

THE TESTAMENT OF PETER THE GREAT.

We hope that we shall be mistaken, but present indications are ominous of a war in Europe, provoked by Russia, before the year is out. There is a mystery and a dash of fatalism in Muscovite policy which render it particularly interesting, and the reader will be more fully impressed therewith on reading the analysis which we here present of the Testament of Peter the Great. This remarkable document is important in itself, whether apocryphal or not, but from a work by the late Mgr. GAUME it would appear that its authenticity is beyond dispute. It was found among the papers of the famous Chevalier EON DE BEAUMONT, who was the diplomatic agent of LOUIS XV. at the Court of Empress CATHERINE, and thence transferred to the archives of the French Foreign Office. Our space will allow only of a summary of this testament, but nothing essential is omitted:

- I. Keep the Russian nation in a continual state of war, and have no respite except for the occasional adjustment of the exchequer.
 - II. Draw from the best cultivated states of Europe their officers during war and their scholars during peace, in order to gather benefit from every source.
 - III. Take part in every European complication, especially with Germany, which is nearest and most interested.
 - IV. Divide Poland by every possible means.
 - V. Slice off Sweden, and isolate Denmark therefrom.
 - VI. Choose wives for Russian princes among the German Princesses, in order to multiply family alliances.
 - VII. Seek the commercial alliance of England above all others.
 - VIII. Stretch continually northward along the Baltic, and southward, along the Black Sea.
 - IX. Approach as near as possible to Constantinople and the Indies. The Power that reigns over these will be the real sovereign of the world. Once there, all the gold of England would avail nothing.
 - X. Keep up the alliance with Austria.
 - XI. Engage Austria to chase the Turk from Europe, and offset her jealousy at the conquest of Constantinople by giving her a portion of the conquest, which you will take back again later.
 - XII. Gather around you all Greek schismatics in Hungary, Poland and elsewhere, and through them establish a kind of sacerdotal supremacy.
- It needs no running commentary to show how this programme has been almost literally attempted and partially carried out, and how many of the clauses of the Will are being enforced even at the present time. It will be more interesting to append the views of Napoleon on this subject, as his extraordinary genius was best able to penetrate into the designs of the great PETER. In 1817, the captive of St. Helena said to Dr. O'MEARA: "Within not very many years, Russia will seize Constantinople, the greater part of Turkey and all of Greece. This is as certain as if the thing were already done." * * * In the natural order of things, Turkey must fall into the hands of Russia; a large portion of her population is Greek, and it may be said that Greeks are Russians. Austria can be appeased by giving her Servia, or other neighbouring provinces extending toward Constantinople. If ever England can make a solid alliance with France, it will be to prevent the execution of such a project. But Russia and Austria can always accomplish it even against France, England and Prussia combined. Once mistress of Constantinople, Russia has the commerce of the Mediterranean. Of all the Powers, Russia is the most formidable, especially to England. Her soldiers are braver than the Austrians, and she can raise as many as she likes. In a hundred years hence, Europe, and

especially England, will regret that my plan of baulking Russia did not succeed. When Europe will be invaded, and becomes the prey of barbarians, people will say: "NAPOLEON WAS RIGHT!"

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

On Jan. 8th the grave and reverend Senators elected to serve in the Fourth Legislature of the Province of Ontario, assembled for the purpose of commencing their annual review of the laws of the aforesaid much-begoverned country.

The appearance of the Legislators is certainly of a kind to strike the looker-on with awe and delight.

At three o'clock a quantity of gunpowder was exploded and the dread person of majesty, as represented by the Lieutenant-Governor, entered the Chamber. He was attired in a gorgeous costume proper for the occasion. He sat down on the Speaker's chair, which for the nonce answered the purpose of a throne, and tried to look as comfortable and as much at ease as it was possible for him under the circumstances. This was rather a difficult matter, as for some unexplained reason there was a hitch in the proceedings of the gorgeous ceremonial and an awkward pause ensued.

