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NOTICE.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 18th March, 1876.

THE SESSION.

The great political event of the week has been the division in the House of Commons on the Protection amendment proposed by Mr. THOMAS WORKMAN. It was so worded as to constitute a vote of want of confidence, and especially so, being moved in amendment to the motion to go into Committee of Supply. Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD supported the amendment. He made a speech in its favour; and rallied the Conservative vote. But the result showed the very great strength of the Ministry; the vote being yeas, 72; nays, 132,—majority for the Ministry 60. It is said the ministerial majority would have been less, if protection of agriculture had also been included in the motion. But this Mr. WORKMAN refused to insert, although he was pressed to do so by Sir JOHN. He determined to have the issue square and simple on the question of manufactures; and it is well to have had a vote on this issue unmixed with any other consideration. Ten of the ordinary Ministerialists voted against the Government on this occasion; and two of the ordinary Opposition voted with the Ministry. The question is not, however, finally decided this session by this vote.

Mr. MILLS' Depression Committee, so it is called, has really been doing some valuable work in that it has elicited important information on that most difficult of subjects—the sugar duties. It has established that the tariff, as it stands, does discriminate against the Canadian Refiners, and the present system of the United States drawbacks actually operates for American Refiners as a protection in our markets. Hard white sugar has, therefore, ceased to be refined in Canada. And our people have been cheated with inferior and actually deleterious importations. This state of things is a shameful and crying evil; and it is to be hoped that the session will not close without providing a remedy.

The Public Accounts Committee has been busy. It has brought to light some of the acts of the late Agent-General, which have led to debates very disagreeable to the Ministry. It is certain they did not throw overboard that Jonah any too soon—especially in the present temper of Parliament.

The Session bids fair to be much longer than supposed. The Estimates have scarcely made any progress; and it seems from the temper of the Opposition that they will be debated at every step.

A considerable number of Bills have been introduced, and motions discussed; but not any of importance beyond those we have alluded to. The proceedings during the week have been on the whole decorous and good natured. But the Opposition, and especially Dr. TUPPER, the second in command, under Sir JOHN, and the first in energy and freedom of speech, seem to

have commenced a policy of worrying the Ministry. This is after all natural. They are weak in numbers in the House and the life of this Parliament is beginning to draw to a close. Their business, therefore, is to do the Government all the hurt they can before the country; and this is what we almost always see in such circumstances.

THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN.

An amusing theological controversy has just been judiciously settled in England, and as it relates to no less interesting a subject than our common enemy, Satan, it deserves to be known beyond the immediate sphere in which it was originally carried on. The main facts are briefly these:—Mr. HENRY JENKINS is a parishioner of Mr. COOK, vicar of Christ Church, Clifton. He was a devout and worthy member of the Church of England. He is deeply interested in the study of theology. He has published two books, one entitled "Prayers for a Week," and the other "Selections from the Old and New Testament." It does not appear that they excited very much attention; and perhaps they would have slept in obscurity but for the accidental prominence which they got from a theological correspondence between their author and Mr. COOK. The latter happened to preach a sermon on the eternity of future punishment. Next day he received a letter from his theological parishioner, protesting against the "irreligious tendency" of his discourse; and thus began a lively theological controversy, in which the layman criticised the teaching of his spiritual guide with marked freedom of expression. In one letter Mr. JENKINS avowed that he had omitted from his volume of "selections" parts of Scripture which were in his opinion "in their present generally received sense quite incompatible with religion or decency." Mr. JENKINS also corresponded with the bishop of the diocese, and intimated still more clearly his incredulity respecting the devil. This was the chief rock of offence. Mr. JENKINS does not accept the popular notion as to the personality of Satan, and carefully omitted from his "selections" all passages which appear to postulate the personal existence of the Evil One. The effect of the controversy was that Mr. JENKINS received notice that if he presented himself at the Communion Table the rite would be refused to him; but he disregarded the warning, took his place along with the rest of the congregation, and was actually refused the rite. The case was taken before the Dean of Arches who decided against Mr. JENKINS on every point. The latter then appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council and triumphed. The opinion of the Dean of Arches was completely reversed. Mr. COOK was admonished henceforth not to refuse the Sacrament to Mr. JENKINS, and he was condemned to pay all the costs. As a contemporary says, "it is now the law of the land that a member of the Church of England may in certain circumstances avow his disbelief in the personal existence of Satan without forfeiting his rights as a member."

