

privacy of a domestic meeting, and also, because I had an appointment there for the next day, when a dinner was to be given to celebrate my recovery. I must therefore resign myself to wait till the morrow.

Foreseeing that the afternoon would drag on my hands, I cast about for something to do. Finally I bethought me of my promise to Toinette, which my illness had driven completely out of my mind, and I resolved to see M. Pauley.

On my way thither I met that gentleman on the street, not far from his residence. After the usual greetings, my first question was whether he had heard anything from Gaston. He looked at me with an expression of blank surprise, mingled, I fancied, with a little disdain.

"Why, my dear sir," said he, "I have not thought of the fellow once from the day of his sale to this. He played me a dirty trick; I sold him, and that is all about it. He may be dead by this time, for all I care."

These words produced a very disagreeable impression on me. From the lips of a pious man, an accredited friend of the clergy, I thought they sounded very strange. But nothing daunted, I proceeded to repeat to M. Pauley all that Toinette had told me concerning her lover. I insisted particularly on the fact that he knew nothing of the contents of the forged letter, and could therefore not be aware that it implicated his master. M. Pauley listened to me with great attention. In fact, I fancied that I had awakened an interest in him which his first words did not warrant me in expecting. When I had concluded my explanation he said:

"All very well, my young friend. I am convinced that Gaston did not pen that infamous letter, because he cannot write, and I can believe, too, that he did not know its contents, for the wary rascal who wrote it was too cunning to tell him and was besides sufficiently conscious of Venon influence over the poor fool to be sure that he would deliver the letter even without knowing what it contained. But all that is beside the question. My point is that Gaston was directly and even primarily implicated in the guilt."

"I think you are mistaken, sir," I said with some assurance.

"Well, how else could the writer, whoever he is, get at his knowledge of my penmanship? Some one must have pilfered scraps of my papers for the purpose. It could be no other than Gaston. He was my body servant."

This was a clincher certainly. It staggered me for a moment, but as I had come so far out of my way to plead Gaston's cause, I was not to be put out by it. I mildly suggested that in all probability, even if the boy had abstracted such paper or papers, he had no idea of what use they would be turned to.

"That makes no matter," said M. Pauley, with warmth. "The fellow proved himself unreliable; he went wrong once; he might have continued, under the same influences, to go wrong a dozen times. My duty then was to get rid of him, and I am glad I have done so. And, my young sir, the long account you have just given me, so far from impressing me in his favor, only confirms the wisdom of my act, because it gives me additional and reliable proof that Gaston was deep in the Venon secrets. For that alone he deserves to be sold ten times over."

"You would not then be willing to recall Gaston?" I asked.

"Recall Gaston? Ha! ha! No, sir."

"Nor aid any movement in his behalf?"

"What movement do you mean?"

"Well, let us say the raising of a fund to buy him back."

"Not a cent," answered the pious man.

After such an emphatic declaration, I thought the interview should have closed, but M. Pauley detained me to say that he had given himself no further concern about the whole matter, feeling sure that my youthful ardor would sift the mystery to the bottom. He was glad to see that he had not been mistaken in this. He therefore had reason to congratulate himself on not having worried about it. He disliked to be worried about anything at his time of life, not having too much leisure to attend to the affairs of his soul.

"And, of course," added he, "since you are disposed to be so lenient towards the principal culprit, it is not to be expected that I should proceed to further researches on the track of the forger himself. But let me give you this advice, young man. Don't meddle with negroes. Philanthropy is lost on them. They are a low, mean, disgusting set, quite beyond the ordinary means of redemption. You will not only lose your time and money on them, but you will get yourself into disgrace, be mixed up with their scandals and they will end by turning around on you with slander and even physical violence. Mind what I tell you."

I thanked the gentleman for his advice and left him.

VI.

THE NOISE OVERHEAD.

When I reached The Quarries, on the next day, Ory was waiting for me at the front door. She received me with her usual sweetness, inquired affectionately after my health, and assured me that she had been standing at her post of observation for upwards of an hour. I was not slow to observe, however, that she was struggling against a certain feeling of constraint, but what that was I had no time to determine, as she insisted on my going straightway to her father's study.

"Papa is anxiously expecting you," she said. I found the old gentleman seated in his arm-chair, apparently wrapt in thought. As soon as he saw me he arose quietly, took both my hands, which he pressed upon his heart and looked at me for a second or two with an intense expression of mingled sadness and love. He then told me how glad he was to see me well again; how pleased, too, that I had punctually responded to his invitation.

