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H. GREGORY & Co.

Hamilton, Oct. 22, 1863.

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To THE PUBLIC.—Mr. Alexander Somerville, lately Editor of this paper, has had no connection therewith for the last two months, and is not authorized to act in any manner on our behalf.

H. GREGORY & Co.

HAMILTON, October 31st, 1863.

THE CANADIAN

Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, NOVEMBER 7, 1863.

H. GREGORY & Co. Proprietors.

THE WASHINGTON GOVERNMENT AND THE RECENT STATE ELECTIONS.

It is a matter of wonder to some folks that soldiers by thousands should be allowed or sent home from almost the very field of battle to vote at the elections. But the reason why is not difficult to be seen, after all. The Washington Government actually, and as we believe justly and prudently, from its own point of view, attaches more importance to victories over the pro-Southern party in the North at the polls, than to victories over the Southerners themselves in the field. The indubitable fact is, that the greatest triumphs of the army over the Confederate forces, would be more than neutralized, would be positively rendered worse than useless, by any very marked success of the anti-war party at the polls. The American, say the Yankee mind, is certainly not remarkable for incapacity of apprehension or want of fertility in resources. And depend upon it, they are signally deceiving their own selves who imagine that the many sharp, wide-awake, clear-headed men who now direct the course of the Government at Washington, are nothing but a parcel of asses and dolts. Such a conclusion, we venture to say, does not promise to result very favourably for those who decide to act upon it, and risk the consequences. The chances are that Lincoln, Seward, Thurlow Weed, Chase, Stanton, and the rest of them, know tolerably well what they are about. It may be remarked, by the way, that neither English nor Canadians do themselves much compliment by sneering at brothers and cousins of our own race as being either fools or cowards. In our dealings with the Americans it will be in all likelihood the most prudent course to act on an entirely different supposition. We shall do no great violence to probability if we hazard the anticipation that now the contest at the polls is over for a while, that upon the tented field will shortly be resumed with vigour enough to satisfy the most inveterate craving for news of battles and bloodshed, and of "something decisive from the seat of war."

Meanwhile, it must be gratifying to every sensible man amongst us, to know that existing relations between London and Washington are decidedly more friendly than they have for some time been; and that there is every present prospect of the preservation of peace between the two countries. Of any Canadian who does not rejoice that such should be the case, or who "does not see it in that light," it is not too much to say that he would do his country more credit if confined in the Lunatic Asylum, than if suffered to go about at large. If there be a Canadian who really wishes for a war with the States, or who would like to see Lord Palmerston and Earl Russell deliberately working for such a result, let him say so plainly, and take the responsi-

bility of defending his opinion. But we rather think that there are but very few, let us say we hope there are none here, so devoid at once both of sense and of humanity as to take their stand on such discreditable ground.

A CERTAIN DISAGREEABLE RESTRAINT ON SPEECH.

Under the caption of 'Oh, no, we never mention her,' the New York *Albion* has the following remarks; 'We have already been called upon more than once to notice the peculiar reticence of American and Russian official personages on certain points, even when indulging in the most fraternal of spoken or written hugs. Neither Swards nor Opdykes have bidden the Czar, in set terms, hasten and crush out the Polish revolution with fire and sword. No Gortschakoff or Stoeckls or Lessovskis have exhorted the North to subjugate and devastate their brethren. Bloody injunctions of this sort have for the most part, been confined to pulpits and hustings though sometimes uttered by considerate journalists. Nothing of them has been seen or heard in diplomatic despatches, or at magnificent banquets; and we venture to predict that amid the sumptuous preparations for the ball to be given to the Russian Admiral and his officers, at the Academy of Music, no portrait of Mouravieff or Butler will find a place. In intercourse between loving friends it is wise to slide gingerly over all disagreeable associations.'

We can readily fancy the embarrassment which must be felt by the speechifiers on both sides, from the fact of their being debarred by that relentless iron-handed pressure known as the 'force of circumstances,' from speaking of the very thing which is nearest their hearts respectively. To the Northern American mind the subduing of the 'rebellion,' and to the Russian mind the final and complete subjugation of Poland, are objects that put all others out of sight by comparison. Yet strange to tell, of all possible subjects of discourse these are the very things which must not be alluded to in the mutual interchange of half-hearted compliment which is now going on. Both Russians and Americans might almost be accused of a deliberate attempt to falsify Scripture, which tells us that 'out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.' But the *dictum* is not the less true for all that; for if the representatives of the two nations crushed down what was boiling up within them when in the official presence of each other, they make abundant amends, 'otherwise and elsewhere,' for a short period of privation and self-restraint.

THE MINISTER OF THE JUAREZ GOVERNMENT IN WASHINGTON.

The rather important circumstance of the present possession by the French of the capital and seaports of Mexico, has been slipped over without the least allusion thereto, alike by Senor Romero, the Minister of the Juarez Government at Washington, in the official announcement of his arrival there, and by President Lincoln in his reply. Another instance, this, of keeping the mouth shut on a subject of which the heart is full. The New York *Albion*, commenting upon the omission, says: 'Neither Minister nor President made the slightest allusion to the unfortunate army of occupation, or to the fact that President Juarez is rusticating *extra muros*! We look upon this as the great diplomatic joke of the season.'