OFFICIAL REFORM.

We had an article, last week, on Official Corruption, referring to the stupendous scandal in the War Department at Washington. It is a healthy sign that the whole American people have been deeply moved by these revelations and that a demand for reformation comes from all quarters. The Republican party leaders, with perhaps a little selfishness added to their patriotism, are already working to destroy the effect of these frauds on the prospects of their party, and the Union League of New York leads the way in a stirring spirit. It declares that in view of the recent and repeated exposures of corruption and fraud in the administration of public affairs, the welfare of the Republican party, as well as the country, demands a searching and thorough investigation of the condition and conduct of every branch of the public service, to the end that all

corrupt practices may be brought to light, and that all who have abused and betrayed their public trusts, whatever may be their station, may be exposed and punished. It demands that independent and disinterested Republicans shall be fairly represented in the selection of delegates about to be chosen to the National Convention, charged with the great duty of naming the candidates of the party for President and Vice-President of the United States. It insists that the representation of the State of New York in that Convention be submitted to a delegation wholly unpacked, and unless this can be conceded it will refuse to be bound by its action. It desires promptly and explicitly to avow its conviction that the success of the Republican party is not possible unless the candidate of the Republican party be a man who is not only identified with its great principles, and possesses a proud appreciation of its past services, but is also a man who has had no connection direct or indirect with the abuses which have brought reproach on the fair name of the country and party, or has any suspicious association with those who have been guilty of these abuses, and whose name and career shall be in themselves a guarantee of a complete renovation of public service, a thorough purging of official abuses, and an administration of the Government upon principles of honesty, economy, intelligence, and public trust. In its judgment the country at this time demands a President who shall be deservedly recognized as a Reformer as well as a Republican.

THE NEW FRENCH ASSEMBLY.

The newly-elected Legislative bodies met at Versailles on the 8th for the first time. The town presented a more crowded and brilliant aspect than ever during the last Assembly. The Chamber of Deputies, headed by M. RASPAIL, and the Senators by M. GAULTHER DE RUMILLY, as Senior Presidents, proceeded to the Hercules Saloon in the Palace, where the Duke d'AUDIFFRET-PASQUIER occupied the post of honor, surrounded by the Bureau of the old Assembly, Messrs. DUBAURE, LEON SAY, WALLON, and CHALLAUX. The Duke said: "Welcome, new and freely-elected representatives of the public power. Universal suffrage has sanctioned the Constitution of the 25th of February, which is the work of conciliation and appeasement, thus acquiring a double authority. You have to continue to protect your predecessors' task and rally around President MacMahon to insure the order, peace and repose necessary for the country to repair the disasters of the past and support the burdens of the future."

M. GAULTHER DE RUMILLY replied: "The guardians of the Constitution will insure peace and security, and support the Constitutional President."

M. DUBAURE then said that President MACMAHON had charged him to declare that, with the aid of God and with the co-operation of the Chambers, he would govern conformably to the laws, and endeavor to promote the honor and interests of the country. The Duke d'AUDIFFRET-PASQUIER then formally transferred his powers, and the Chambers commenced their regular sittings. M. RASPAIL and M. GAULTHER DE RUMILLY delivered short and moderate inaugural addresses. The Chamber of Deputies provisionally elected M. GREY, President, he receiving 414 votes against 20, and M. RAMEAU, Vice-President. The French Ministry has been definitely constituted as follows:—M. DUBAURE, Vice-President of the Council, and Minister of Justice; M. RICARD, Minister of the Interior; M. WASHINGTON, Minister of Public Instruction and Worship; M. CHRISTOPHE, Minister of Public Works; M. TESSERANCE DE BART, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce; Admiral FOURICHON, Minister of Marine; M. LEON SAY, Minister of Finance; General DE CISEY, Minister of War; Duc DE CAZES, Minister of Foreign Affairs. All the members of the new Cabinet belong to the Left Centre.

