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ONLY ONE.

All we ask of each subscriber of the

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is that he will procure us **ONE** additional subscriber. This can be easily done, and it will go far towards increasing the efficiency of the journal. We are doing our best to put forth a paper creditable to the country, and our friends should make it a point to assist us. Remember that the Dominion should support at least one illustrated paper. Remember too that the "News" is the only purely literary paper in the country. We invite our friends to examine carefully the present number of the paper and judge for themselves of our efforts in their behalf.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, July 14th, 1877.

A NOTE OF THE TIME.

One of the most marked political defects with which we are troubled in Canada is shared by us with our neighbours to the south, and consists in the withdrawal from active public service and voice of the wealthy and educated citizens. All honour to the exceptions that exist. The depositaries of wealth have privileges of their own. As a class they are permitted a very considerable scope for the abilities with which nature has gifted them, and they have the additional privilege of using the faculties of other men for certain equivalents. If themselves fail through misfortune or ill-judgment they may often count upon assistance needed to recover themselves. They are looked up to as the exponents of good sense and deferred to upon the most important occasions. When their sympathies are directed to sacred interests they take the places of influence, and by their urbanity and general steadiness of demeanour do much to maintain the quiet flow of our affairs. Often showing themselves both pitiful and courteous, in great emergencies like the St. John fire they can come forward with large views and make clear to the community what they ought to do. We welcome such public spirit wherever found. But by such acts, resulting from the stimulus of public calamity and their own right feeling, we are only the more sadly reminded that in our civic affairs they have not as a body used their opportunities to anything like their full extent. With but few exceptions they are neither found in our Civic

Councils, nor represented in the corporations by the class of men, and the scientific experts whom their influence might be the means of electing or employing. They have in such measure kept aloof from our affairs, until, to speak restrainedly, the management of them in many cities has subjected all concerned to mortification and loss of prestige. We do not grudge our established men their wealth or power, for we know these may be made preservative of the general good, but their active help should not be wanting to us. We shall hardly be supposed to be addressing these thoughts to mere speculators and stock gamblers, but it is well known that many men of business are very far from being of that type, and many see that notwithstanding the pernicious examples that have influenced Montreal especially, life is something more than a mere rush for dollars and cents. The hasty partisans we meet with, however, have but imperfect conceptions of the needs of town or country. With the habits of business, good faculties, wanting practice only, for judgment in affairs, are often found. We should not keep out of sight, then, that property has its duties as well as its rights—as the old French courtiers echoed "*noblesse oblige*," and might have saved a revolution if they had followed it also. So a useful social existence is not developed in the mere retirement of the hermit or the man of taste, even if the gentler graces of life be not under-rated, but rather in those who are prepared to act to the extent of the powers the constitution has allowed them, in maintaining the social order when threatened, and in meeting those difficulties that spring up from time to time in the history of a city or nation. What is said about the well-to-do people, applies in a great degree to that considerable, but not compact body, not always wealthy, but always useful, who undertake the management and partial support of the various institutions of benevolence. Our position with regard to them is, that for the protection of life and property and philanthropic interests and the general advance in intelligence and well-being, their members should take some more direct interest in civic affairs. The late lamented Dr. Carpenter has left a striking example which they will do well to follow, for we ought not as civic bodies to stay content with our reforms, so long as our statistics show so unfavorably in comparison with some better systemed communities in the parent country, and with London especially which has shown its vitality by coming forward so handsomely for the assistance of our destroyed city of St. John.

THE fire-proof window-shutter in use by the London Banks and sometimes seen, we believe, amongst ourselves, is composed of steel or iron laths formed into a curtain and kept rolled in the daytime. There are few better protections against fire from the outside or the attempts of thieves.

If any competent firm wishes to make a commencement in the manufacture of flooring tiles, plain or ornamental, their best plan would be to pay a visit to the burned city of St. John, and ascertain to what extent those who are about to rebuild would be willing to introduce them. There is no question about their being a great security against the spread of fire.

THE foregoing are doubtless good expedients and fair instalments towards a fire-proof regime, but it is not certain in such a fire as St. John's that any combustible material about a building could escape the onslaught of the flames, the intensity and the mass of them were both so great. Are we therefore to reject arrangements that are valuable in any outbreak of fire or for deferring the moment of ignition? A good fireman will say no, and will advise any plan that can give him time to work, and the building a

respite from destruction; he will remember that all fires are not great ones, nor accompanied by such fearful winds.

