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Mr. ARTHUR W. MOORE has been appointed Agent for the "NEWS" in Kingston and vicinity.

NOTICE.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE

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With the commencement of the New Year we call upon our friends throughout the country to renew their subscriptions and procure additional subscribers, promising them that, on our part, we shall leave nothing undone to give them a good paper, both in its artistic and literary features. We beg also to urge upon them the propriety of remitting as early as possible. The subscription for one year, when paid promptly in advance, is only four dollars, but when there is delay, we are obliged to charge four and a-half, and it is necessary that we should adhere to this rule.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Feb. 17th, 1877.

THEORY OF OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

In certain quarters this important question has, of late, been discussed with some animation. Some writers put forth exaggerated views in favor of the privileges of Provincial Governments, while others assert the absolute control of the Federal Administration. Like many of those topics that have an air of learning about them, the present one turns mainly upon a proper understanding of terms. If these are correctly defined, fully half of the difficulty will be cancelled. The first of them is the term *independence*. Now, it should be understood at the outset that there is no *absolute* independence, either in the Federal or Provincial Governments, but only a *relative* independence, in the former of the Imperial, and in the latter of the Imperial and Federal Governments. Absolute independence is autonomy, relative independence always presupposes delegated powers.

This understood, it may be set down as a fundamental principle that the Local Governments are *independent within the circle of their delegated powers*. What these powers are can be easily ascertained by referring to the North America Act, where they are enumerated, one by one, in the clearest and most unmistakable language. In the legitimate exercise of these powers, they cannot be interfered with either by the other Provinces, or even by the Federal Government. Within this very wide sphere, then, we in Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, have our destinies in our own hands, to fashion them, improve them or damn them, as we please. So long as we respect these powers, no extraneous authority can molest us.

But there is this to be observed. The minorities in all the Provinces—minorities of race and creed, the most susceptible of all—have been promised certain

guarantees. Should these guarantees be violated, these minorities be oppressed, they have the recognized right of appeal to the Federal Government, and even from the Federal Government to the Federal Parliament. This is distinctly stated in Section III, clause 93, of the Imperial Act. This right affects not only the Protestant minority of Quebec, but also the Catholic minority of Ontario. Justice must work both ways, as it should do. This minority check, while it proves the abstract principle that Local Governments are absolutely independent of the Federal Administration, is in practice a strong impediment to the abuse of their delegated powers.

Another word much used in this controversy is *municipality*. Some writers pretend that the Provincial Government is not a mere municipality, but something distinct from and above it. Others hold that, strictly speaking, it may be ranked among municipalities. Now, to settle this difference, there is no need whatever of making learned disquisitions on the term *municipium*, either as understood in the old Roman law, or as modified by mediæval jurisprudence. It is only necessary to determine what is meant by municipalities when we state that the Local Administration is not one of them. It must be clear to every one that the Ontario Government is much more than an enlarged edition of the common council of Toronto, for instance. A municipality, as we understand it in popular parlance—and not in what lexicographers would call its *derivative* or *extended* meanings—has very little more than executive powers. It gets its charter from the legislature; it cannot alter that charter without the consent of the legislature; cannot enact organic laws, though it may promulgate by-laws for its better management; the Mayor has a council to help him in his administration, but they have little or no judicial authority, and their functions are almost confined to the different ways of enforcing and carrying out the specific provisions of the corporation charter. These functions are multifarious, no doubt, especially in populous centres, but they may be all classified under one department.

The attributes of our Local Governments are far higher and wider than these. They are the source and depository of power throughout their geographical extent. They have the three departments which constitute a self-working government—the executive, the judiciary and the legislative. They may, up to a certain point, amend their own constitution or charter. In a word, as we said above, they are autonomous, within a very extended sphere.

In our view of the case, then, there is a theory—that we take for the true one—between the extremes of absolute independence and cringing subserviency, which, at the same time, traces out a clear line of demarcation betwixt our system and the American system. In the neighboring Republic, the several States—each sovereign and independent—formed a union, with a general government, to which they delegated a portion of their powers. Among us, the Imperial Government, partly by *immediate* or direct transmission, partly by the *mediate* authority of the Federal Administration, has delegated a liberal share of its powers to the Local authorities. The difference of procedure is obvious. In the first case, it is the many that produce the one; in the latter, it is the one that creates the many. As Sir George Cartier epigrammatically expressed it, we may reverse the American motto, and put it on our escutcheon. Theirs is *E pluribus unum*; ours, *Ex uno plures*.

Our institutions must be respected. Their vested rights must be religiously guarded. If all unite, without hesitancy or perfunctoriness, with mutual good will and honest fellowship, to advance our national destinies, there is little doubt that our governmental experiment will succeed in making Canada a prosperous and self-sustaining country.

THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

The other day we overheard a conversation of educated men, who were commenting on our articles in regard to the Canadian emigration to the United States. They all deplored the exodus, they all admitted that we were right in agitating the question, and then they fell to discussing the causes of this lamentable evil. We were particularly struck by the remark of one of the interlocutors. He held that in the present condition of the country, among certain classes of our population, emigration was an imperious necessity, because there was not work enough for the hands that demanded it. "The people must go to the United States," said he, "to keep from starvation." We repeat we were struck by the remark, because it is a popular error, a gross and mischievous fallacy. It is not true that there is not work enough in the country. Neither is it true that there is starvation in this bountiful land.

