

THE  
Bee  HIVE.

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## INTRODUCTION.

Canada has not hitherto been so fortunate as to find in its rulers men possessed of sufficient intelligence to recognize the importance of informing other countries of the condition of this, by means of illustration. With the example of the United States before them, one would have supposed that the heads of Immigration Departments might have learned that unlettered men at a distance would be less slow to believe in a photograph, than in what *even to them* may appear to be a fallacious pamphlet. But the fact remains that disreputable pamphlets have been scattered by the million, while more than one artist's offers of aid to the Dominion and Provincial Government, respectively, have been stupidly disregarded. It will henceforth be our province to fulfil the duty of showing other countries, by means of the pencil, some of the glories of this, both natural and artificial. We cherish the hope that the ignorance of this fair land so prevalent in the distant isles which colonize it, may by these means be dissipated, and that a stimulus may be presented to the transmission hither of European and other capital as well as labor. We shall aim at accuracy both as regards delineation and description, and as we lay no claim to infallibility, we shall be obliged to any friend to point out errors in either department whenever they may occur. As "THE BEE-HIVE" will necessarily find its way to spheres beyond the range of the prospectus which announced its issue, it will be well to quote the following passages therefrom:—"THE BEEHIVE" will represent the interest of all workers, and will aim chiefly at the social and national welfare of the people. No political party will have access to its columns, but politicians and their measures will be treated therein according to their desert." In the earlier numbers we shall give some prominence to the public institutions of the Queen City of the West, and we need hardly observe that in so doing we hope to demonstrate that Toronto merits that royal designation. As time advances, we shall enlarge the circle of illustration, until the dominion of our pencil so far resembles that of our revered Queen, that the sun will not set thereon.

## THE BANK OF MONTREAL AT MONTREAL.

The Bank, a view of the head office of which figures on our frontispiece, was organized by a Company of Merchants, in 1817, and is consequently the oldest establishment of the kind in Canada. At the time it received its charter, its capital was £250,000. The Charter was renewed in 1837, and the capital was increased to £500,000. Its present capital is \$12,000,000 exclusive of a reserve of \$5,000,000. Like most Canadian Institutions, the Bank has passed through the ordeal of fire. The first building occupied by the Company was thus destroyed in 1820. The colossal sculptured figures on the pediment may be said to petrify the relation in which we all stand to the aborigines of the country. The arms of the bank are supported on either side by an Indian—one represented as in his savage state, the other points to the fruits of civilization before him,

by way of enforcing the argument he is maintaining with his friend. A stalwart settler and a British tar, figure in this representative group, surrounded with emblems of their respective callings; while literature and music, with a dash of the prophetic, possibly, put in a not very obtrusive appearance in the rear. It may be well to add that a Savings' branch of the business of the Bank, is conducted in a small adjoining building. With regard to the whole, we believe the history of the Bank affords an illustration of its motto "Concordia salus" and we trust it will continue so to do. The engraving of the Bank is from a photograph reduced by J. H. Noverre & Co., of Toronto.

## EDUCATION ACT OF 1874.

A laughable farce was introduced to the notice of the Ontario Legislature during the session of 1873-4, bearing some such title as the above, and was favourably received. It doubtless has served the end intended, and was accepted by the credulous as a hopeful sop which augured well for the future. Alas for the faith that credits the mobility of vested interests! The Act has served one end, however (if we are credibly informed), apart from staving off the clamour of the book trade. The Attorney-General's attention having been forcibly directed to the "advantages" accruing from "a depository" in one Government Department involving the trifling expenditure of \$50,000 per annum, has been logically elaborating a scheme which, for grandeur of conception, may be pronounced worthy of the Prime Minister of this, or of any other country. Like most gigantic enterprises, it had its origin in a comparatively small beginning, and may be briefly described as taking a leaf out of the book of the Chief Superintendent of Education. The Honourable gentleman meditates constituting the Parliament Buildings a central sun of his economical system, which will be surrounded by constellations of "depositories," connected by rail or otherwise with each department. The Prime Minister will, of course, reserve to himself the supply of the law-books and stationery. The Hon. Mr. Pardee will appropriate the grounds of Government House, in order to go into lumbering operations in connexion with the Crown Lands. The Hon. Adam Crooks will monopolize the percentages in connexion with the supply of pork and beans to the immigrants. This latter constellation will necessarily connect itself with the immigrant-shed, and will be known as that of "Donaldson," or "The Great Bear." We cannot doubt that arrangements in detail will be so successfully effected, that our gracious Queen will be constrained, like the Queen of Sheba, to come from the utmost parts of the earth to see the wisdom of our Solomon.

THE LAWYERS' PATRON SAINT.—"And now because I am speaking of Pettifoggers, give me leave to tell you a story I heard when I lived in Rome. As I went with a friend to see some antiquities, he showed me a chapel dedicated to one St. Evona, a lawyer of Brittany. This lawyer came to Rome to entreat the Pope to give the lawyers of Brittany a patron. The Pope at first informed Evona that he knew of no saint who was not appointed to other professions, but in view of the entreaties of his suppliant, his Holiness desired Evona to go round the church of St. John de Latera blindfold, and when he had repeated a given number of Ave Marias, the Pope promised that the first saint he laid his hand on should be his patron. The Ave Marias being concluded, Evona stopped at St. Michael's altar, where he unfortunately laid his hands on the personage at St. Michael's feet (who shall be nameless), and before the bandage was removed from his eyes, exclaimed: 'this is our Saint: let him be our patron.'"