OUR contemporary the *Mercury* should be consistent. He has long declaimed against the rural municipalities, and suggested a reversion to some other system, and now that their faults of organization are made evident to all, he talks about making the farmer members personally amenable to the courts. Even if that were possible, it would not secure the safety of the public. What would be preferable would be something of the moderate kind we proposed, namely, some periodical and properly centralized inspection by each Provincial Government, of all works belonging to the municipalities within its province. Let the rural councils construct what they please, or have need for, and certainly let their liability be unimpaired if practicable, but the Governments should provide the best inspection available, and see that such works are kept safe and fit for use or travel.

THE CAXTON CELEBRATION.

As was duly announced in these columns, the four hundredth anniversary of the introduction of printing into England by William Caxton was duly celebrated in Montreal by an exhibition of works pertaining to the art of typography. The exhibition was a wonderful success, and the gentlemen who conducted are worthy of the highest praise. We give a pictorial view of the event in the present issue, and though the subject may appear dry to some of our readers, we deem it our duty to give a full account of the exhibition, under the conviction that the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is precisely the paper which is expected to preserve the accounts of such literary and artistic episodes. We shall, however, be as brief as possible.

I.

EARLY PRINTING.

There were specimens of misals and manuscripts anterior to the invention of printing, such as a new Testament in Latin, of the date 1250, an elaborate and beautiful specimen of calligraphy done in colors, by a German scribe, on fine vellum, and undoubtedly of the age stated; of 1430 a remarkable interesting and excessively rare manuscript, with colored initial letters, and on vellum and paper; a roll of Egyptian papyrus, a Tamil school book on palm-leaf, leaf, Burmese MSS., Coptic and Arabic MSS., &c.

Among the earliest printed works figured the names of Eggesteyn, Caxton, Wynkyn de Worde and Pynson. There were the Decretum Gratiani, illuminated initials, large folio, Strasbourg, 1472, printed by Henry Eggesteyn, apprentice of Gutenberg. This book, dated 1471, is exhibited in the British Museum as the first book printed with the date at Strasbourg. It is Eggesteyn's best production. The Dicts and Sayings of the Philosophers, William Caxton, at Westminster, 1477. This extremely rare work is now being reproduced in London in facsimile and by the kindness of the publisher, Mr. Elliott Stock, the Committee were enabled to exhibit these sheets in advance of publication. Polychronicon, translated and printed by William Caxton, at Westminster, 1482. The "Polychronicon" is one of the rarest of Caxton's works, still extant. For this the committee were indebted to the courtesy of Joseph Drexel, Esq., New York, for lending the copy now on view. Law Statutes, Henry VII., Richard Pynson, London, 1510, Tulley's Offices, Wynkyn de Worde (one of Caxton's assistants), 1534. The Committee are also under obligation to Mr. Drexel for the loan of this rare book, only second in value to the work of Master Caxton, "Vite Patrum," translated by William Caxton out of French into English, and printed by Wynkyn, London, 1495. This very fine and very perfect specimen was Caxton's last work; he left it unfinished and his successor completed it "Grammatica Prima Partis," &c., a Roberto Whittington. Wynkyn de Worde, London, 1533. England's second printer was distinguished for his series of grammars; this copy, in English and Latin is one of his most noted and best specimens of typography.

The gem of the collection was, however, the Mazarin Bible, a great treasure, brought here through the kindness of Dr. Trumbull of Hartford. It is in two large well-preserved volumes dated 1455, and in their original binding, the work of Gutenberg himself, the inventor of printing, from movable types. It lately sold for \$25,000. There are only four copies in existence. A book printed by Faust, dated 1495, was also on exhibition.

Of specimens from the invention of the art to 1650 there were no less than 534 specimens on exhibition, from ancient printers and presses, located in all the great European centres. "The Consolations of Philosophy," by Boetius, with red initials inserted by hand, is a famous work; an edition of Dante, dated 1491, and printed at Venice, has very fine woodcuts for that early

period, 1491. Coming into the sixteenth century, we have a copy of Chrysostom's works, printed by John Froben, of Basle, 1521, which bears additional interest from the fact that he exposed his proofs to public view, and offered a reward to every person that should discover an error.

II.

EARLY AND RARE EDITIONS OF BIBLES, PRAYER-BOOKS AND PSALTERS.