"Sit down, my son," said he, "and rest a little. After that I will show you through my garden."

The half hour which ensued was spent in commonplace talk. Being in unusually fine spirits myself, I contrived to amuse both Ory and M. Paladine, which was the easier, as they both seemed rather indisposed to converse, and courted the distraction which I was able to give them. Two or three times the name of the Mountain boat came upon my lips, and I was tempted to mention the arrival of young Paladine, such a topic being naturally of a character to enliven the conversation still more; but I refrained, expecting that both only awaited a favorable opportunity to introduce the subject themselves. That Ory did not advert to it at once on seeing me, I had already noticed as singular, but when at the end of the half hour, M. Paladine remained silent on that event, I concluded that there was something wrong about it. Perhaps that, after all, Djim was mistaken in his information. Bonair Paladine had not arrived. Or, if he had—who knows? perhaps he had not thought it expedient to put in an appearance at The Quarries.

While I was revolving all these contingencies in my mind, I heard a noise overhead, followed by a little exclamation from Ory who immediately left the room and ran upstairs. She returned a moment after and her father went forward to meet her. I also stood up near the window where I had been sitting.

"Is he rising?" whispered M. Paladine.

"Yes, and will dress at once for dinner," answered Ory in the same low voice.

"Ah! it is all right then."

Now approaching me, followed by his daughter, the old man said, in a much more cheerful manner:

"Carey, I must prepare you for a companion guest, at dinner to-day,—a person with whom you are not acquainted, and of whom you have never heard us speak, though he is very dear to us."

I smiled and said gently:

"I know."

"You know," exclaimed the old man. "How so? You didn't see him land, and he couldn't have been recognized by anybody else in his strange costume. Besides, he tells me he drove down here from the boat in a closed carriage."

I explained how I had come by my information.

"Oh! in that case," said the old man, "you couldn't help knowing it and I daresay that, while he was at it, Henry Marigny told you all about my poor Bonair. This will dispense me from saying more. Doubtless, too, it will explain why you did not refer to him since your arrival."

M. Paladine said this, not in a tone of reproach, but of sadness and resignation. I replied:

"My silence can be explained by your own, sir. It would have been improper for me to broach a topic which I might have expected to be mentioned first by yourself or Ory. Believe me besides, sir, that my cousin Henry told me nothing that could prevent me from wishing to meet M. Bonair Paladine. It is sufficient for me that he is your son and Ory's brother to be welcomed by me."

"Thanks for that, my noble boy," exclaimed the old man, laying his hand on my shoulder.

"It is just like you, Carey," said Ory in a whisper, placing her hand in mine, while the tears stood in her beautiful eyes.

"If I did not speak to you at once of my son's arrival," continued M. Paladine, "it was because I was not certain that he would join us at dinner, and the subject—a painful one to me, I must own—could then have been put off till later in the afternoon. He sat up, you see, to a very late hour last night, with his sister and me. That with the fatigues of his trip, tired him out, for he is not naturally strong, and we let him sleep as long as he liked this morning."

(To be continued.)

REVIEW AND CRITICISM.

THE CANADIAN CONVEYANCER and Handy Book of Property Law. Third edition. J. Roddams & Co., Law Stationers, Toronto. A useful and convenient selection of conveyancing precedents, well got up, carefully revised, and indispensable where the English law prevails. The introductory treatise on the law of property in Ontario is corrected to the present time by an English barrister of eminence at the Ontario Bar.

LOVELL'S INTERMEDIATE GEOGRAPHY, with maps and illustrations, being introductory to Lovell's Advanced Geography. Authorized by the Hon. Minister of Education, Ontario. Montreal: Published by John Lovell, and for sale by all booksellers. Price 63 cents.

This is the title page of a quarto geography which has just been issued by Mr. John Lovell, containing 104 pages, substantially bound, with beautifully coloured maps and many illustra-

tions. It is printed on very fine paper, and in a style of art which reflects credit on even Mr. Lovell's well-established name. Any shortcomings, which experience showed Mr. Lovell's previous geographies have had, have been carefully supplied in this, which is one of the most perfect intermediate school geographies which has yet appeared, and this is especially true with respect to the fullness and accuracy of the information relating to the Dominion of Canada, on which it is essential all Canadian boys and girls should be well grounded. We hope, therefore, this book will become of general use in our schools, and thus afford Mr. Lovell some reward for his labours of many years, and the untiring zeal which we know he has devoted to the perfecting of works of this class.

