

MONTREAL LETTER.

The amateur regatta is a feature of Montreal life, of a certain class for two months in the year. It is growing in importance each season, as are the various summer resorts on St. Lawrence within business distance of the city at which they are held. The well-to-do citizen of Montreal has his country residence as well as his city residence, and he spends his evenings on the cool waters which flow past his door. He forgets for the moment that there are such things as stocks and bonds, and the shadows of a depressed wheat market fall not across the stream of restless light that stretches from his feet across to the opposite shore. Of course he is a member of the boating club, and the boating club has its regatta and all his friends come up from the city and from the neighboring resorts, clad in gay costumes, and prepared for a good time. The races are well-contested and exciting, for the contestants are the youth of the place whom everyone knows, and there is an interest taken in them which ordinary professionalism does not excite. The principal event at the regatta is the war-canoe race, in which take part the representative crews of each of the boating clubs, and the scene of six or eight large canoes, each propelled by fifteen paddles, coming down the course, the water foaming at the bows, is exciting, and we forgive the prim young ladies who, for the moment, have forgotten to be prim, for adding by their disjointed shrieks to the pandemonium which starts at the turning-post and ends with a grand burst only when the winning canoe has crossed the line. Among the pleasure resorts on the river are Vaudreuil, St. Ann's, Valois, Dorval, Point Claire, Lachine, St. Lambert, Longueuil, St. Rose and Point St. Charles. Each of these has its boating club and each in turn has its regatta. These are held on Saturdays and the trains convey thousands of people from the city to them. There is dancing in the evening in the club-house for those without domestic care and who can remain late.

The Colonial delegates came to this city and were made welcome. They spent a social evening with the leading citizens at the Windsor, and over the walnuts and the wine they spoke broadly of the objects of the conference recently held in Ottawa, but said nothing that would disclose the conclusions they, as a body, had arrived at. Closer union between the colonies was the broad platform, and the Pacific cable and steamship lines were discussed as matters of detail necessary to strengthen the union so much desired. As far as the Pacific cable and Pacific steamships were concerned the Montreal citizen nodded his head in approval to all that was said in their favor, but all reference to the subsidizing of a fast line of steamers on the Atlantic was received with a steady stare that was significant. The business man of this city is very practical, very practical indeed, and he weighs such schemes as a practical man; weighing carefully the cost, maintenance, and probable profit. At present there is a vast difference in opinion and figures between the said business man and Mr. Huddart. Steamships are not new to Montreal.

Notwithstanding the recent attacks made against gaming, the laws relating to the same are habitually broken at Sohmer Park and other resorts under the very eyes of the police. And the gambling is not confined to the ordinary week days only, for on Sundays the roulette tables and paddle-wheels do a

rushing trade and many a man and youth leaves the place broken in pocket and broken in spirit. The gamblers claim to have a permit to run their machines for charitable purposes, but who gave the permit is a matter which has aroused the curiosity of the law-abiding citizen to no little extent. The Chief of Police shrugs his shoulders when asked about it and gives evasive answers. In charity's name the gambling is carried on, but the gambler pockets nearly all the proceeds. The City Council has taken up the matter and perhaps in time the individual that lives upon the bottom dollar of his fellow-man will be suppressed sufficiently so that the noise of his machine will not be heard in the public streets and gardens.

It was suggested at a meeting of the City Council recently that the Chinese laundries be taxed each one hundred dollars a year for the water that is used in the business. John Chinaman decidedly objects to this mode of increasing the revenue and he considers the tax an imposition which he will not stand. He has no objection to paying according to the water meter and for what he gets, but one hundred dollars is out of all proportion, he considers, and would cause the closing up of eighty per cent. of the Chinese laundries in the city. The Chinese Colony, which is of very fair proportions in this city, will fight, by law, the proposed tax to the last court if necessary, and each laundryman has promised to subscribe fifteen or twenty dollars to a general fund for that purpose. That means a good round sum for some lawyer.