Eight hundred and seventeen works were on exhibition in this department. We give a few titles:—

Psalm's of David. Translated by St. Jerome out of Hebrew into Latin. Augsburg, 1471. Biblia Sacra Latina. (Jacob Saxon.) Lugduni (Lyons), 1511. A Black-Letter Latin Bible, 1521. Psalterium Sextuplex: ornamented initials. Hebrew, Greek and Latin. Sebastianus Gryphus, Lyons, 1530. A good specimen of a famous printer, the Bagster of his day. Matutina Supplicatio: or, A Latin Version of the New Testament, R. Stephanus, Paris, 1531. Coverdale's Bible, 1535. Biblionum Sacrorum translatio duplex, vetus et nova, cum leucophtisimis annotationibus, &c. Roberti Stephani, Antwerpiae, 1543. Novum Testamentum Graecum, editio. Lutetiae (Paris), 1546. Biblia. Bartholomaei Gravi, Lovanii, 1547. This is the first Louvain edition according to the recension of Hesychius, as approved by the doctors of Louvain, and is of very considerable rarity. Jesu Christi D.N. Novum Testamentum. (Greek and Latin) Theodore Beza, &c., &c. Long title page with a curious synobolical picture. Houtiers, Stephanus, 1567. The preface in Latin in 1565. The Greek and Latin translations are printed parallel, with Latin notes in the margin. At the end are the creeds—Apostles', Nicene, Athanasian, Anathematismata in Latin, and the Confession of Faith of the Council of Chalcedon in both Greek and Latin. Several copies of the "Breches Bible" of the 17th century.

III.

NEWSPAPERS, AND MAGAZINES, CHIEFLY CANADIAN.

The Quebec Gazette, No. 1, June 21st (facsimile reproduction), 1764. Gazette du Commerce et Littéraire de Montreal, No. XI. (single copy) Imprimeurs et Libraires, Chez F. Mesplet & Co. Berger, Montreal, 1778. Montreal Gazette, vol. XI, Thursday, 5th June, 1788. Quebec Herald, 1st vol. Quebec, 1788-89. The Quebec Gazette, No. 1302 (single copy)—in both languages. Printed by Samuel Neilson, No. 2 Mountain street Quebec, 1790. The Montreal Gazette—Gazette de Montreal, No. XXXI. (single copy), printed in both languages, by Fleury Mesplet, No. 40 Notre Dame street, Montreal 1793. The Times—Le Cours du Temps, No. 29 (single copy). Printed at the new printing office, Mountain street in both languages, Quebec, 1795. Montreal Herald, 1811-12. Quebec Mercury, 1814. Kingston Gazette, 1816. Kingston Chronicle, 1816. Minerva, 1826; the new Montreal Gazette, 1827. Montreal Transcript; Kingston News; Montreal Witness, Vol. 1, No. 1 commenced as a weekly newspaper, January 5, 1846; the New-Wester, the pioneer newspaper, Hudson's Bay Co's territory, Ross & Coldwell, publishers, Colony Gardens, Jan. 14, 1850, to March 16, 1861. Quebec Gazette, centenary number, June 21st, 1864. Miniature copy of Montreal Weekly Witness, reduced by photography. Thursday, Dec. 7, 1876.

IV.

ANCIENT IRISH BOOKS.

Mr. Edward Murphy exhibited a number of manuscripts and printed books in the Irish language and character, and facsimiles of the national manuscripts of Ireland.

"Irish MS. Devotional work: wants a few pages. Written about A.D. 1650. This work was evidently written by different persons, as a difference in the hand-writing may easily be detected. It is a good specimen of its day. Small capital letters will be found on pages 100 to 194. Many quotations from scripture are given, with chapter and verse. It is divided into three or four parts. That on page 100 begins with a verse from the 129th Psalm, in Latin: "*De profundis clamavi ad te Domine*," &c. (From the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord, &c.) The leather cover is a curiosity. The last half of it is very old, and the fastenings of the cover to the back are also curious.

Among books printed in the Irish language and with Irish type are "An Teomna Madh," the New Testament, A. D. 1600, by Archbishop O'Donnell, of Tuam. This New Testament was first printed in 1603 and reprinted in 1687, 1830, 1835. The Old Testament was published in Irish by Bishop Bedell in 1640.

There were also several books printed in the Irish and English languages on alternate pages.

"Leabarna-g-eart," or the Book of Rights. Translated by the eminent Irish scholar and philologist, J. O'Donovan, Esq., LL.D., T.C.D. D. This work is a treatise on the Rights and Privileges of the ancient Kings of Ireland. It is translated from the original *Vellum MS.* called the Book of Lecan, which was compiled from various older MSS., by Duaid McPhirbis, in the year 1418. A more ancient book of rights was written by Benen (or St. Benignus, as his name was Latinized), successor to St. Patrick, who died in A.D. 468. The work in its present form,