

# THE FAVORITE

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JAN. 26, 1878.

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## GONE TO REST.

With the exception of Charles Dickens there is probably no modern author whose works have been as extensively read, and are as well known, as Edward Lytton Bulwer, and one of the most prominent landmarks in literature has been removed by his death in London on 18th inst. Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer Lytton, was the youngest son of Gen Bulwer, of Heydon Hall, Norfolk, and was born in May 1805. He graduated at Cambridge, B. A., in 1826 and entered Parliament in the liberal interest as member for St Ives in 1831. From his earliest youth Bulwer evinced a strong literary taste, and made his first appearance in print at the early age of fifteen, publishing a short story entitled "Ismael," an Oriental tale. In 1825 he carried off the Chancellor's medal at Cambridge by his English poem on "Sculpture," which was afterwards published. 1827 may be taken as the commencement of his career as a novelist; in that year appeared "O'Neil, or the Rebel," a tale in verse, "Falkland," and "Pelham." The latter work was not well received at first, but finally won its way to fame and made the reputation of its author. His other works appeared in rapid succession (in the order named below) and Bulwer's "Novels" soon became well known wherever the English language was spoken. In 1833 he succeeded Campbell as editor of the *New Monthly Magazine*, and in 1841, in connection with Sir D. Brewster, and Dr Lardner, founded *The Monthly Chronicle*, a scientific and political magazine which had a short but brilliant career. In 1843 on the death of his mother he succeeded to the valuable estates of Knebworth, &c., and in compliance with her will changed his name to Lytton, by royal licence. In 1838 he was created a Baronet, and in 1866 was raised to the peerage as Lord Lytton. He held office in 1858, under Lord Derby's administration, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, and it was during his tenure of office that British Columbia, and Queensland were added to the British Empire. As a writer Bulwer was distinguished for his clearness and purity, and for the depth and interest of his plots, while not what now-a-days would be called "sensational" in his style, he diffused sufficient spirit into his novels to make them interesting and enjoyable, and long after the present generation has passed away his novels will be read with pleasure and interest. In 1835 Bulwer first appeared as a dramatist, with a five act play entitled "Valliere," the piece was not successful, and one ill-natured critic went so far as to say that the author had not only written a bad play, but that he was totally incompetent to write a good one; it is said that when Bulwer read the critique he vowed he would write another play which no one could object to, how well he kept his vow was shown in 1838 when

he produced "The Lady of Lyons," Macready playing *Claude Melnotte*; the success of that play is beyond question and it retains its popularity to the present day. The following is, we think, a complete list of Bulwer's most important works with the date of their production:

- 1820. Ismael. An Oriental tale.
- 1825. Sculpture. Prize poem.
- 1827. O'Neil, or the Rebel. Tale in verse.
- 1827. Falkland. A love story.
- 1827. Pelham. A novel.
- 1828. The Disowned. "
- 1828. Deveroux. "
- 1830. Paul Clifford. "
- 1831. The Siamese Twins. A Satirical poem.
- 1831. Milton. Poem.
- 1832. Eugene Aram. A novel.
- 1833. Godolphin. "
- 1835. The Student. A collection of sketches which had appeared in the *New Monthly Magazine*.
- 1835. Pilgrims of the Rhine. A novel.
- 1835. The last days of Pompeii. One of the finest classical novels ever written.
- 1835. Rienzi; or the last of the Roman Tribunes. A novel.
- 1836. Leila. "
- 1836. Calderon, the Courtier. A novel.
- 1836. Valliere. 5 act drama.
- 1836. Athens; its rise and fall. A history which only reached its second volume, and was, for some unknown reason, suspended.
- 1837. Ernest Maltravers. A novel.
- 1837. Alice, or the Mysteries. "
- 1838. The Lady of Lyons. 5 act drama.
- 1839. Richelieu. "
- 1839. The Sea Captain. "
- 1840. Money. "
- 1841. Night and Morning. A novel.
- 1842. Zanoni. "
- 1843. The last of the Barons. "
- 1845. The new Timon. Satirical poem.
- 1847. Lucretia. A novel.
- 1848. Harold; the last of the Saxon Kings. A novel.
- 1849. My Novel. A novel.
- 1849. The Caxtons. "
- 1851. Not so bad as we seem. 5 act drama.
- 1858. What will he do with it? A novel.
- 1862. A Strange Story. "
- 1868. The Rightful Heir. 5 act drama.

Besides the above he has written a large number of political squibs, essays, &c., which have appeared in various magazines, and some in pamphlet form, as his celebrated "Letter to John Bull, Esq.," which appeared in 1851. A short while ago it was rumored that he was engaged on a new novel, and it is possible that some posthumous works may ere long make their appearance.

