

The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is published by THE BURLAND-DESBARATS LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING COMPANY on the following conditions: \$4.00 per annum in advance, \$4.50 if not paid strictly in advance. \$3.00 for clergymen, school-teachers and postmasters, in advance.

All remittances and business communications to be addressed to G. B. BURLAND, General Manager.

All literary correspondence, contributions, &c., to be addressed to the Editor.

When an answer is required, stamp for return postage must be enclosed.

THE FOLLOWING ILLUSTRATIONS

WILL APPEAR IN OUR NEXT NUMBER:

A fine portrait of Cunliffe Owen, C.B., Secretary to the British Exhibition at Paris.

A front-page group of the chief oarsmen of the Bay—Hanlan, Ross, Plaisted, Coulter, Luther and Morris.

A view of the Military Prison, Melville Island, Halifax.

Views of Portage-du-Fort, on the Ottawa.

A double-page illustration of the whole Paris Exhibition and its annexes.

Fac-simile of the great Municipal Address of Ontario to Lord Dufferin.

We have also in the hands of our artists a general view of the beautiful town of Yarmouth, N.S., with special views of the same which will be published very shortly.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Sept. 14, 1878.

THE ELECTORAL ISSUE.

It is single, simple and striking. Irrelevant issues are brought in, according to the fancy of campaign speakers, or the peculiar relations of different localities with the Government, but the main point should not and, we believe, will not be lost sight of. The Pacific Scandal has nothing to do with it. The real or imaginary sins of the present Administration have nothing to do with it. Mr. MACKENZIE laid it down from the beginning in the clearest language and, to his credit be it said, has repeated it on every occasion when called upon to declare his views. What is the point? It is this: The present revenue tariff, or a protective tariff. Between these two the people have to choose and between these only.

The theoretical discussion of Free Trade and Protection is only incidental, and whatever fine things may be said about either are only so much rhetoric, so many *fioriture*, as one would say in musical lingo. Free Trade in the abstract is a beautiful ideal to which all of us must needs give in our adhesion. It ranks with the Universal Republic, the Compact of Peace, and Tennyson's Federation of the World, where

"The drums have ceased their throbbing and the battle flags are furled."

But we have nothing to do with ideals now. A young country like this has hard facts to meet and must adapt itself to its surroundings. We have no lesson to give the world, having quite enough to do to take care of ourselves. Hence it is that electors must face the alternative set before them, and, with a full sense of responsibility, select one or the other side for the future ruling of themselves and the country. Whatever they decide upon will be well, as they are the best, indeed the only judges. If the present Government is sustained, it will have to adhere to the tariff as it now exists. If it is not sustained, whatever Administration succeeds it will have to formulate a protective tariff.

It is a pity that this single problem is not kept before the people, untrammelled by the selfishness of personal issues. Politicians are a queer tribe who needs must talk about everything except the absolute want of the time. And yet, if they only knew it, they are infinitesimal factors in the contest. It really matters very little who are the men that rule the country. Conservatives may fret and fume into extenuation, but they will never convince any sensible person that the Liberal party has not representatives able and honourable enough to guide

the ship of state. The Liberals may roar till they are blue in the face before they will be able to show that there is not statesmanship and character sufficient in the Conservative ranks for the administration of Canada. In both parties, as there are mere hacks and unscrupulous seekers after office, so there are good men, true and great men. Hence it is not men we are looking after now; it is a policy.

We shall not enter into the arguments favourable or hostile to either phase of the controversy. In this boisterous time, the very air palpitates with them in repercussion from the lungs of speakers on a hundred platforms. And the people quite understand these arguments too, in many cases much better than the men who undertake to teach them. The principal need is that, understanding them, they should cast their vote according to their convictions, irrespective of the issue of persons. The question, as we have set it forth, is as important for us, *consideratis considerandis*, as the Eastern question is to England, the Socialistic question to Germany, or the Republican question to France. The size of a country is in direct, not in inverse, ratio to the vital policy which is to govern it, and while the present is by no means the most important issue ever laid before the country, it is one upon which much of her future will depend.

