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1st. To all those who have paid up to the 31st December last, or as soon thereafter as their subscriptions could reach us.

2nd. To all new subscribers who pay their subscriptions in advance.

As many persons who receive the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS through News-dealers, apply to us for Chromos, although they are not on our books, and wishing to enable them to get the Chromo through the same channel as they receive the paper, we are prepared to furnish the Chromo to News-dealers on the same conditions as to our regular subscribers, allowing them, of course, a commission.

Our object being to gather in all our standing accounts, our friends need not wait till they are called upon by our collectors for payment, but will oblige by sending in the respective amounts directly, when they will be at once served with the Chromo, by return mail or otherwise.

NOTICE.

We call the attention of our subscribers to the fact that we are now removing our offices and works from their present stand to our large and commodious premises on Bleury street, near Craig. Due provision has been made to prevent any interruption in the regular publication of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS during the interval of this change, but as some unforeseen accident to the machinery may possibly occur, we wish our friends would take notice of the circumstance and excuse any little delay that may happen. In any event, the delay will not extend beyond a day or two.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

Montreal Saturday, Feb. 5th, 1876.

THE AGENT GENERALSHIP.

Canada has ceased to have an Agent-General. Mr. EDWARD JENKINS, M.P., has resigned; and Mr. F. J. DORE, an officer of the Department of Agriculture, has been sent to take charge of the Canadian Office, in London, not as Agent-General, but simply as a Canadian Immigration Agent. This change has come suddenly as a clap of thunder from a clear sky. But it will scarcely take those by surprise who have watched with closeness the course of public affairs. It has been clear to everybody that the London office has been a very expensive luxury. Mr. JENKINS was not an ambassador and he had no ministerial powers. He could not have, in fact, in the relations of the Dominion to the mother country. And for the simple purpose of superintending emigration, what was wanted was a simple business man, of the style of the late Mr. DIXON. The Government appears to have recognized this fact in abolishing the Agent-Generalship, and sending home Mr. DORE, in the capacity of a Canadian Immigration Agent. He appears to be a good selection. He served a number of years, under Mr. BUCHANAN, the late Chief Emigration Agent, at Quebec, and has been since in the Immigration Branch at the Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa. He has,

therefore, had great experience; and we understand he is a man of good ability and education. We believe this appointment will be generally accepted with approval by the country, and by the press of all shades of opinion. The abolition of the Agent-Generalship reflects credit on the energy of Mr. LETELLIER, the Minister of Agriculture, and removes a weakness on the eve of the meeting of Parliament. The rumour that has been circulated by the Dundee Advertiser, apparently on the authority of Mr. JENKINS himself, that Quebec or Ultramontane influences have had to do with the abolition of his office, is, we understand, without any foundation. It is, at the least, very unlikely; and certainly, nobody ever heard of such a thing in Canada. Mr. JENKINS' office was got rid of to save a lavish expenditure, and to secure a more direct control over the manner of spending money. We doubt also if Mr. JENKINS himself was found to be a fit man for the position he held; and this will come out, if we mistake not, when all the facts appear.

MISTAKES IN TEACHING.

With regard to the subject of mistakes in teaching, Principal HICKS, of the McGill Normal School, has recently stated that, as great injury was frequently done through want of experience on the part of the teacher, the importance of careful preparation of the work was evident. One of the most serious mistakes for any person in life was to place oneself in a position for which one was not fitted by nature; this mistake was not rarely committed by people who adopted the teacher's profession. The teacher should possess—first, a love of children, and secondly, a decided liking for a teacher's occupation, and, thus fortified, he had some chance of battling successfully with the trials well known to all. No one should become a teacher until he had carefully counted the cost, and one of the most common mistakes made was to look for immediate results in the work of education. He himself had committed the error when he took charge of his first school, which was in a very disorganized condition. The teacher, further, should not be of the kind who considered teaching as an unpleasant task. Another, and a very serious mistake, consisted in the giving of special attention to a few scholars, because they exhibited that peculiar aptitude which a teacher was always pleased to find amongst the scholars placed under his care. Another, and a frequent mistake lay in the giving of too much attention to the teaching of a subject for which the teacher might have a liking, and to which he might have devoted a large amount of his own time, because he felt pleasure in so doing. Many young instructors undervalued the subjects of primary importance because they were elementary, and they imagined that they were promoting the benefit of their pupils when they taught something of which they had heard as an advanced branch of knowledge, without considering its fitness for the young. One would choose mathematics; another, a scientific enquiry of another nature, &c., while others hit upon grammatical construction, a hobby which they rode to death. Teachers often neglected the great truth, that all children were not alike in natural capacity, though every person, ordinarily speaking, must be aware of this fact. In this connection also came the habit, because a teacher was well acquainted with his subject, of going into the class room without preparation; this was a very fatal as well as a common error; preparation for every lesson was essentially necessary. Instruction was again, at times, given in such a way as to leave no chance for individual exertion, so far as pupils were concerned. He was well aware of the advantages of education as received from the present mode of teaching as compared with the dead system which prevailed in all schools years ago; the evils were sufficiently obvious and first, the

weakening of the system, removing from the young the opportunities of ascertaining to what extent they might be able to rely upon their own exertions in pursuing their education in future life; and another, the increase of a teacher's labour, as he would become so accustomed to constant repetition and explanation that he imagined nothing could be done without his assistance.

SEWERS AND DRINKING WATER.