## HOW MANY TIMES?

General Grant having been re-elected to fill the Presidential chair of the neighboring Republic for the next four years, and he having shown very decided proclivities for being President or nothing, the question, "how many times one man can be elected President of the United States?" is becoming a grave one with our friends across the border. The answer is very simple: just as often as any one man can obtain the popular vote, or *plébiscite*, just so often is he the Chief Magistrate of the United States, as the Constitution states. How this "*plébiscite*" business can be managed, was shown very clearly immediately before the outbreak of the late Franco-Prussian war, when 7,000,000 Frenchmen were supposed to vote for the Empire, and within the next six months the genuine expression of popular feeling had declared the Empire a failure. There is but little doubt that Gen Grant's re-election was partly owing to the same causes which influenced the late Imperial *plébiscite*—bribery and corruption—and it is very possible that the same means

may be employed, by an unscrupulous man, to insure his retention in office for life. If our neighbors really wish that no man should retain the Presidential chair for more than eight years, it would be well for them to add an amendment to the Constitution, declaring that no man can be legally elected as President more than twice.

## WHAT IS A NEWSPAPER?

We copy the following very sensible remarks from our English contemporary, *The Queen*, on a curious decision of an English Postmaster; and the remarks apply very pertinently to some incongruities of the law regarding newspapers now extant in Canada.

The question of what constitutes "news" is one which is raised in consideration of a curious note recently issued by Mr. John Tilley, of the Post Office. The proprietors of an old-established journal in the West of England transmitted the usual fee for the registration of their newspaper for transmission abroad, and duly received an acknowledgment. But appended to this document there was a remarkable postscript, in which Mr. Tilley commented on a paragraph of the Post Office Act of 1870, which sets forth that a newspaper shall "consist wholly or in great part of news." This declaration Mr. Tilley interprets as follows: "By this it is to be understood that a little more than half the contents of a newspaper must consist of news." Upon what principle he makes this interpretation it is hard to say; but no one who has had anything to do with ascertaining the meaning of official declarations will be surprised at any arbitrariness of construction which official interpreters may think it well to promulgate. Having stated that the phrase "wholly or in great part" is to be taken as meaning "a little more than half," Mr. Tilley next proceeds to make practical application to the case of the newspaper in question. He remarks that the copy of the paper sent him "contains nearly a page more of advertisements and matter not coming under the head of 'news' than of 'news' proper."

We all know that people read very different parts of the newspaper, according to what may seem new to them. To many the whole paper is a blank, except the columns which give the police reports. Others having looked at the City article, care for nothing else. Many feel that they have ascertained all that they care for when they have read the Court Circular and the "Births, Marriages, and Deaths." Some, who have no time to form opinions of their own, industriously copy the "leaders," while to all who want to hear of new books, amusements, servants, situations, and the supplies of the thousand-and-one wants which our daily life feels, the advertisement columns contain the most important "news" of all.

We should be glad to learn what Mr. Tilley means by "news proper." In such publications as the *Saturday Review*, the *Speciator*, and the *Athenaeum*, the news really is in the advertisements; and, if advertisement columns are not to be counted as news, are these journals no longer to be treated as newspapers? The *Illustrated London News*, the *Graphic*, and many weekly journals are certainly not read for the newness of their contents; and, although we endeavour that our own columns shall contain as little as possible of ancient tidings, we certainly do not expect to attain to the freshness of a daily newspaper. Nevertheless, we cannot conceive the designation under which weekly journals are to be classed if they are not newspapers; and we long for definite enlightenment.

But the sting of Mr. Tilley's remarks was contained in a request that the proprietor of the journal which called forth his comments and advertisements should see his way to arranging in future that his journal should come under Mr. Tilley's description of "a little more than half the contents must consist of news." This must be done in one of two ways—either the advertisements must be reduced, or the other matter increased, either of which proceedings might be unprofitable.

It is rather a ludicrous idea, that of proprietors of newspapers being lectured by officials of the Post-Office as to what they may, and what they may not do in the development of their special trade. Perhaps hints thought suitable for country journals may be deemed unwise to be addressed to influential London papers, several of which, like the *Times*, have not unfrequently many more advertisements than "news proper." What warning will Mr. Tilley give to these? and what punishment will he think it necessary to inflict on those refractory people who do not heed his admonitory notice?

In the town of Sterling, Ill., they have resorted to a novel expedient to restrain rum-selling. They have passed an ordinance restraining any keeper of a drinking-shop from painting or staining his windows, or from using for them a screen, or from doing anything which shall prevent passers-by from looking in, and thus seeing plainly who is indulging in liquid refreshments. Whoever wishes to guzzle will be compelled to do so under the full stare of all who please to look at him. We fear that the consequence will be that uppers in Sterling will soon be lost to all sense of shame, and quite willing to take their quenchers even in the presence of the entire population of the United States.