The Lieutenant-Governor "sot," as Artemus would say, in his chair, and the ticking of the clock was audible in the apartment, and we almost felt inclined to cry out even in that august presence "Speech!" At last, the official spokesman of the Government, the Provincial Secretary, arose and informed those present, to the effect (of course, much to their surprise) that His Honor did not see fit to give them the privilege of hearing the beautiful speech until they had elected a Speaker to preside over their deliberations. The Governor then arose from his chair and retired towards the door, apparently much pleased at being relieved from his trying position.

When the glory that surrounded the Queen's representative had faded out of the Chamber, the Clerk of the Legislature took his seat at the table, and the Attorney-General arose in his place and addressed himself to him.

Dwellers in your city may not have had the advantage of hearing our Premier. Yesterday he nominated Mr. Clark, or, as he sometimes called him, Col. Clark, for the lofty position of Speaker, and explained his reasons.

The late first Commoner, casting rather a longing glance towards the seat he had long occupied, seconded the nomination, and Mr. Meredith, the leader of the little band that calls itself Her Majesty's Opposition, then arose and administered some taffy to the proposed Speaker, saying what a nice fellow he was and all that sort of thing. The motion was put to the House and declared carried unanimously, and the new Speaker was conducted to his chair.

A greater crowd than that which had gathered thus on the previous day assembled in the Chamber on the 9th to hear His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor give his reasons why he had called the Legislative Assembly together for the despatch of business. Whether people were puzzled to know what those reasons might be and were anxious to ascertain what evil would have befallen the Province if the House had not met, I cannot say, but whatever causes may have operated in bringing the throng together, the fact remained that there it was crowding the apartment to excess.

Many ladies were present, amongst whom were the daughters of the Lieutenant-Governor attired in pale pink silk dresses, making their last appearance at the opening of the House as "Royalty," since ere it assembles again they will be relegated to their former position of private citizenesses—*Sic transit gloria mundi*.

The daughters of the local Premier were also present, arrayed in very tasteful and becoming costumes.

It would have added very greatly to the gaiety of the scene if more of the ladies had worn evening dresses, but the fact is that the greater number had on their walking dresses, never took off their cloaks and did not remove their hats, so that the Chamber presented a rather sombre appearance.

At three o'clock (Royalty is always punctual), the crashing of the guns was heard which proclaimed that His Honor had left his official residence and was proceeding in state to deliver himself of his speech. He was surrounded on all sides by a troop of the Governor-General's body guard resplendent in tin helmets, lest perchance (I suppose) Nihilist, Communist or socialist might attempt to subvert the British Constitution by doing injury to the august representative of the Queen.

The Lieutenant-Governor entered the House, whereupon every person present aglow with loyalty arose to their feet.

The newly elected Speaker who was enveloped in his official robes and bore in his hand his three cornered hat, then came forward and read the self disparaging speech always made by freshly fledged Speakers, informing His Honor how he had been chosen by the Assembly to preside over its deliberations although he was so little qualified for the duties of his high office, and demanding from him the privilege for the members of the House of freedom of speech in the House, and the inestimable advantage of access to his sacred person at all times. Instead of the Governor replying himself the Provincial Secretary in a solemn little set speech, gave the

Lieutenant-Governor's assent to the requests of the Speaker.

The A. D. C. in waiting then handed to His Honor the speech which the latter proceeded to read.

The matter contained in the speech was of such a nature as ought to have convinced any person who was open to conviction, of the fact that local Houses and local Governments are utterly useless and worse than useless, as not only do they not serve any good purpose, but the expense attendant upon them is rapidly sapping the resources of the country.

It has only been a few years ago, since the whole system of Common Law and Equity Practise was reorganized by the Administration of Justice Act, and now when the profession and public have just become familiar with the provisions and things are beginning to work smoothly, the Government propose to bring in another Bill to fuse the Courts of Law and Equity.

The operation of the Supreme Judicature Court Act in England has not been so satisfactory, nor has it been so long in operation as to warrant the Province of Ontario in adopting a similar measure for many a year to come.