We broached the subject to an intelligent man, who has great experience in agricultural matters, and he assured us that if there was not work enough on our farms, during the winter season, it was generally the fault of the farmers themselves. A harder working people during sowing time, haying and harvest time, could not be found, but out of those seasons, he informed us that our farmers, as a general thing, had fallen into a routine of inaction during which they amuse themselves and positively do nothing but eat up what they make during other portions of the year. Now, whoever knows anything about a farm, knows that work is constantly required on it, and that there are a thousand little things to be done to keep it in trim. The climate cannot be pleaded as an excuse for idleness, for in Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa, the winter is just as rigorous as it is here, and yet there are no finer agricultural tracts in the world. But then the farmers of those States are model farmers, always at work, in winter and summer, at a variety of occupations suited to the season. One thing especially they attend to, which is almost completely and unaccountably neglected here. They pay particular attention to the raising of stock of every description, which become a vast source of revenue and emolument, outside the yield of grain and vegetables.

It is a well known axiom among political economists that there can be no fears of starvation so long as there is not a surplus population in a country. Now our country so far from being overstocked, has actually not hands enough in proportion to its cultivable area. It is, therefore, not from want of work, but from want of activity, from want of intelligent industry, that our people find themselves unable to meet their outlays. We are willing to admit—indeed we have already charged—that the Government have not done enough to open up roads and highways of communication, that they have not done enough practically in aid of colonization, but this does not exculpate the people, who ought to have the patriotism and energy to help themselves. There is a great deal to be said on this subject of colonization, which we shall, however, reserve for another article.

Another drawback to our population much more serious than the one just referred to, because more founded in fact, is the dearth of skilled labor in our country. Considering its extent and resources, there is no country which has more solid capital than Canada, but there is, perhaps, no country either where capitalists fail more in making an enlightened use of their money. It is another principle of political economy that in order to the prosperity of a country, the capital that is raised out of it, out of its bowels and by the sweat of its people, should be returned to the country in different channels. Like the steam that is distributed through a large building by means of multitudinous pipes connecting with a common fur-

nace, so the capital of a country should circulate through it, benefitting thousands through the means of honest labor. A niggardly policy of abstention or monopoly on the part of capitalists is ruinous to the country, and must ultimately prove ruinous to themselves. Manufactures of different kinds, where skilled labor and scientific apprenticeship may be rewarded, are necessary for a nation to keep pace in the great market of competition, and prevent willing hands from seeking employment with the stranger.

It is reported on good authority that a Basque deputation have proposed and Government accepted a *convenio* for a settlement which will remove present difficulties with the Basque provinces by a compromise. Instead of furnishing soldiers by conscription, each province is to maintain a battalion of volunteers, which is to be placed under orders of Government in case of war, and economical and administrative autonomy are secured to the Basque provinces. The Basque Juntas are willing to accept this *convenio*, and Government will submit it to the Cortes.

UNTIL recently the Isthmus of Darien, has been comparatively quiet, but the wave of revolution threatens to sweep over Panama as well as the interior States. There is a feeling of insecurity and dread there, lest any day or night there will be an outbreak. In Columbia a sort of guerilla warfare continues, with wholesale assassinations whenever the opportunity is offered on either side. There is no telling where the struggle will be ended, or how it will terminate.

Minister RISTES and the Turkish delegate, PERLEFF EFFENDI, have agreed on the formal points of the Turkish basis of peace, viz.—Saluting the Turkish flag, the conservation of Servian fortresses, and the prevention of armed hands crossing the frontier. PERLEFF has asked the Porte for instructions on the other points. When the preliminaries are settled, RISTES will go to Constantinople, to definitely negotiate terms of peace.

In our next we shall begin a series of descriptive papers entitled Gallery Sketches, containing personal views on men and things in Parliament. We shall likewise give a Parliamentary column, embracing in brief a history of each day's proceedings, and forming in the aggregate a useful compendium of legislation.

REVIEW.

With the close of the volume for the latter half of 1876, THE CANADIAN MONTHLY completed the fifth year of its existence. Some delay in completing the negotiations necessary for a transfer of the proprietary has been unavoidable; but now as the transfer has actually been made, the Company who have undertaken the future of the magazine feel justified in claiming the support of the old friends of the MONTHLY, and the literary public throughout the Dominion. In future THE MONTHLY will be published for the Company by Messrs. Hart & Rawlinson, publishers, Toronto.

A MAD WORLD is the name of a little book by Julius Chambers which is intended to convey to the public a correct insight into the working of private lunatic asylums. The author is a journalist of New York, who feigned insanity, for the purpose of revelation. It is needless to say that he succeeded perfectly in his scheme, and that the result as here spread out in book form, is both interesting and valuable information. There are several hints in the work. The publishers are Belford Brothers, and the work is for sale by Dawson Brothers.

The Princess Salm-Salm should have a proper recognition in her own country. She is a Townships girl by the name of Joyce, and the family is still very well known in the environs of Philipsburg or Frelighsburg. Of her early history there are several versions, about which we need not enter into detail, as she herself, in the work before us, has made no reference to it, beginning the story of her adventures with her courtship and marriage in 1862. TEN YEARS OF MY LIFE is the title of the book, published by Belford Brothers, Toronto, and for sale at Dawson's. From a merely literary point of view the work is not of much character, but as the author honestly disavows any attempt at high composition, we are dispensed from any