

inations of both sections of the Province as officially returned are: Church of Rome, 942,724 in Lower and 258,141 in Upper Canada; Church of England, its numbers just given; Presbyterians, 63,322 and 303,384; Methodists, 30,582 and 341,572; Baptists 7751 and 61,559; Lutherans 857 and 24,299; Congregationalists, 4,927 and 9,357; Quakers, Menonists and Tunkers, who are excused by statute from serving in the militia, and unfortunately imitated by all other religionists to an extent not to be named here, 121 in Lower and 16,348 in Upper Canada. The others are Bible Christians and Christians, 13,819, all in Upper Canada; Adventists, 2304 and 1050; Bible Xitians and Xitians, 482; all in Lower Canada; Protestants, 2,584 and 7,514; Jews, 572 in C. E., and 614 in C. W.; Universalists, 2,289 in C.E., and 2,234 in C.W.; Mormons, 3 in C.E., living so far apart as the counties of Quebec, Brome and Huntingdon, and 74 in C.W.; 'No Religion,' 1,477 in C.E., and 17,373 in C.W.; 'No creed given,' 5,728 in C.E., 8,121 in C.W.; 'Other creeds not classed,' 683 in C.E., and 18,431 in C. W.

#### SECOND VOLUME COMMENCED.

The present issue begins Volume the Second. The Editorial supervision from this date being different from what it has been, and a staff of competent Artists and Engravers being now permanently attached to the office, the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS will go forth to the public creditably to us, and will soon in its artistic excellence be one of the native productions which the Province may justly boast of. It will be neither Lower Canadian, nor Upper Canadian; the journal of one political section, nor of another; but emphatically in its art and literature the Illustrated Family Newspaper of Canada, treating of politics only as they affect the safety and common well-being of the country.

Next week we shall publish, with a pictorial illustration, the first chapter of a new story,

#### THE CROSS OF PRIDE,

By Mrs. J. V. NOEL, OF KINGSTON, CANADA WEST, AUTHOR OF 'THE ABBET OF RATHMORE,' &c.

The new Editor of this journal has not yet seen all the manuscript; but from the chapters which have been editorially read, he is satisfied that the subscribers of the 'Canadian Illustrated News' will be gratified with this original Tale, written by a Lady of Canada, a story which in its easy flow of narrative, its variety of incident, and purity of moral, is alike charming and instructive.

### THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, MAY 16, 1863.

#### THE POLITICAL CRISIS.

The Parliamentary contest which was commenced on the 1st of May, by John A. Macdonald introducing his want of confidence motion, terminated at half-past one o'clock, A. M. on the morning of Friday the 8th, with the defeat of the present ministry. A disinterested review of the debate reveals little besides a fair fight between the 'ins' and the 'outs.' The leader of the opposition with that sagacity for which he is distinguished, avoided raising the issue on any of the ministerial measures before the House, but moved simply 'a want of confidence' resolution. This course had the double advantage of giving a wider scope to the debate, and of leaving his own party untrammelled with reference to those measures, should they again come into power.

The present ministry assumed office under somewhat difficult circumstances. A widely spread belief prevailed that the finances of the country had not been managed with the economy consistent with good government. This belief may have been unjust so far as it reflected on the conduct of the late ministry. But it must be admitted that the Public Accounts furnished strong arguments to justify it. The average annual excess of expenditure over income since 1855, had

been nearly three millions of dollars. To prudent men this was by no means a flattering financial prospect, especially at a time when they were beginning to learn the fallacy of debiting posterity with every liability which it did not suit present convenience to settle. To a parliamentary opposition, which is not bound to be over scrupulous in its arguments, it was a powerful weapon of assault, which in time was sure to do its work.

The problem then before the Macdonald-Sicotte Government on taking office was retrenchment—such an administration of the finances as would fill up this ugly gap between annual receipts and annual expenditure. Here alone was a difficulty, almost insurmountable, which the members of the ministry while in opposition did not see, as may be gathered from the following extract from the Finance Minister's report.

'Turning to the expenditure side of the account, the inability of government to effect any large reductions becomes apparent. Over the greater portion of the expenditure ministers exercise little or no control. Speaking roundly, more than one half of the whole is in fulfilment of obligations already incurred. Other large amounts are expended in pursuance of engagements which cannot be summarily terminated. And yet another large expenditure takes place under annual grants of the legislature, to which the government of the day simply gives effect. Time and the substitution of a more wholesome system of financial management are required to bring about marked reductions in these branches of the expenditure.'