ALDERMAN McLAREN speaks of the necessity, if the Montreal sewers are to be flushed—and we really cannot see any "if" in the case, for it is simply absurd to grudge expenditure for that public health which is at the root of all economies and permanent advancement—the necessity, if the Montreal sewers are to be flushed, of raising the water for the purpose by steam power. Now we all know there is a water-head of 40 feet above the Lachine Rapids which would answer this purpose for the larger part of the city. Montreal might indeed use her proposed "lateral cut" for the purpose of flushing, arching it over of course—for, in a few years, it will cease to convey drinking water through increase of towns and traffic on the banks of the Ottawa River—the very cause for which the St. Lawrence stream had to be rejected. Quebec city takes its drinking water from the hills to the north at Lake St. Charles—the City of Glasgow from the beautiful and pellucid Loch Katrine—New York from the Croton Lakes. The London (Eng.) drinking water is certainly brought from low levels—chiefly from the quiet streams of the Upper Thames and Lea, but that is only because they have not yet discovered a better place, situated as London is at great distances from any Upland Lakes. None are altogether satisfied with the quality of the London drinking water, although as many of the impurities as possible are filtered out through gravel and other detergent substances in reservoirs formed for the sole purpose. Filtering will take away many of the mechanical impurities, but not the chemical ones, or those which are in solution—and they are often quite as serious as the others. As to flushing for Montreal, even the new Lachine Canal works might be partially utilized for this purpose, as they will be for the supply of power to the factories. It is only for the upper levels that steam power would ever be required. For making lime water a reservoir would have to be set apart. These questions will in time no doubt have the benefit of the experience of Engineers and the mature consideration of the public. Till they are settled the mortality will continue great.

GAS IN HOUSES.

In recalling the circumstances of the recent escape of illuminating gas in Quebec which affected three adjacent dwellings and had such calamitous results, we would desire to express our deep sympathy with those who suffered so sad a bereavement by the terrible event.

The Coroner's jury gave minute attention to the separate liabilities of the Gas Company and the Corporation, but where the evidence broke down was in defining the means by which the fluid entered the houses. It is much to be regretted that this point was not made clear by examination of the foundations of the buildings. At first, almost all looked upon the drains as the medium for conveying the subtle and destructive fluid into the interior. But it appears the main gas pipe, which broke, was much nearer the houses than the sewers, while there was no evidence at any rate of the disrepair of the latter. But there is another theory which could be submitted for the consideration of our experts, and that is, whether, as Canadian houses are most frequently constructed, there would not be outside and around all main and service pipes used for conveying the gas we use for lighting, a clear channel from the operation of the weather, and from imperfections of construction quite sufficient to convey into a

dwelling almost any quantity of escaping gas. This question is very important; for as we all live in houses we are interested in the way they are constructed. The shrinkage of the soil from variations of temperature would quite possibly create such a channel around the main pipes, and when we come to the service pipes within the building and passing through the foundation wall, we know well, as things are, how little pains are taken to make the structure or partitions solid and impervious. In fact most houses are hollow and fluted shells! That such was the cause in the case under review is made additionally probable by the fact that, some time after the accident was discovered, a cupboard in one of the upper flats of the house was, on being opened, found to be full of the gas.

The houses were built with stone foundations on the solid rock, and security might at least have been obtained at the point of entrance. The world of material construction has in such details still to come under the control of the right moral and social influences, culminating as they should do in civic inspection.

A sad calamity has occurred in Quebec by which a highly respected aged lady has been suddenly taken away, while several other citizens have escaped as by a miracle. It arose from the bursting of a three-inch gas main—the atmosphere of three houses being thus permeated with carburetted hydrogen while the inmates were asleep upon their beds. A most intelligent jury has been empanelled at this present writing, but in anticipation of the verdict which we are sure will only be arrived at after the most faithful enquiry, we do not fear to say that the presumption is that the gas made its way into the houses through the drains, immediately upon the bursting of the pipe, and that the internal communications with those drains could not have been properly trapped. The civilization we are so much in the habit of boasting is injuring life in many departments and by multiplied arrangements. We have a habit of rejoicing in conveniences while we think little about life. Every now and then comes a shock of some such magnitude as the present appalling catastrophe—which we certainly know how deeply to deplore whether it sets us thinking or not. McLAREN'S new system of ventilation of drains, by the close proximity of its starting point to the sink traps of the basement of the dwelling, would in this very case, in all probability, have obviated the frightful calamity.

The telegraph informs us, whether rightly or not we cannot say, that the Government at Ottawa, being annoyed by the numerous applications from ladies for extra clerkships, have determined to rescind the new rule. We trust, for their knightly sakes, our rulers will persevere in their kind intentions, and will find a public notice of the state of their labour market a sufficient hint to the fair applicants.

REVIEW.

BRET HARTE'S "Gabriel Conroy," in the February number of SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY, has an episode entitled "The Bulls of the Blessed Trinity," which is a remarkable and characteristic bit of description. Edward Everett Hale's story of "Philip Nolan's Friends" contains a curious account of a conversion by pantomime between white men and Indians. There are two articles in this number which may come under the head of discovery. One of them is concerning an important bust of Milton, very little known in England or America; and the other is an unpublished letter from Robert E. Lee to Jefferson Davis, written after the battle of Gettysburgh, and resigning the command of the Confederate forces. Charles Bernard has a paper fully describing the way of working of the Philadelphia "Building and Loan Associations," by means of which, it is stated, one hundred thousand homes have been built in that city. Clarence Cook continues his illustrated papers on house-furnishing and decoration; and Moses Coit Tyler writes about The University of Michigan, giving an account of the woman experiment there. The Revolutionary Letters this