THE SOUTHERN PLAGUE.

Even amid the din of the electoral campaign, it is impossible that the people of the Dominion should be overlooking the frightful ravages which the yellow fever is making in the South, especially in the valley of the Mississippi. It is especially impossible that their sympathies should not be aroused for the thousands of victims of the plague. We have not seen, however, up to the present writing, any movement toward extending relief inaugurated in a single one of our large cities. That this negligence is due to apathy we do not for a moment suspect. Rather is it attributable to a vague idea of the distance which separates us from the sufferers, and to the belief that the other portions of the United States are abundantly able and willing to furnish the necessary succor. No doubt the American people are doing all they can in this direction, as our exchanges clearly testify, but that is no reason why Canadians should remain altogether in the back ground. The instinct of humanity is there to spur us on, and the bond of a common brotherhood ought to remind us of a duty which cannot be set aside. We think that, without delay, subscriptions should be opened in Montreal, Toronto, and elsewhere for the unhappy victims of the yellow fever. No time should be lost, and to make a beginning, we hereby give notice that all offers of assistance will be received at this office, duly credited, and the proceeds sent forward with despatch. The infliction is a terrible one, it is wide spread, and so far from diminishing, our latest advices are that it is on the increase. The resources of human science and skill are almost completely baffled; the superhuman exertions of charity are well-nigh helpless, and the whole country stands aghast at this dreadful visitation of God. It sickens the heart only to read of the scenes of suffering and death enacted in the sunny South, and one shudders to think of what the reality must be.

Considering all the circumstances which attend it, the yellow fever may be regarded as that plague from which we are taught, in the daily litany, to pray for deliverance, along with its twin maledictions—famine and war. People fly before it as from the menacing visage of doom, and fast as steam can carry them, they are often overtaken and borne down. Towns and villages are deserted; the fields ripe for the harvest are abandoned; an atmosphere of desolation reigns in the busiest haunts, and the bells in the steeples of churches are muffled so as not to increase the panic by a tolling which would be incessant. People fall and die in the streets

and alleys, and all night long there are lights in every dwelling for those who watch the dying and the dead, to say nothing of that lurid gleam which hangs over whole districts as an exhalation from the tomb. The rate of daily mortality has been nigh one hundred in New Orleans, Natchez, Vicksburg and Memphis. Grenada has been swept clean by the scythe of the destroyer. Natives, who generally enjoy immunity from the fever, have this year been stricken along with strangers, and the death rate among negroes has been unprecedentedly large. Galveston, Mobile, Savannah, Charleston, and other southern cities have, up to the present, been saved by a quarantine almost savage in its rigor, but there is no telling how much longer the tainted gales may be barred out. And all this will last until the first cold frosts, that is until the end of this month or the beginning of October. In all this time the aggregate of suffering, misery and absolute destitution will be something appalling, and really the picture is one that should stimulate an active charity. We may not be able to give much, having many calls nearer home, but let us give what we can, and let it not be said that Canada was absolutely insensible to the wretchedness of her southern brothers.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