Another measure reopened is the extension of the jurisdiction of Division Courts. Division Courts in this Province have been bad enough in all conscience whilst having jurisdiction over only small debts, and the proposal to extend their power is calculated to strike a severe blow at the proper administration of justice.

The Premier admits that County Judges are on the whole unfavourable to the proposed extension, as not being in the public interests, but, nevertheless, he is determined to push it through.

Another measure altogether unnecessary is an Act for the distribution of the estates of debtors, which is to be passed upon the supposition that the Dominion Parliament will repeal the Insolvent Act without substituting anything in its place, a theory which is extremely problematical.

The only other matter of any importance touched upon in the Speech is the question of parliament buildings, which appears to me a piece of useless extravagance, as in all probability in a very few years, when the eyes of the people of Canada are fully opened to the iniquities and extravagance of our present system of innumerable governments, the abolition of the local houses will be demanded and obtained, and the proposed parliament buildings be left tenanted, unless, indeed, the dream of Torontonians be realized (a thing which you Montrealers would strongly object to), that Toronto should ultimately become the capital of the Dominion.

The Speech, like everything else in the world, good, bad or indifferent, at length came to an end, and the Governor having passed through the dread ordeal, handed the official document to his A. D. C., and rising up and bowing to the assemblage, left the Chamber accompanied by his suite. The crowd then gradually melted away, until the members only were left in possession of the floor of the apartment. The Speaker then took the chair, and after passing a few formal motions the House adjourned.

M. Poujoulat, renowned French polemist and historian, aged 70.

AN HISTORICAL PICTURE.—With the permission of the Colonel of the Regiment a number of the Rorke's Drift men, survivors of the defence, have been told off to wait upon Miss Thompson at Portsmouth, where she is now hard at work. In the garden of a friend's house earthworks, or rather sacks containing earth, to look as nearly as possible like mealie bags, have been set up, making a miniature Rorke's Drift. Here the gallant defenders fight their battle over again, and are sketched in as they stand. All the principal figures will be portraits, and we shall have not only a picture of a battle, but the counterfeit presentment of many of the heroes who took part in it. A ludicrous incident, which might have terminated tragically, occurred to Mrs. Butler's (Miss Thompson) host. *Faute de mieux*, he had volunteered to represent a Zulu at close quarters. One of the soldiers who had marked this Zulu for his own, and brought him down at Rorke's Drift, was to rehearse the scene and fire a blank cartridge at the enemy. The preliminaries being arranged and the "Zulu" in position, the soldier began to load, when, half in jest and half in apprehension, the Zulu insisted upon having the cartridge examined. This was done, and it was found that in the excitement of the moment the man was loading with ball cartridge!

SONNET.

'Tis sweet to think that for our losses dire
There cometh ever some exceeding gain,
And after fate, with strong-avenging ire,
Has to us brought new agonies of pain,
There will be brighter visions: we shall reign
Triumphant, throned over sullen days,
And in our van life's lofty glory-fire
Will blaze unwearied, flame eternal praise.
Love doth not fall, but to be well restored.
First baffled, he is sheltered from his craze,
And on the later years shall hail him lord;
Those grander-rolling emphases of time
Move forward, all controlled, with one accord,
And crown him with their harmony sublime.
Montreal. C. W. R.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.—We direct attention to the advertisement of the *Canadian Illustrated News*, together with other publications of the Burland Lithographic Company, of Montreal. The *Illustrated News* is well worthy the patronage of every Canadian, and we trust that it may find a large circle of readers in this locality. The subscription price is \$1 per annum; but by a special arrangement with the publishers we can furnish it jointly with the *Examiner* for \$1.50 per annum. Send along the names and the cash.—*Examiner*, Mount Forest.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.—The *Canadian Illustrated News*, the only paper of the kind published in the Dominion, has commenced its 21st volume. The *News* has worked its way up to the front rank of pictorial papers, and is a very creditable journal to this or any country. We are glad to know that the efforts of the proprietors are being appreciated and the circulation of the *Canadian Illustrated* is increasing.—*Gleaner*, Chatham.