THE September number of *Belford's Canadian Monthly* contains a number of papers which are above the usual level of magazine literature. We are pleased at this, inasmuch as it betokens prosperity on the part of this periodical literature. While Canadians are attempting, with praiseworthy efforts, to provide for themselves in material things, it would be well if they rose still higher and endeavored to maintain something like a literature of their own. We cannot, of course, be self-sustaining and self-sufficient in this respect, but we can do much more than we have done. We ought at least to be able to maintain one monthly magazine and one weekly illustrated paper, such as the *News*. No lack of enterprise may be imputed to the publishers; it is the public that is at fault. Among the papers in the present number of the *Monthly* we may refer particularly to those on the "Ontario Elections," "Medical Manias," "A few words on Criticism." The short story entitled "The Fresh Water Cure," is also quite pleasant reading.

An interesting and highly useful pamphlet is "The Annual General Review of the Trade and Commerce of Canada," and a synopsis of the trade of Montreal for the year 1879, by Robert S. White, commercial editor of the *Gazette*. This work represents a great deal of labour, inasmuch as it is an analysis of the copious Blue Books issued by the Government, which are mines of information indeed, but requiring time and patience to get at. We have also a correct version of the tariff, while facts and figures are furnished in regard to our dairy, lumber, liquor, tea, sugar, coal, tobacco and cattle trades, and our fisheries and shipping. The review of the trade of Montreal is full and very accurately written, presenting an amount of information which it would be impossible to find elsewhere in so convenient a shape. We rise from the examination of this work with a feeling of confidence in the speedy return of financial and commercial prosperity.

THE Royal Colonial Institute deserves recognition and encouragement in the Dominion of Canada, its object being to provide a place of meeting for all gentlemen connected with the Colonies and British India, and others taking an interest in Colonial and Indian affairs; to establish a reading room and library, in which recent and authentic intelligence upon Colonial and Indian subjects may be constantly available, and a museum for the collection and exhibition of Colonial and Indian production; to facilitate interchange of experiences among persons representing all the dependencies of England; to afford opportunity for the reading of papers and for holding discussions upon Colonial and Indian subjects generally, and to undertake scientific, literary and statistical investigations in connection with the British Empire. The Institute is in the eleventh year of its existence, having been founded in 1858, and includes among its members many of the most brilliant and influential names throughout the Empire. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is the Honorary President for the ensuing year. Among Canadian residents in the list of Fellows we find the Marquis of Lorne, Sir Patrick McDougall, Hon. J. W. Allan, Sir Hugh Allan, Dickson Anderson, Lieut.-Gov. Archibald, F. A. Ball, J. G. Bourinot, E. C. Bowen, Fred. Broughton, A. H. Campbell, Chas. J. Campbell, A. P. Caron, J. R. Charnock, C. F. Cornwall, Henry Cornwall, Hon. A. Crookes, F. W. Cumberland, Lieut.-Col. Denison, Jas. Donville, Jos. Doutré, Judge Dunkin, J. D. Edgar, W. L. Forsyth, C. T. Gillmor, J. Graham, J. H. Grant, Col. Gzowski, R. G. Halliburton, D. W. Higgins, Prof. Hind, P. C. Hill, A. Hugel, L. S. Huntington, L. A. Jetté, M. T. Johnson, S. Kiefer, N. Kingsmill, J. S. Knovett, C. E. Levey, W. F. Lynn, W. McDougall, J. S. McMurray, Dr. Maenab, A. J. W. McNeily, H. S. Mason, S. Nordheimer, W. E. O'Brien, H. A. Paint, B. W. Pearce, E. W. Plunkett, T. Potts, E. A. Prentice, C. Robinson, H. O. St. George, D. A. Smith, J. E. Smith, R. Stephens, A. Thibaudau, J. Walker, J. Whitman, Sir William Young. The Institute publishes a yearly volume of proceedings, the tenth of which we have just received from the Honorary Secretary, Frank Perry, Esq., to whom we present an acknowledgments. We know of no work where better miscellaneous information can be derived about the Colonies. In these volumes have appeared such papers as "The Marine and Fisheries of Canada," E. J. G. Bourinot; "The Indians of British N. A.," by Prof. Daniel Wilson; "American Protection and Canadian Reciprocity," by Halliburton; "Canada and its Underdeveloped Interior," by Sandford Fleming; and "Canada, its Progress and Development," by Caldwell Ashworth. The present volume contains also a very valuable paper by the Hon.

