

## THE O'CONNELL CENTENNIAL.

With the view of contributing our mite to the celebration of the O'Connell Centennial, we publish in the present number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, a large portrait of the Liberator, pronounced by those best able to judge to be a life-like resemblance. We publish also an autograph letter written by him in 1833, to Colonel Connell James Baldwin, of York, now Toronto. This gentleman was a cousin of O'Connell. For the interesting relic we are indebted to the zealous courtesy of Mr. Connell J. Higgins, of Ottawa, a nephew of Colonel Baldwin, and a second cousin of the Liberator, through his mother who was a first cousin and ward of O'Connell. As will be seen from the letter, O'Connell took great interest in the affairs of this country and was a sincere friend of Canada in the Imperial Parliament. It is, therefore, from a Canadian point of view, if from no other, that his countrymen in the Dominion do well to unite, as they are doing, in celebrating his memory. While all our cities have distinguished themselves in this respect, it is only fair to say that Ottawa takes the lead and that this success is in great measure due to the active exertions of Mr. Connell J. Higgins. This union of all Irishmen we are glad to see because it was the great aim and purpose of all O'Connell's life. As the Ottawa Citizen eloquently expresses it: "If there was one principle dear to the heart of O'Connell; if there was one feature which stood out grandly throughout a prolonged career, it was his earnest heart's coming appeal to the people to be always united; he told them there lay their strength, their best and their only opportunity for accomplishing the advancement of their race. He warned and denigrated against using Ireland and the Irish for the mere purpose of compassing personal advancement, and warned his co-nationalists against being deluded by pretenders who stood by them in the hey-day of prosperity, but deserted so soon as gloom and depression shrouded their homesteads."

## THE MONTREAL PRESS.

Within the past few months a perceptible improvement has taken place in all the Montreal papers, morning and evening. Our papers cannot be so full of miscellaneous reading as they otherwise might be, because this is, before every thing else, a commercial city, and the immense advertising patronage must perforce find a place in the publisher's column, to the mutual advantage of advertiser and printer. The Montreal papers are fully alive to this commercial quality of their issues, and they all very properly devote a considerable space to trade, finance and shipping. Without such reports a Montreal daily would be lifeless. We are pleased to note, however, as a decided amelioration, that, in this department, conciseness, clearness and reliability are much more sought after than they were formerly. Commercial and financial news interest every one, and are sure to be read by every body, except babies, with profit, if presented without the hackneyed lingo of the "Street," and made intelligible to all. If politicians only knew it, there is more information to be derived from the commercial column of a newspaper, than from many a public speech, or a Parliamentary report.

In regard to material progress, we are pleased to see that it is perceptible in all the Montreal papers. The *Star* entered upon a new era with the introduction of the Prestonian Press, and now it has donned a new suit of type which not only gives it a beautiful appearance, but increases the reading matter so much that the wonder is it can supply so much reading for one cent. We learn that the *Witness* is also about to increase its press facilities so as to keep pace with its steadily augmenting circulation. It is not long since that it assumed a complete new dress, and the composition of the matter is as well done that the headed brevity always catches the eye. We know of no paper that has succeeded so well from the start as the *Star*. It was founded for a purpose and that purpose it has admirably fulfilled. The experience and ability of the editor steered him clear of breakers which so many believed would wreck his vessel in the initial stages of her voyage. We are glad to hear that the *Star* is about to be enlarged, and that a weekly edition will be issued—two improvements which the popularity of the paper justifies.

The *Herald* is about to be placed into the hands of a joint-stock company, but pending this change, which will give it a decided impulse in advance, it has increased its page to ten columns, thus making room for more advertisements and increasing the amount of reading. A feature in the *Herald*, of late, is its attractive mode of presenting telegraphic intelligence. The editorial columns have likewise been perceptibly fortified, and, altogether, this important journal is worthy of its position as organ of the government for Quebec. The new type which the *Gazette* adopted a few weeks ago makes it a very attractive paper, and the press work is uncommonly well done. The matter is likewise skillfully arranged, and generally maintained in the same relative positions, so that one can find at once what he looks for. This is a rare advantage for the hasty reader. The editorial department of the *Gazette* is maintained at its former high standard. Taking all things into consideration, Montreal has reason to be proud of the activity and enterprise of her press, while its habitual tone of moderation and gentlemanly discussion is a matter for special congratulation.

London  
11<sup>th</sup> April 1833

My dear Connell

I beg your particular attention to this letter. I send such attention as you know I would pay to a similar one from you. — It will be handed to you by Mr. Edward Lacey — + + + + +

I allude in this letter only to one word of politics — It is to express my entire concurrence in your views of Canadian Politics — and to my entire conviction that Justice can not be expected by the Canadians until the Legislative Council is elected by the people instead of being nominated by the Crown. The House of Commons thus constituted should I think be selected once only for every twelve years. The House of Assembly was elected — In other words your Legislative Council should be elected for four — or six years — your House of Assembly — My — for two — or three —

Yours most sincerely  
Connell Baldwin & Co  
York  
11<sup>th</sup> April 1833