But ministers had to encounter other difficulties besides those connected with the finances. The question of Representation by Population has for years kept up an alienation between the politicians of Lower Canada and the supporters of that measure in Upper Canada. So long as the latter insisted on the settlement of this question as a *sine qua non* to a political alliance, they threw the reins of power for an indefinite time into the hands of their opponents. Under those circumstances the Upper Canadian members who joined Mr. Sandfield Macdonald, agreed to leave that question in abeyance for the present. With the political morality involved in that course we have dealt in a former article. We have to do with it here only in its effect upon the position of ministers; which was to deprive them, in a great measure, of the unqualified, earnest support of their Upper Canadian adherents, who consented to the abandonment of their favorite measure with very evident reluctance, and refused entirely to follow their leaders in voting against it. This again, no doubt, prevented a hearty co-operation between them and the Lower Canadian section of the ministerialists, thus depriving the party of that concentration of will, that unity of purpose which was necessary to success over the powerful opposition it had to contend with. To those difficulties add this: that the parliament which ministers were called upon to manage had been elected under the auspices of their predecessors, who up to the time of their defeat on the militia bill, in May, 1862, could command in the House of Assembly, a majority of from fifteen to twenty-five.

A motion of non-confidence was a fair test of party strength, but when the ministers had been defeated, had announced an early dissolution, and only asked the House to vote supplies for the urgent business of the executive, and the opposition leader refused, as he did on Monday, May 11th, he became factious. They go to the country—let the country judge them.

#### WHERE IS CANADA DRIFTING?

The telegram about the middle of last week, from New York to Canada, giving the heads of news brought there from England, told that Mr. Roebuck in the House of Commons, was in favor of a declaration of war against America. Already, in the United States and in Canada, the few words imperfectly conveyed in that telegram are magnified into the utterance of English public opinion; and in its passage from journal to journal, from reader to listener, it has ripened in Canada to the large dimensions of 'The British Government has announced that they will declare war against the Federal States.' If you say, 'No; the British government has said nothing that can bear such a construction, on the contrary their course in conducting delicate and difficult negotiations with the Federal government on international questions arising out of the

flagrant breaches of the Queen's proclamation of neutrality, committed by British subjects, evinces a prudent, and resolute determination to maintain peace between the two nations, and between Canada and America by all conciliatory means consistent with the honor of the British Empire,' your interlocutor rejoins: 'But members of the House of Commons have said they are in favor of war.' You tell him, 'No, they have not,' 'Yes they have,' says he, 'I will show it you, in the newspapers.' 'It is not in any newspaper in those words; you may find the name of Mr. Roebuck mentioned and his opinions attributed to the British nation; but he is not the House of Commons; nor the British government; nor the exponent of British public opinion.' 'What is he then? is he not a member of parliament?' 'Yes, he is one of the members for Sheffield. John Arthur Roebuck, when at his best, is but a mere unit, though most of his time he represents less than a unit. A member who represents only himself is small enough, but he is frequently the exponent of less than himself. He is not even so respectable as to possess a hobby and ride it in the House; he rides a weather-cock or child's shuttle-cock. He does not change as between last year and this; but is not to-day what he was yesterday; not this half hour what he was last half hour; not in the middle of his oration, what he was at the beginning; not at the end what he was in the middle. On some occasions during the last thirty years, when two parties in parliament were nearly balanced, and a topic of momentary excitement arose, he has obtained notoriety by an unexpected motion which placed the government of the day in a difficulty. Some members on such occasions have been favorably known as peace-makers. Roebuck is known as the mischief-maker. That is the height and depth, the purport and designation of his title to statesmanship.

The repulse of the Army of the Potomac in its advance beyond the Rappahannock has given a theme for songs of triumph to some of the journalists of Canada. Thus our friend of the Brantford Courier exults: 'The Southern soldiers are splendid troops. They are men of great courage, experience, determination and prestige, and the Northerners quail before them. Things look well again for the South.' Finally, there is just now a very bad feeling existing between England and the United States, which without great tact and caution on the part of both British and American officials may lead at any time to an open rupture, which would at once cause the Southern blockade to be broken up and its independence secured.'

There is nothing in those remarks new or particularly impressive. I note them as a specimen of that anti-American journalism which in name of 'conservative' and 'moderate' has disgraced Canada, has heaped up coals of fire against the future of this Province and people—perhaps the early future, placing this dependency of Britain in extreme peril, and outraging all 'conservative' and 'moderate' principle.

