of his absurd embroidered trousers, and propelled him, turkey fashion, through the open door. 'There, you black beggar!' I exclaimed, 'go and wait somebody after my card!' The little fat dandy was so amazed he couldn't utter a word. He simply 'sneezed and disappeared' EIGH minutes later a squad of soldiers rushed in and placed me under arrest, and then I learned

that my friend in the embroidered pantaloons was the minister of public instruction. "I will leave you to imagine my feelings. It took three hours of solid talk from both the American and British consuls to get me out of the scrap, and, incidentally, I made a grovelling apology. Of course, I didn't dare to introduce the machinery proposition after such a debut, so my trip was a flat failure. As I said before, it takes some time for a stranger to grasp the etiquette of those parts."

CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

It is greatly to be regretted that the charges of corruption which are perhaps the most deplorable feature of political life on this side of the Atlantic, are reappearing in that of the Old Country, from which they have been absent for two or three generations. For several weeks during last session a select committee of the House of Commons was engaged in investigating charges of fraud and gross irregularity in connection with War Office contracts. The more serious charges were not substantiated; but it was proved that the supplies of hay and boots were not up to the quality required; evidence was given in some cases in which bribes were offered in connection with contracts, and of a few cases in which bribes may have been accepted. The committee report that they have learned from many quarters that there is a widespread belief in the existence of such bribery, and having regard to this fact and to the acknowledged prevalence of secret commissions in private commerce, they think there is ground for suspicion that such cases may occur also in the public service, and they have some doubt whether the system under which detailed inspection takes place gives complete security against it. They recommend that every firm guilty of offering the smallest gratuity should not only be struck off the list of Government contractors, but should be prosecuted.—Gazette.

THE MINISTER'S STRATEGY.

One Sunday the minister of a small Northern country parish church had the misfortune to forget his sermon, and did not discover his loss till he reached the church. Suddenly an idea struck him. He sent for John, the beadle, and instructed him to give out the One Hundred and Nineteenth Psalm (containing 176 verses), while he hurried home for his sermon. On his journey back to church he saw the faithful beadle standing at the church door, waving his arms and he exclaimed, "Are they all singing yet, John?" "Ay, sir," replied John, "they're at it yet, but they're cheepin' like sparries."—The Argonaut.

Our readers will find it to their interest to consult, from time to time, the advertising pages of the "True Witness." There is hardly a person that does not need certain goods of these kinds for sale. Only reputable firms are represented, and among these are some from whom, we have reason to believe, purchasers can obtain merchandise more cheaply and more expeditiously than from any other quarter. As we are constantly refusing advertisements that seem calculated to deceive the public, we are glad to have those answered to which we give place.

Truth is so plain and simple that we should be careful not to use many words in presenting it, lest we obscure it. We should simply let it declare itself through us in its own way, and let those who hate it, or are ignorant of it, do the arguing, and let our lives do the proving.

Chance for Highest Class Pianos at Low Prices.

We have in stock 3 of the latest Mahogany 3 pedal pianos by the Nordheimer Co. Pianos new but for the Summer's wear. Perhaps \$100.00 would cover the actual depreciation between them and latest new stock. Yet we will take off \$100 straight on each instrument, and let you pay for the piano as low as \$8 monthly. Here is certainly a chance to secure the best piano made in Canada at the price of common goods.

WRITE OR CALL ON Lindsay-Nordheimer Co. 214 St. Catherine Street.

THE S. CARSLY CO. LIMITED. Notre Dame Street, Montreal's Greatest Store. St. James Street.

SATURDAY, August 28. SERVICEABLE FURNITURE.

Well made and elegant Furniture, at attractive prices, for those who wish to add comfort and beauty to homes already furnished. Everything in the Furniture line to stock a house from cellar to garret will be found at The Big Store.

ROCKERS. 30 Rockers in hardwood, nicely embossed backs and fancy turnings. 75c.

NEW Sideboards. 5 only, fancy Sideboards, in hardwood, 16th century finish; fitted with 16 by 24 inch beveled mirror; nicely carved, well finished... \$10.30

Parlor Tables. 50 Parlor Tables, in hardwood, antique finish, top 20 by 20 ins.; fitted with undershelf and fancy shaped legs, nicely finished... \$6.00

JAM JARS. It's no use to go to the trouble to make preserves and let them go bad through poor sealing. These Glass Jam Jars are the kind you should use; the screw top and rubber band makes them air tight. Price Quarts 2 Quarts 55c 59c 75c 10c doz.

LITTLE HOME NEEDS. Everything useful in the way of home needs you can procure at The Big Store at Little Prices.

THE S. CARSLY CO. LIMITED. 1765 to 1783 Notre Dame Street, 184 to 194 St. James Street, Montreal.

MARKET REPORT.

GRAIN.—There is no new feature in the grain market, and prices are largely nominal. Oats are quoted at 80c, and peas at 70c to 70 1/2c afloat Montreal. Manitoba wheat is dull at 77c afloat Fort William.