Now, with all due respect for the judgment of our able and well-informed cotemporary, we must say that we do not see the matter in that light, not exclusively so, at all events. To be sure it looks a little like a joke, just now, perhaps; and the diplomatic pretence of not seeing what is before every one's eyes may well excite a quickly-passing smile. But certain rather grave considerations which force themselves immediately upon the mind, rather favor the belief that the supposed joke may turn out a very serious matter after all. It is nothing less than extremely improbable that the Americans will quietly accept the French occupation of Mexico as a settled affair, not to be disputed or disturbed. The conquerors of Texas and of California are certainly not the men from whom we would be warranted in expecting such an example of quiet and peaceable resignation. The French are now in Mexico, sure enough; but might it not occur to some people to enquire whether they have in them enough of the quality of what we may call 'colonial adhesiveness' to make them stick there? For the merely military possession and holding of the country, without a colonial building up and taking root therein, would be but a profitless, and exhausting business; and would be seriously interfered with by the very likely contingency of a great European war. No artificial system, or Imperial decree, of the 'patent prepared glue' sort, will be sufficient in the long run, if a certain natural aptitude be

wanting. Yet the deficiency of the French in this respect is one of the proved facts of experience. The teaching of history is for the most part oracular, admitting too often of various interpretations, like the ambiguous utterances of the ancient priestess of Apollo. But on the inaptitude of the French for colonization, what history does say is tolerably clear. They cannot compare with the Spaniards or the Portuguese, kindred 'Latin races' with themselves; leaving out of view the Northern nations, the British, Irish, Dutch and Scandinavian races. Nay, we may even go further, and say that the present people of old France do not seem in our time to be nearly as good colonists as Frenchmen were a century or two ago, in the days of Jacques Cartier, Father Hennepin and La Salle; of the minister Colbert, and the governors Vaudreuil and Beauharnois. It may possibly be the wisest course to suspend judgment yet for a while, on the recent great event of the conquest of Mexico by Field-Marshal Forey and his legions.

THE BRIGADE MAJORS OF THE MILITIA FORCE IN CANADA.

Believing that our people generally take a deep interest in military matters, and especially in everything relating to our own Provincial organization for the defence of our country in case of need, we have commenced a series of portraits and letter-press sketches of all the Brigade Majors recently appointed, both in Upper and Lower Canada. We begin this week, in the present number, with Brigade Major Henry V. Villers, of the Seventh Military District in Upper Canada, whose portrait appears on our first page. We take this opportunity of making known to the gentlemen themselves, that we shall be very grateful to them for the favour, if they will each of them, as soon as convenient, furnish us with his photograph, or portrait, with notes of such facts, dates, and other memoranda, as may be necessary for a proper letter-press sketch to accompany the same. The portraits and sketches will appear in future numbers; in about the order in which they come to hand. Following the patriotic popular taste of the time, we intend to give considerable prominence in our journal to what we may call Provincial military matters. And we trust that our efforts in this direction will be duly appreciated by all.

THE POPULATION OF CALEDONIA VILLAGE.—The Grand River *Sachem* takes us to task for an error in the letter-press description of Caledonia, in our number of the week before last. We stated the population at about 1000; the *Sachem* says it is 1300. We had for some time understood that the population was in the neighborhood of 1000; but besides, we put it down at that after enquiry of a well known citizen of the place, whom we supposed ought to have known. We cheerfully make the correction, however, and would have done so last week, but the *Sachem* not being sent to this office, we did not see it till the afternoon of Friday the 30th October; and then only by the chance of its having been handed us by a friend who had noticed the paragraph.

THE POCKET REGISTER OF TARGET PRACTICE, arranged by a member of the Victoria Rifle Club, Hamilton. Published by W. Brown and Co., James Street, and for sale at the bookstores. Price 25 cts.

Rifle practice being now at once a national duty and an established national pastime, many new wants connected therewith have been felt; and among the rest that of a properly arranged hand-book, for the record by each individual of his practice as a marksman. This want is met by the above named little manual, which includes all that is required; having 'The Range,' 'Points and Hits,' and 'Misses,' ruled off, and blanks for 'Points made,' &c.; also a summary of the 'rounds,' consisting of 'Bull's eyes,' 'Centres,' and 'Outers,' and if required, 'Misses.' We heartily recommend this concise and suitable little work to all who feel interested in the manly and patriotic accomplishment of handling with skill the freeman's own weapon: the rifle.

Question, by Joe Miller, junr. Is it true that the younger members of our Volunteer Rifle Force are great on 'Misses'?

IRON RAILWAY CARS.—The days of wooden freight cars appear to be numbered on the New York Central Railroad. For the past two years, iron freight cars have been built at Albany, for this road, thin plate iron being used for the purpose. Such cars are fully lighter than those made of wood, and are at the same time more roomy and stronger. They also possess greater durability, and are incombustible.

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