'May lead at any time to an open rupture.' And what might that be to Brantford? Read the selections from the report of the committee of Congress on page 4 of this journal. 'An open rupture,' means the probable sequencés of war; the stoppage of all through traffic on the Buffalo and Lake Huron railroad, whose central works are at Brantford. It means the enemy's occupation or bombardment of Goderich town from Lake Huron. It means the approach of an army of invasion from Buffalo, and Port Dover, and all the ports on the north shore of Lake Erie towards Brantford and Hamilton; and a battle, perhaps the bloodiest in the annals of time, the Thermopylæ of Canada fought on the banks of the Grand River near the village of Caledonia, or between that village and the lake shore, but more probably in and around Brantford town.—Then will every brick and board of that place be battered to rubbish heaps, in the battle which decides which army shall hold the key-ground of Canada West. The key-ground of Canada West extends from the Grand River below Caledonia, by way of Brantford to Paris, and northerly to Guelph; from thence to Toronto eastward, and London westward. The three railways, Buffalo and Lake Huron, Great Western, and Grand Trunk, with the connecting branch from the Western at Harrisburgh to Guelph on the Grand Trunk, will be kept open to the last extremity, which means kept open always; for though we may be terribly tried, Canada will be conquered—never. In the name of God, never.

† The outposts for the defence of Toronto city, will be on Georgian Bay, on one side, and on Lake Ontario, on the other, if timely precaution be taken to convert the canal to Dundas and inner coves of Burlington Bay

into naval foundries and yards for the construction of iron-rams-of-war. The whole of the towns and villages on the north coast of Ontario lake, east of Toronto to Belleville, are, perchance not hopelessly, but as the future can be at present discerned, they are helplessly at the mercy of steam scourges-of-war, issuing out of Rochester and Oswego. Montreal will fight its battles on the south side of the St. Lawrence. Quebec will not be attacked. Kingston will resist. The Niagara frontier will be only menaced with a force large enough to render a division of our army requisite to guard it. The invaders will assail the Province at points where they can more safely retreat than at Niagara.

I will not describe in these columns the probable disposition of forces. I direct the reader's eye through the curtain of the future to take that one glimpse, because of the fervency of a terrible apprehension that the wilful negligence of the Government of Canada to organize, or provide means for organizing a defensive force, may leave the Province to the appalling hazard of seeing a time of war with insufficiency of means to resist the invasion at the beginning.

What, to Great Britain, are the aspects of the contingency of an 'open rupture' or Roebuck's 'declaration of war'? War with the United States, the Southern blockade being broken, and secession achieved, involves either the defence of Canada by all the might of the Mother country or our abandonment. Abandonment means, were America successful, the confiscation of every man's estate, every child's heritage.

Five hundred millions sterling is a sum of debt only five times the cost of the British share of the Crimean war, and Britain had only attained to a condition of military and naval efficiency when Louis Napoleon abruptly let the curtain fall on that unfinished drama. Be the new national debt to Britain more or less than three or four or five millions of pounds sterling, the cities, towns, villages, farm-homesteads, railroads, canals, viaducts and all the frontiers of this Province, (the Province as yet, in the cultivated and inhabited parts, only a frontier,) would be exposed to invasion and all the vicissitudes of attack and resistance.

New complications may arise between Britain and France as well as between Britain and the United States. A recurrence of panics about a French invasion of England may at any time arise with still deeper perplexities than at any time before. The British army in Canada might not be reinforced; gun-boats expected for the lakes might never come, if Napoleon pleased to play England false. The rains-of-war of France might be seen in grim fraternity with the iron-sided rams of America. The commerce of the two hemispheres and of all the seas and gulfs of the globe plundered, burned or sunk by privateers on one side or the other, and on all sides. Britain paralyzed in her strong right arm of manufacturing and commercial industry. The supply of the raw material of manufactures not alone interrupted from the Southern States of America, but from every country of the world chased or annihilated by hostile scourges of the ocean. Alabamas playing havoc in those days on the wrong side. The sordid traitors to their Queen and country who, in 1862 and 1863, have built them on the Mersey and the Clyde, in breach of British neutrality, standing accused in the presence of the British Empire immersed in the three-fold baptism of the fires of war, of famine and pestilence which are the weird offspring of havoc and of war.

Such, Mr. Roebuck, of Sheffield, would be the probable result of your crazy counsels. Such, Mr. Laird, of Birkenhead, will possibly be the early convulsion of nations in which your sordid iniquity is preparing to plunge the British Empire.

And you, the suicidal section of the newspaper press of Canada, happily a minority of the whole, mocking common sense by retaining the otherwise respectable name of 'moderate' and 'conservative,' and outraging all moderation in blindly, prodigally leading to implacable anger our nearest, our next-door national neighbor, struggling as that great nation has been during the last two years, in the noblest efforts that could engage the sympathy of conservatives—the preservation of their nationality, the repression of internal rebellion—what of you in that day which I have depicted; in that conflagration which you will have contributed to kindle? you will stand, not as Cassandra stood, in frantic joy at the havoc of your torch, but you will be whiffed out, extinguished in the dread convulsion of this distracted Province, your types and presses in the custody of the Provost Marshal.

That is where Canada is drifting to.

ALEXANDER SOMERVILLE.

'Whistler at the Plough.'