In another column will be found the advertisement of the *Canadian Illustrated News*. It is now in existence over ten years, and as it is the only paper of the kind in the Dominion, it ought to be encouraged.—*Free Press*, Port Elgin.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.—The Christmas and New Year's numbers of this excellent home serial are really admirable in illustration and in letter-press. They are full of appropriate and reasonable literature, while the engravings are far superior to any that we have had yet. The last issue, dated January 3rd, is particularly noteworthy. It begins the new volume—the 21st, very spiritedly, and the general reader will find a great deal of pleasure in looking through it. A new story is commenced, and there is no better time than the present for subscribers to begin taking in the *Illustrated News*—the national pictorial newspaper of the Dominion.—*Chronicle*, Quebec.

FASHION NOTES.

AMONG new hats for street wear is the toque, which is worn not only as a bonnet but as a hat, according as it is with or without strings.

PLUSH is a favorite material this winter, both for bonnets and for jackets, vests and the trimmings and facings of both silk and cashmere costumes.

LIGHT furs should only be worn by blondes, and the fur borders to seal cloaks and jackets should be of short fleece if the wearers are inclined to embonpoint.

AN overdress all in one piece, termed the habit redingote, is fast growing in favor. This is really a polonaise made long in the back and gracefully draped.

DAINTY bonnets for dolls, in all the new materials and in the latest Parisian fashions, are shown at Dougherty's; miniature copies of the bonnets of the day.

HUMOROUS.

BABIES will enjoy 366 holler days this year.

"WHAT do you do when you have a cold?" "Cough," was the sententious reply.

AN Irishman says he can see no earthly reason why women should not be allowed to become medical men.

THE tramp is so good that he not only obeys the commandment not to work on the Sabbath day, but doesn't work on the other six either.

A BROADWAY engraver recently made this mistake: "Mr. and Mrs. respectfully request your presents at the marriage of their daughter."

A CLERGYMAN, in speaking to one of his parishioners who was so given to argument that it was difficult to converse with him on any subject, said, "Brother—is so argumentative that he will dispute with a guidepost about the distance to the next town, and argue with a tombstone as to the truth of its epitaph."

OBITUARY.

W. A. HINSWORTH, Clerk of the Executive Council of Canada, aged 60. We shall publish a portrait and memoir of Mr. Hinsworth in our next number.

Professor McKERRAS, of Queen's University, Kingston, Ont. He was born in Nairn, Scotland, in 1832, and came to Canada at a very early age. He entered Queen's University in 1847, and took his degree of B.A. in 1850, and M.A. in 1852. At the age of twenty-one he was ordained, and was sent to Bowmanville, where he remained till he was appointed Professor of Classics in Queen's University, in 1854, on the resignation of Professor Weir. The Professor was for several years Clerk of the late Synod of the Presbyterian Church in connection with the Church of Scotland, and, after the union of the two branches of the Presbyterian Church, he was appointed one of the Clerks of the General Assembly, in which capacity he was a model of accuracy. He was one of the best ecclesiastical lawyers in the Presbyterian Church. He did not often speak in Church courts, but few men spoke with greater point and clearness. The success of the endowment fund of Queen's College is largely due to his exertions. It was while attending and lecturing through the country on its behalf that he contracted the cold which led to his death. In private life, Prof. McKerras was a man of singular geniality. The Presbyterian Church has lost, in him, one of her most able useful ministers, and Queen's University an accomplished Professor; and there is probably no man in the ranks of the University more heartily loved by his brethren than was Professor McKerras. The Professor's mother, who is ninety-three old, is lying at the point of death at Kingston, and, it is feared, will not be long in following her much-beloved son.

Miss LILLIE LONSDALE, actress and writer, at Hamilton, Ont., aged 34. We hope to be able to publish her portrait in a future issue.

Count BACHASSON de MONTALIVET, life Senator, formerly Minister of the Interior under Louis Philippe, aged 78 years. He leaves very important and interesting memoirs.

Edward WILLIAM COKE, painter, Royal Academician, and Fellow of the Royal Society, aged 60 years.