THE FOUR-WHEELED SKATE.

Among the curious developments of the civilization of the hour in professional and well-instructed Europe must be noticed the four-wheeled skate. The men who originated it must have been profoundly ignorant of mechanical truth. The skate forms a model on a small scale of the Canadian waggon, a vehicle which, with its acknowledged merits for rapid travel in a direct line, is the most difficult of any to turn. No wheeled vehicle, however, can make rapid turns, and all are dependent upon traction. The fair skaters who are constantly falling and breaking their limbs in this new recreation should not be characterized as "old women." The fault is in the vehicle. In making a turn on the skating surface, the body being thrown on the incline, finds itself resting on the two outer supports of the skate, and thus instead of the centre of the foot being supported in the movement, the entire weight is thrown upon its edge, causing the frame to totter. If, to avoid this, there is an instinctive attempt to keep the skate level with the surface on which it moves, the ankle is dangerously twisted, while the equilibrium is equally imperilled. Good artificial ice for real skating was introduced some time since in London. We know not why the plan should have been abandoned.

GIROFLÉ GIROFLA.

About the coolest thing we have ever witnessed in our theatrical experience took place at the Academy of Music last week. It was the performance of Lecocq's Giroflé-Girofla by the ordinary company. The management thought probably that because they had one lyric artist in their midst—Miss Clara Fisher—they could venture upon the audacious task. But they forgot that *un bon non in primavera*—and that as one flower does not make a spring-tide, so one singer cannot make an opera. And yet the announcement was made with great confidence. The most beautiful scenery and stage-effects were prepared, the most costly costumes were obtained, the most attractive bills were posted and the people were told in large letters that this would be the first production of the opera, although it had been sung twice in another place, the week before. We own to have been possessed of an acute curiosity to view the performance. Our mind was easy about the title-role which we knew was safely entrusted to Miss Fisher, but we were on pins to see and hear the Marasquin and the Mourzouk. We saw and heard both. In fact, we sat out the whole opera, and to say that we were not amused would be a yelling of the truth, because we were intensely amused. It was a delightfully new sensation to see a performance lasting from eight o'clock till eleven, to hear an opera which, of all others, sparkles and bubbles over with melody from beginning to end, rendered by only one person who could sing. Never was the good-nature of the Montreal people so well displayed. They applauded whenever they could, and showed a kindly feeling throughout. In New York, Boston or Chicago, we know that the audience would have exhibited their impatience in a palpable manner. The press of the city was likewise indulgent to a degree, when, if the critics had written as they felt, there would perhaps not have been a second representation. These facts should be remembered by the management when they sometimes feel disposed to complain of both the press and the people. Surely when so great an outlay was made for costumes and other appointments, and so much valuable time was expended in rehearsal, there might have been efforts made to procure a basso and a tenor, or instead of the latter, a second soprano, to personate Marasquin, as the author intended. It would have paid to get professional artists for these two roles. With them and the excellent Miss Fisher, together with the really fine acting and all the magnificent accompaniments, the opera could have been made the most brilliant financial success of the season. It could have "run" for a fortnight or three weeks uninterruptedly. We make these remarks in good part, and as the exponent of the popular feeling heard on every side. There has been so much judgment displayed hitherto in the management of the Academy, that we really regret the present mistake, and trust that it will serve as a salutary lesson.

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The current number of the above has an excellent full page cartoon, entitled "Refused Protection." The scene is laid in Dominion Police Station No. 1, Ottawa, and shows Chief Mackenzie reclining complacently in a chair, with his feet on his desk. In a cringing attitude the member for Montreal West stands, but in hand near the door, while Officer Cartwright, standing at a desk, says: "Here's a poor Workman, Chief, says as you told him to apply here for protection." The Chief replies: "I told him no such thing. Put him out! There'd be a fight afore morning" if that fellow was let among them Nova Scotia coal miners inside." Many a laugh will be caused by the engraving entitled "Come Along!"—a German matron pulling the skirts of her good man's coat while he stands entranced, gazing at a statue of the Goddess of Love. The humorous look of the old lady is excellent. There are several engravings of passing events, and the letter-press, original and selected, is unusual, both interesting and instructive.—Montreal Star.