The question of the appointment of a new judge for the Superior Court of this Province is one which is exciting considerable interest in legal and political circles. The Government has not yet shown its hand and who will secure the appointment is a matter much in the air. A petition was presented to the Government quite recently signed by a number of members of the Bar, asking that the position be given to Mr. Simeon Beaudin, Q.C. This brought up the always vexed question of the proportion that should exist between English and French speaking judges, and the majority of the English-speaking members of the Bar holding that an English judge should be appointed are naturally opposed to Mr. Beaudin's nomination. Strenuous efforts are being made to secure the appointment of an Englishman and the following names have been freely mentioned: Hon. Mr. Hall, Mr. Carter, Mr. Morris, Mr. Busteed, Mr. Atwater and Mr. Cooke. There is also a movement on foot to secure the appointment of an English-speaking gentleman who has in his career taken little or no interest in politics.

The steamer "Spartan" brought down to Montreal recently a party of about eighty members of the Michigan Press Association and their wives and sweethearts. They were taken around at the expense of the city, and all the best points of the city were shown to them and our back door streets carefully avoided. The mountain top was visited, and besides the magnificent view of which Montrealers are justly proud, there was an excellent lunch provided there and a jolly good time was spent. Afterwards the journalists and their wives and sweethearts visited the Ancient Capital.

Considerable interest was centred in the lacrosse match between the Torontos and Shamrocks last Saturday. The Torontos played well, but the Shamrocks played better and won the match. The latter team

have now a good hold on the championship, having played all the teams in the league and not once met defeat.

A. J. F.

AN HOUR'S REPRIEVE.

We sat beneath the maple trees
One lovely night in June,
And listened to the soft, sweet strains
Of a well-remembered tune;
Its dreamy melody recalled
The half-forgotten past
Ere we had learned how bitterly
Our horoscope was cast.

The fireflies drifted round the trees
Like streams of wandering light,
The willow's drowsy scent suffused
The tranquil summer night;
The sky was fair; the stars shone out
In glory overhead,
And we were happy in the past,—
The present pain was dead.

Another June night come and gone,
A winter's wrath might grieve,
Yet we were warm with gratitude
For that short hour's reprieve;
What, though we knew our fates might drift
Five thousand miles apart,
We learned that night our lives would beat
In singleness of heart.

A. MELBOURNE THOMPSON.

AN HISTORIC PARALLEL.*—II.

(Translated by permission.)

Frederick Temple Hamilton Blackwood, Earl Dufferin and Baron Clandeboye came of a most noble and ancient family of Scotch extraction. We find one of his ancestors at the court of Mary Stuart. He was born at Florence the 21st June, 1826. In 1841, he inherited the title and estates of his father, Captain Price Blackwood, who had been raised to the peerage. His mother was of the illustrious line of the Sheridans. She appears to have transmitted to her son the literary gifts and ready eloquence which mark this distinguished family. Having gone through Eton, young Blackwood graduated at the University of Oxford. One of his first cares was to apply himself to the affairs of Ireland, which country he visited in 1847, while this unfortunate country was a prey to the horrors of famine. On his return he published the result of his observations and suggested reforms. At the age of twenty-two he was appointed Chamberlain to the Queen, and fulfilled these high functions almost uninterruptedly until 1858.

It was about this period that he explored in his yacht, the *Foam*,—from time to time, as he tells us, in tow of the French frigate the *Reine Hortense*, carrying Prince Napoleon,—the Geysers of Iceland and Spitzbergen. His work, *Letters from High Latitudes*, contains the account of his voyage. This book made a sensation in the literary and scientific world. It supplied much useful data in an attractive form. Hardly had he returned from the ice of the North Pole when he "left for regions where the sun scorches" charged with an important political mission. In 1860 he was sent as High Commissioner to enquire into the massacre of Christians in Syria. The results of his mission were such as to gain for him the honour of being made a Knight of the Order of the Bath.

Lord Dufferin had succeeded in establishing cordial relations between the Chris-

* An Historic Parallel between Count de la Galissonniere (1747-9) and Earl Dufferin (1872-8). A paper read before the Royal Society, 7th May, 1889, by J. M. Le Moine, F.R.C.S., first President of the French section.