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THE NEW STORY.

In this issue we give a further liberal instalment of WILKIE COLLINS' new story,

THE LAW AND THE LADY.

This story, considered the best yet written by Mr. Collins, was begun in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS of Nov. 7, (Number 19).

Back numbers can be had on application.

We beg to call the attention of News Dealers throughout the country to the fact that we have secured the sole right for Canada of publishing "The Law and the Lady" in serial form.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, March 13th, 1875.

IMMIGRATION.

The Report of the Department of Agriculture for the Calendar Year of 1874, has been laid on the table of the senate, by the HON. MR. LEFELIER. The topic of chief importance it contains is Immigration; which is at once a question of the greatest interest and importance to the country. The Government has certainly made great exertions to promote Immigration. The expenditure last year was \$281,413.11 and the year before \$331,513.86. This latter included a grant of \$70,000 to the Provinces which was not given last year. But the figures of last year include an item of \$22,485 for the expenses of Mennonite Immigration. Against this last item, however, there was a refund of \$5,158.

The total number of Immigrants who entered the country during the year was 80,022. Of these 23,894 came by way of the St. Lawrence; 54,014 by way of the Suspension Bridge and other Inland Ports of the Dominion; and 2,114 entered the Ports of the Maritime Provinces. These Immigrants, however, have to be divided into two classes. A very large proportion, viz. 40,649 were simply passengers who took the route through Canada for the Western States as being the shortest and the best. The number of those who came to settle in Canada during the year was 39,373; against 50,050 in 1873; 36,578 in 1872, and 27,773 in 1871. It thus appears that, although there was a falling off as compared with 1873, the Immigration was much larger than that of the preceding two years, and nearly four times as large as in 1866; from which time there has been a steady increase in the number of Immigrant settlers in Canada.

There is an especial feature in the Immigration of last year, which renders it very satisfactory; viz. that the Immigrants, as a whole, were of a class of which Canada is the most in need. A very considerable number of them were brought out by the assistance of Government war-

rants, and the Ontario Refund Bonus applied in deduction of the cost of passage selections were therefore made by the Government agents, and the class was altogether different from those large numbers of persons from the East of London, sent to this country some years ago.

Another feature in these returns is the large Immigration of settlers from the United States to Canada during the year. The number was, as ascertained from the entries in connection with settlers goods at the Custom Houses in 1874, 14,110, against 8,971 in 1873. The value of settlers goods entered by these Immigrants was in the neighbourhood of \$300,000. This movement from the United States to Canada is no doubt due to the commercial and industrial depression which has prevailed there; and includes a considerable member of French Canadians.

This brings us to another point. The total Emigration from Great Britain in 1874 was 241,014, against 310,612 in 1873. The falling off in the Immigration to the United States was in the proportion of about 1 to 2. It will therefore be seen from a consideration of these facts that Canada has very well held her own in the competition, in what may be called the Emigration Markets of the Old World. We may here remark that the Australian Colonies have become most powerful competitors. Their total Immigration in 1874 was 53,958 against 26,428 in 1873. The young colony of New Zealand alone obtained 30,000 Immigrants at a cost of \$3,000,000, which it expended in direct prepayment of passages apart from its very expensive system of agency, and this year we notice it is in the market for a loan of \$4,000,000 to continue the same policy.

The Agricultural Labourers who came to Canada, received the advantage of the Dominion Government Passenger warrant of £2.5, and the Ontario Government added its Refund Bonus of £1.6.8 in further reduction of the passage. The balance was paid by the Agricultural Labourers Union, and thus thousands of the most valuable settlers which Canada wants were helped to come to the country. Without such help, they could not have come; for a man cannot keep a family on twelve or fourteen shillings a week, and make savings from it to defray the expenses of a sea voyage.

The great bulk of all the Immigrants to American now come by steamships; arriving in a shorter time and in a healthier condition.

We notice in the Report some particulars about the Mennonite settlers in Manitoba and the Icelanders in Ontario; but it does not contain further particulars than we have already published.

It is noticeable that the greater part of the Immigrants settle in Ontario. There seems to be a natural tendency of Immigrants to settle in that Province, except in some particular cases, and the great exertions and expenditure of the Ontario Government may furnish another reason for the fact.

The Province of Manitoba is rapidly filling up. It received an accession of 3,635 settlers, including the Mennonites during the year, and more are expected next year. We understand the Dawson Route is very much improved, and from many of the accounts we have heard, there was need of it.

MONTREAL SKETCHING CLUB.

This new club has recently started into existence under the auspices of some of the original members of the Art Association of Montreal, an association which has from one cause and another fallen into desuetude since the death of its first President, the late Metropolitan, Dr. Fulford, who during his presidency did so much by his presence to keep the Association alive. The scope and objects of the Sketching Club are to encourage the youth of both sexes in an art which is not only delightful, but useful and necessary, as many ancient and modern books of travel abundantly testify.

Without the aid of drawing, descriptions of noted places, buildings and scenes would, in most instances, fail to impress those who had never seen them with their grandeur, sublimity, and beauty.