FLOUR AND FEED.—Feed continues in good demand with values firm. Flour is moving very slowly, with values rather easy. Quotations are as follows: Manitoba bran \$16; and shorts to \$18, bags included. Ontario bran in bulk, \$14.75 to \$15, and shorts at \$17 to \$18. Manitoba patents, \$4.50; strong bakers, \$4.20; Ontario patents, \$3.90 to \$4.10; and straight rollers, \$3.50 to \$3.70 in barrels, and \$1.65 to \$1.70 in bags.

PROVISIONS.—Supplies are increasing, but values are firm, as stocks of cured meats are small. Dressed hogs are quoted at \$8 to \$8.25; bacon, 11 1/2c to 12 1/2c; hams, 11c to 13c; lard, pure, 8 1/2c to 8 3/4c; compound, 7c to 7 1/2c; Canada short cut mess, \$17 to \$18.

EGGS.—There are still large arrivals of warm weather eggs, which dealers have some difficulty in disposing of, owing to poor condition, but the market for table eggs is quite firm and prices are high. Strictly fresh laid are quoted at 16c to 17c; selected fresh, 14c; straight receipts, 12c to 12 1/2c. No. 2, 10 1/2c to 11c.

BUTTER.—The local market continues steady at 21 1/2c for finest creamery, but the English market is reported to be rather easier owing to Australian contracts being placed at 102s for goods which are now on the way. The equivalent for Canadian butter is said to be 20 1/2c in Montreal, but it is not likely that values will fall back to this figure in the immediate future.

CHEESE.—The cheese market is being subjected to much manipulation at present, and opinions as to the future trend of the market differ widely; but all agree that it is impossible to get immediate buying orders at even 10 1/2c for Brockville. Some reports from the country state that buyers have reduced bids to 10 15-16c.

THE CROPS.—The estimate of the crops in Ontario for 1920, as prepared by the Bureau of Industries is satisfactory. In all standard grains the yield per acre is reported to be above the average for the past eighteen years, and with the present signs of peace, which will bring the average of the past years to the fore, a largely cultivated area of the average for 18 years.

THE CROPS.—The estimate of the crops in Ontario for 1920, as prepared by the Bureau of Industries is satisfactory. In all standard grains the yield per acre is reported to be above the average for the past eighteen years, and with the present signs of peace, which will bring the average of the past years to the fore, a largely cultivated area of the average for 18 years.

Feather Pillows. 75 pairs Feather Pillows; good size; strong saten ticking; also 21 by 27 inches; per pair, \$1.10

DINING TABLES. 17 only, handsome Hardwood Dining Tables, antique finish, top 40 by 48 inches, extends to 7 feet. \$4.75

DINING CHAIRS. 75 Dining Chairs, high back, fancy embossed carvings, strong, well made and finished... \$4.75

SALT and PEPPER CASTORS. 500 Salt and Pepper Castors, in Cut Crystal, with heavily plated tops, neat designs, pretty shapes... 10 cents each.

LITTLE HOME NEEDS.

Everything useful in the way of home needs you can procure at The Big Store at Little Prices.

MAIL ORDERS PROMPTLY FILLED. SEND FOR NEW CATALOGUE.

THE S. CARSLY CO. LIMITED.

1765 to 1783 Notre Dame Street, 184 to 194 St. James Street, Montreal.

DO YOU WANT AN IDEAL PAPER IN YOUR HOME?

Then subscribe for the "True Witness," by counsel, story, incident, poem, conversation, adapted to all ages and conditions, it seeks to set forth and foster the highest and purest ideal of home and to help families to make the ideal actual. Send for sample copy. Subscription: City and foreign, \$1.50; Canada, Newfoundland and United States, \$1.00.

JOHN MURPHY & CO.

IMMENSE BARGAINS!

Making Room for New Goods. BARGAINS IN SHIRT WAISTS. Ladies' Shirt Waists, giving away prices, \$1.25 for 60c. Ladies' Shirt Waists, giving away prices, 75c and 85c for 47c. Ladies' Silk Shirt Waists, made from good Broadcloth Silks, price \$8.95 for \$2.95.

BARGAINS IN SKIRTS. Crash Skirts in Eru, Red, Electric and New Blue, \$1.25, \$1.35, \$1.50 and \$1.65, choice 89c.

BARGAINS ON THE GROUND FLOOR. Children's Black Cashmere Hose, 4, 4 1/2, 5 and 5 1/2 in. for 5c pair. Men's and Boys' Leather Belts, only 12 1/2c each. Men's Silk Ties, odds and ends of lines to clear 5c each. Men's and Boys' Caps, all kinds, 85c and 40c ones, for 19c each. Women's Leather Belts, harness buckles, to go at 10c each. A lot of fine Gilt Belt Buckles. Your choice 8c each.

SPECIAL 25c TABLE. Of Silver Novelties, Embossed Goods, Souvenirs, Vases, etc., etc., worth 35c, 40c and 50c, for 25c each.

NET SPORTING GLOVES. Grey Sporting Glove in net, with suede finished palms, a 40c glove this, for 30c pair.

SLICED MEATS. Thousands of Sliced Meats to go in the next few days. Sliced Silver, etc. 50c, 75c and 90c each, for 35c.