It was a common remark four or five years ago with travellers—especially American tourists—that the principal cities of the Dominion were glaringly lacking in three institutions—hotels, theatres and public libraries. The first two of these wants have since been supplied in a considerable degree. Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, St. John and Halifax can now boast of hostelries erected and conducted upon the best American models—and Americans are admittedly at the head of this branch of social industry—while, if we were disposed to particularize, we might instance two or three Canadian houses which yield in nothing to the most famous of similar institutions beyond the border. In regard to theatres, Toronto has two; Montreal two; St. John and Halifax, each one of the best appointed dramatic temples, in so far, at least, as architecture and stage properties are concerned, although as to resident companies, we fear, from the experience of repeated failures, that it will be long before either of these can afford to maintain one of its own. The third desideratum, however, has hitherto been unaccountably neglected, notwithstanding that it is by far the most important and of the most universal application. Toronto has indeed done something in this direction, but not near as much as we had reason to expect from the Boston of Canada. The smaller towns of Ontario are also alive to the great need, but the wonder is that among such a reading people larger results should not have been accomplished. As to Montreal, the utter apathy in regard to public libraries is something simply unaccountable. There is certainly not a city of its size in America that is so miserably provided in this respect. Indeed, there are many smaller towns in the Dominion—to say nothing of villages in the United States—which provide readier and more abundant reading facilities to their residents than does the commercial metropolis of Canada. We are aware that several praiseworthy attempts have been made to establish circulating libraries in this city, but the repeated failures are only so many additional proofs of the lukewarmness of our people. And yet without such institutions it is impossible to foster and improve that popular education which we all so much desire, and which we have expended so much money to secure. Our schools show very well, the Ontario schools especially having reached so high a standard as to have been pronounced unexcelled at both Philadelphia and Paris. But the schools necessarily use only school books, that is, technical manuals and compendiums intended for teaching purposes. These are only so many founda-

tion stones of the structure of education. The rest of the materials must be sought for in the whole cycle of literature, and the books representing this cycle are to be obtained only from a large and well-assorted library. Private libraries supply mere individual wants; college libraries are beyond the reach of all except the favoured few. The vast majority of men have not the means to buy books, and even, when you come to calculate, a very great proportion are unable to pay large subscription fees for the use of books. What they want, not for themselves alone, but for the good of the whole community, is nominally free access, under certain well-known rules and conditions, to a large library, and it is positively a misfortune that a city like Montreal should not think it worth while to furnish such. We broach the vital subject to-day, but shall return to it with authentic citations, from official reports, of the immense good accomplished by the establishment of public and free libraries in large centres of population such as this.

AN esteemed Ottawa correspondent writes us to this effect: "I have observed that His Excellency the Earl of DUFFERIN has lately, through his Secretary, Lieut. Col. the Hon. E. G. P. LITTLETON, expressed his desire, in writing to the director of each educational establishment, to obtain the portrait of each successful student who had the honour of being awarded a medal by His Excellency, to carry away with him as a souvenir of his stay in the Dominion. I am happy to state that, from observations taken, His Excellency's desire will be eagerly complied with. This further act of kindness on the part of our beloved Governor-General will serve to endear him still more, if possible, to the people of the Dominion, and particularly to those fortunate ones of the rising generation who have reason to remember his liberality. Now, Mr. EDITOR, permit me to offer a suggestion, which I hope you will approve of. Why not publish the portraits of those medallists in your excellent journal? I have interviewed a number of them, and one and all expressed their extreme willingness to forward their portraits and names to your office, for publication in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. It would be a grand scheme and would be appreciated by the readers of your widely circulated newspaper, and would serve as an impetus to ambitious young scholars. I am certain that His Excellency would be gratified by this token of respect paid to him by the leading journal of the Dominion." In response to this communication, we are happy to state that we are quite prepared to publish the portraits of all the DUFFERIN medallists if they will send in their photographs with a brief account of their scholastic efforts. A fine group would be made of them, extremely interesting in the cause of education and a pleasant memorial to His Excellency. With this in view, we hereby invite all the DUFFERIN medallists to address us their portraits without delay, so that the publication may take place before the departure of the Governor-General.

WE are informed that wealthy citizens of Montreal are considering the advisability of building a vice-regal residence for the Marquis of LORNE and the Princess LOUISE, and their successors in the vice-royalty of the Dominion. A beautiful site at the foot of Mount Royal Park has been thought of, and the outlay is set down at about \$100,000. This is all very proper. But when we are further told that the motive of the step is to lead fashionable travel in this direction and be of advantage to our local trade, generally, we are lost in admiration of the disinterestedness of this act of loyalty, and of the childlike ingenuousness which publishes the secret to the world. Of a verity it is a characteristic phase of patriotism that shall make of the Queen's daughter a signboard for the promotion of self.