The Club meets every alternate Saturday afternoon, at the rooms of Mr. Thos. D. King, 26 Beaver Hall. The second meeting, on the 27th ult., was a success. The number and quality of the sketches and water colour drawings tended to show that the taste for drawing was by no means extinct in Montreal. After the drawings have been criticized, as they are candidly, impartially and freely, the time for an hour or so, is agreeably spent by the examination of portfolios of etchings, prints from engravings, and choice illustrated books, lent for the occasion by the senior members; from these books, &c., the juniors derive no small benefit as it accustoms them to the beauty of form and proportion, the knowledge of which is absolutely required before they can become artists. Again there is another advantage beyond the social converse upon art matters, namely, that of determining in the minds of the members and visitors the value and great consequence of drawing as a graded study in our public and private schools.

Judging from the results of the first two meetings of the Club we think there is every prospect of its being established upon a sure basis, and of its becoming a most important agent in developing a taste for, and knowledge of art in the city of Montreal. It is the intention of the Club during the summer months, to make excursions in the country for the purpose of out door sketching.

POSTAL SERVICE.

Our zealous Postmaster-General has explained very lucidly the reforms he contemplates in the postal service. With regard to the small tax upon newspapers, he stated that it had exceeded his most sanguine expectations, and he believed that at the end of the first year the local postage received through the delivery of letters would pay the expenses of free delivery. With regard to the objection that it was not extended to towns as well as cities, he reminded the House that in the United States there was no free delivery in cities with a population smaller than 20,000.

The publishers would pay a trifle for handling large masses of newspapers, and he was satisfied that before a year or two publishers would find the circulation of their newspapers so largely increased by the removal of the postage that their gain would more than counterbalance the loss. To meet the objection that the bill was coming into operation too soon, it was proposed to extend the time to six months hence. In the United States that much time was not given; prepayment was made compulsory on the 1st of January on all mailable matter. He had received a communication from the Postmaster of New York stating that the circulation of publications has increased considerably, owing to the change in the postage rate, and particularly the manner of prepayment; and the publishers are well satisfied that the service is giving abundant satisfaction, the detail and annoyance inseparable from the old plan being entirely avoided. It did not seem to be generally understood how newspapers were to be mailed. It was proposed that all papers should go by weight; the half cent postage only referred to transient newspapers or those not sent from the office of publication. It made no difference whether a publisher mailed, say fifty copies, to one post office or to fifty different post offices; they would, in either case, be put into the scales, and the postage charged by the pound. Under the convention with the United States the department was not prepared to forward letters unless they were fully paid. Letters overweight and insufficiently prepaid would be returned to the senders. The United States would not undertake to collect anything for us;

consequently we would not undertake to collect anything for them. It would be well, therefore, that the public should know that all communications with the United States must be prepaid. With other foreign countries with which we have no understanding of that kind, the system would remain as at present.

OUR WINTER EVENINGS.

We have just traversed an old fashioned winter. Mountains of snow, an elevated blue sky, keen winds, white ineffectual sunshine—nothing has been wanting. And we have enjoyed the weather accordingly. Outsiders must not imagine that we are the victims of our boreal climate. Not so. We make it minister both to our wants and our recreations. There is no gayer country on earth than Canada in winter. To say nothing of our out-door sports—upon which we wrote at length some weeks ago—we need only refer to the mode in which we spend our long evenings. The experience of every one, during the present season, is that he has enjoyed himself, just in proportion as he made a good or ill use of his winter nights.

All the moments of our life are precious. According to the beautiful legend of the Thebais, an angel drops them, one by one, into a precious urn, and has them registered above in the great Doomsday Book. Every moment of our life should therefore be turned to use, spent for the good of the intellect, the heart or the body. When the labors of the day are over, when the implements of our trade or profession are laid aside, we may and should give rest to the mind and body, in such manner as to improve, at the same time, the other faculties of our nature.

Most of us work hard, our days are well filled, we have our trials and tribulations, and evening comes to all as a respite. When it comes, the best thing we can do is to go home direct. Yes, go direct home to our wife, to our children, without stopping at the bar-room or the beer house. Straight home, tired it may be, but with brain undimmed by the fumes of spirits, and buoyant heart glutted by no devilish drugs. We should enter our own house, humble though it be, but made all pleasant by the dear welcome of those we love. Let us put off our great coat, put on our slippers, approach near the genial fire and enjoy our winter evening. It is the hour of rest which God has given—to be spent amid the joys of the family, in learning the transcendent secret of loving and being loved. What constitutes the poetry, the enjoyment of domestic life? Precisely the infinite play of the heart's affections. On such nights as these, they are brought out at every turn, by every trifle. A glance of the eye will suffice, a wave of the hand, a smile, a soft low tone, any insignificant gesture. All day long there is this vibration, this flutter as of unseen wings, this pleasurable beating of kindred hearts responsive to each other's sympathies, and at night, if we only wish it, we can gather in these coils and nestle in each others bosom—father and mother bending over their children, as they sit clasped in each other's arms—an image of Providence brooding over his own. Winter evenings around the fireside are a very harvest time of peace, of joy and of consolation. They are associated in our mind with all that childhood recalls most fondly, with all the mystery of conjugal happiness, with all the sage advice and blessings of venerable age. The hearthstone with its circle of illumined faces, the baby on the rug, the sweet sister smiling amid her curls, the mother bending over her needle, the father reclining in his easy chair—the hearthstone always warm and clear, with its polished fender and resplendent andirons, is the brightest spot in memory, never forgotten amid all the changes of this world, ever remembered by the yearning heart of the exile and the forsaken. The forsaken! They who enjoy without appreciating the boon of domestic felicities, should ask of the forsaken, and he will tell them the infinite meanings of that