Secretary on "England and her Colonies at the Paris Exhibition." We recommend the Royal Canadian Institute to the further notice of Canadians, with the suggestion that as many as possible might send specimens to its museum.

THE ONTARIO SCHOOL GRADE.

We all remember with pride the high rank which the Ontario school system took at the exhibitions of Philadelphia and Paris, full particulars of which were duly given in the *News* at the time. The latest tribute to the perfection of that system has just come to us from St. Louis, Missouri, the fourth largest city in the Union, where it is proposed to model the grading of coloured schools on the Ontario plan. We read that views of the enlarged capacity of a boy's mind under systematic training have been held by Dr. Newton Bateman, of Illinois, and other distinguished Western educators, as well as by Eastern educators. The experience of the old national school system of Dublin—after which many systems in the American States are patterned—favors high grading in early life, and it is a fact that in many of the best European universities students enter the academic departments as early as in their twelfth year.

In British Guiana the course of study is so arranged that the average pupil is prepared for the high school after completing his fifth year in the district school, and in Upper Canada after the fourth year's work.

Perhaps the course of study in the Province of Ontario furnishes the best comparative illustration, for by the system in vogue there the average pupil is prepared in four years for admission to the high school. An idea of the nature of the four years' work may be formed by examination of the following questions, which form part of those propounded to candidates for admission to the Ontario High School at a recent examination:

Grammar—(1) Give the masculine or feminine form, as the case may be, of hero, Sultana, Countess, executor; the plural of money, lily, folio, gas, brother, pea, cargo; the comparative and superlative degrees of far, ill, funny; the past tense and past participle of lead, sit, loose, pay, stay, shoe.

(2) Parse "On returning home last Friday evening, we found no small excitement in Uncle Tom's household, owing to our long continued absence."

(3) Correct the mistakes of the following sentences, giving your reasons (value 15 per cent): (a) The river has raised six inches this morning. (b) I expect we will have quite a few out tonight. (c) Of the two Henrys, that is the youngest. (d) Don't he know that I would like to have went with him? (e) I went and lay down to rest.

What is meant in grammar by "qualify," "proposition," "gender?"

Dictation—(a) Did you ever see any one pare an apple or a pear with a pair of scissors? (b) Cover the jar with a piece of frieze less its contents freeze before morning. I crossed the sea on the lee side of the wind.

Arithmetic—(1) Bought 19½ yards Irish linen at 5-4, 16½ yards calico at 3-4, and 16½ yards silk at 8-4; find the amount of the bill in dollars and cents.

(2) Add together ¼ of 5-6 of £2 5s. 3-7 of 3 guineas, and .27 of £1 18s. 6d. and reduce the result to the decimal of £25.

(3) A drover bought a number of cattle for \$4,375, and sold a certain number of them for \$43 a head for the total sum of \$8,655, gaining \$680. For how much per head must he sell the remainder so as to gain \$400 more?

Geography—(1) Name the principal rivers of Europe that flow into the Baltic, the North and the Mediterranean Seas, respectively; and say what countries or districts are drained by them.

(2) Name the mountain chains of Europe, and give their position; also, the countries of Asia, with their relative position and the capital of each.

The other questions are mainly—and very sensibly—of a local character, and to be answered correctly the pupil must have knowledge of the topography and characteristics of the country in which he lives.

These papers, it appears by the official reports of Canadian school officers, are given to pupils after they have finished the fourth grade in the public schools, and to pass the pupil is required to answer correctly at least 50 per cent. It would further appear that the course of study in Ontario has some desirable features which might, with advantage, be engrafted upon the St. Louis system. Dictation and composition too often neglected on this side—are given due prominence. Thus the pupils acquire habits of correct spelling and a readable style of composition.

These views from an American source are conclusive, and it is a long time since we experienced such pleasure in reading a tribute to our Canadian institutions.

The hardest thing in the world for a young woman to do is to look unconcerned the first time she comes out in a handsome engagement ring.

"Is it possible, Miss, that you do not know the names of some of your best friends?" inquired a gentleman of a lady. "Certainly," she replied; "I don't even know what my own will be a year hence."