## HEAVY SNOW FALLS.

The following record of the snow fall in New York for the past eighteen years, taken from the New York *Tribune*, will doubtless prove interesting to many of our readers.

The following is a record of snows of a depth greater than six inches, for the past 18 years, taken from the tables of Prof. Morris, meteorological observer of the city for the Smithsonian Institution. The depths are given in inches:

1854, Dec. 27	9	1864, Dec. 10	8
1855, Jan. 26	7	1865, Dec. 30	6
1855, Feb. 9	14	1866, Feb. 9	3
1856, Jan. 2 and 3	5	1867, Jan. 16 and 17	12
1857, None.		1867, Jan. 20	6
1858, Feb. 19 and 20	6	1867, Feb. 20 and 21	23
1859, Jan. 3 and 4	10	1867, March 16 and 17	13
1859, Feb. 6	14	1867, Dec. 11 and 12	12
1860, Feb. 15	8	1868, March	12
1860, Feb. 18	12	1868, Dec. 4 and 5	8
1861, None.		1869, Dec. 6	3
1862, Jan. 6	7	1870, None.	
1863, None.		1870, Jan. 20	8
1864, Jan. 7 and 8	8	1872, Dec. 26 and 27	18

From the above it will be seen that during the period 1854-72 there have been only 24 cases in which snow fell in this city to the depth of six inches or more. During the years 1867, 1861, 1868 and 1870 there was no storm, or which snow fell to the depth of six inches. The year 1867, it will be seen, is the one most remarkable for heavy falls of snow, no less than five occurring during that year. The facts are at least curious, and a discussion of the subject would not be profitable.

## PASSING EVENTS.

It is estimated that 15,000 buffaloes are killed yearly on the plains of Kansas.

A CITIZEN of Augusta, Maine, has publicly announced that he will prosecute any one who sells him liquor.

JOHN CHASE, of Lynn, Mass., has worked at shoemaking on the same bench for the last sixty-nine years.

On one of the coldest days of this severe season three young converts were baptized in a pond in Charlton, La.

A FUNERAL party at Table Mount, Iowa, found the grave-digger frozen to death at the bottom of the grave he had been digging for the corpse.

THE system of gradual emancipation adopted by Spain has already relieved 50,000 slaves in Cuba, and that law is being faithfully carried out.

THE Japanese ambassadors now in England, say they will establish a brewery in Japan when they return, or off will come somebody's head.

Mr. Swinburne has contributed to the *Fortnightly Review* a poem of upwards of two hundred lines "Memorial Verses on the death of Théophile Gautier."

THE Turkish Government has brought a suit against the London *Times* for publishing communications alleged to have been signed by the Turkish Minister in London, containing untrue statements in reference to the finances of the Government of Turkey.

A NOVELTY in journalism is promised in England. "The Good Templars" propose to issue a comic temperance newspaper weekly, which shall use the weapons of satire and ridicule against the custom of drinking and the vice which accompanies it. It isn't a very good idea. The subject is too serious for fun.

THERE is a man in Waukesha, Wis., who always celebrates a rather remarkable anniversary. Thirteen years ago he was buried in a well, where he remained for seven hours, when he was dug out alive. He now never fails to observe the day of his deliverance in a festive manner; and all persons who are buried for seven hours and then dug out ought to follow his example.

BABIES are undoubtedly a nice thing in our homes; but may not a fond mother have rather too much of one? There is a matron in Harrisonville, N. H., whose cherub, Billy Fisher by name, weighed 100 pounds when he was only one year old, and a nice little plaything he must have been for a weakish woman to dandle. William is now five years old, and weighs 180 pounds; is three feet seven inches in height, measures 41 inches in girth, and 23 inches around the thigh.

An interesting case, bearing on the rights and immunities of reporters, has just been decided in Chicago. Three reporters of city papers were in a gambling house when it was entered by the police, and were taken into custody with others. In defence they claimed that they were not there as gamblers or as ordinary spectators, but in the discharge of their duties. They had heard of the intentions of the police, and wanted to describe the descent from actual observation. On the other hand one of the officers swore that he saw one of the reporters handling some of the "clips" used in gambling. This statement was contradicted by several witnesses. The justice before whom the case was tried held that reporters were valuable public servants, to whom certain privileges and immunities were granted by common consent. They were allowed to go where no one else was admitted. In his opinion, neither the spirit nor the letter of the law had been violated by the accused, and he therefore ordered their unconditional discharge.