

The Canadian Spectator.

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CONTENTS:

THE TIMES.
CHRISTMAS.
THE ETHICS OF CUSTOMS DUTIES.
ADVANCED SCIENCE.
THE LEFT HAND; A PLEA.
DOMESTIC ECONOMY.
POETRY.

THE BRAVE GIRL OF GLENBARR.
THE MANUFACTURE OF HISTORY.
HILLSIDE GLEANINGS.
CURRENT LITERATURE.
NEWS SUMMARY.
CHESS.
MUSICAL.

VOLUME I.

Of the CANADIAN SPECTATOR will be completed at the end of December, and the publishers venture to ask for the continued support of those who so generously helped the paper into life by sending in their names as subscribers. The publishers have to confess that mistakes have been made, but then it was the

FIRST YEAR OF LIFE,

—a time of experiments and consequent changes. It was soon found that the prospectus could not be carried out in the matter of having every article signed with the full name of the writer, for the majority of those whose thoughts and judgments are worthy of being put into print objected—some on grounds of modesty, and some on grounds of business; but in every other respect the publishers affirm that the contract has been kept, and a good deal given that was not promised. The SPECTATOR has been

FREE AND INDEPENDENT,

—non-partisan in all matters political and ecclesiastic; and whatever blunders may have been made were misfortunes fallen upon in the way of honest walking. In that endeavour—to conduct honest and truthful, as well as good, journalism—the publishers will continue.

It is proposed in future to give week by week a digest of the better class of British and American magazines; the News Summary will receive careful attention; and the musical world will have fair and honest criticism of concerts, &c. We shall shortly commence a Chess Column, which we hope will prove interesting to the lovers of the Royal Game. In order to carry out these extensions and improvements,

The Editorial Staff has been enlarged,

a Managing Editor having been appointed.

Thanks are herewith tendered to the many contributors who have written the year through for the love they bear the SPECTATOR and the public. Thanks are also given to the multitude who have sent kind and cheering letters of approval and appreciation.

The value of the SPECTATOR is so well known

AS AN ADVERTISING MEDIUM

that nothing need be said on that score, except that the publishers will always endeavour to return to their patrons good consideration "for value received."

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THE PUBLISHERS

The "CANADIAN CELEBRITY" in next week's number, will be the HON. EDWARD BLAKE.

An article in reply to Mr. Darling's "National Debt" we have been obliged to hold over till next issue.

THE TIMES.

The gay bustle of Christmas is over—a bustle it was, and gay it was. Friendships have been renewed and love sworn over again. We have had green in our houses and green in our churches, and though some of us have missed the old and well-remembered Christmas carol, we have had songs and anthems in abundance. Once again Christendom has paused—looked up in the face of God and said "We are grateful." I hope it has been in truth a merry Christmas with my readers—a time of reunions and renewal of love. Let me ask if you have done something for others, good friends? Have you helped to make any one glad? for that is the way to get joy.

And now let me say "a happy new year to you all." Many of us hope, and think we have reason for it, that the coming year will be a little less dark and trying than the last was, for there is some sign that the times will mend. May it be so—for it is hard to cultivate an even mind and glad heart when commercial cares press heavily. May you have prosperity, and peace in your houses, and a sense of gratitude toward Him who is good altogether. The past is gone—let it go, and enter with courage upon the new.

The "National Policy" has not yet fallen into disrepute, but all jobbery has. The country has made up its mind that in politics "honesty is the best policy." *Apropos:* I hear that the contracts for supplies of heavy hardware, &c., for the Intercolonial Railway and Department of Marine and Fisheries have been awarded to Messrs. Alpin Grant & Co., of Halifax. Messrs. Alpin Grant & Co. are dealers in teas, and not very great at that. Mr. Alpin Grant was once well known as Fraser Reynolds & Co. How did Messrs. Alpin Grant & Co., Halifax, get those contracts? and how is it that they have had to ask at Montreal for a quotation of prices from hardware merchants? Tea is not hardware. Is Mr. Alpin Grant a friend of somebody in power?

Why do the Liberal papers keep nagging about the Letellier dismissal so persistently? It looks as if they really want to provoke Sir John to do it; and probably they do—for it would give them a splendid chance for abusing the Conservatives. They would be able to talk powerfully of revenge, of party passion, and such like things. But Sir John is too careful and wise to commit any such blunder.

Nor do I think there is anything in the talk that Sir John A. Macdonald contemplates an early retirement from the office he now holds. Why should he relinquish the Premiership for a Judgeship? Sir John is not an old man; he has not lost his vivacity and strong ability; and, what is more, he has not lost his hold upon the party and upon the country. I regard his allusion to Dr. Tupper, in his speech at Ottawa, as a kind and graceful recognition of his friend's ability, and not at all as a nomination of him as his successor.

The Toronto Liberals are putting a good face on the defeat they suffered at the election in Toronto East. Mr. Morris, the "National Policy" champion, secured the rather narrow majority of 45 votes, while the Conservative majority in the same ward last September was 909 votes, which proves, says the *Globe*, that "a very large number of those who voted for the National Policy are prepared to reverse the verdict they gave in September." But that by no means follows. Mr. Morris was a comparative stranger, while Mr. Leys was a well-known and popular local candidate; Mr. Morris was pledged to the party in Opposition, while Mr. Leys was to support the Government—a distinction with a considerable difference very often in the minds of voters.