



There is one newspaper which occupies a unique position among the successful results of Canadian journalistic enterprise. We mean THE GAZETTE, of Montreal, the eldest of the numerous fraternity in the Dominion. Established in 1778, indirectly through the visit of Benjamin Franklin to Montreal, and actually by a Philadelphia printer named Mesplets, THE GAZETTE is within a few months of completing its hundredth year. This distinction has been the lot of few newspapers in any part of the world, and of these few Canada has already had the honour of furnishing one. The Quebec Gazette, unhappily, did not long survive its centennial celebration, but it went to its rest after a life of duty, under various auspices, always well fulfilled: If firm foundation on the minds of a large and growing constituency, and able financial and editorial management supply any data for prophecy, we may be assured that a different destiny awaits the bi-centennial career of the subject of these remarks. For, never since the day of its birth in the lull after revolutionary storms, has THE GAZETTE been better administered, better supported and more increasingly influential than it is to-day. Before, however, we describe its present circumstances and "local habitation," it may be interesting to take a glimpse backward at its distant origin and to give a brief sketch of its long and varied career. As has been already intimated, the great typographer, Benjamin Franklin, was indirectly concerned in its foundation. With him, as one of a distinguished Deputation from the Congress of Philadelphia, came Mesplets, already mentioned, in the wake of Montgomery's army, in 1775. The Deputation failed in its object, which was to seduce the Canadians from their allegiance to the mother-land, and the brave, but misguided Montgomery lost his life in an attempt to surprise Quebec. *L'homme propose, mais Dieu dispose*, and the unintended outcome of Franklin's visit to Montreal was more in keeping with his character and more honorable to his fame than the result to which his efforts were directed. Canada remained loyal to the British crown, and Mesplets founded THE GAZETTE. It came about in this way: Dr. Franklin, than whom no one had a more exact appreciation of the value of the Press as an agent in the guidance of public opinion, brought with him to Canada the complete plant of a printing-office, and endeavored, by manifestoes and appeals, setting forth the blessings of annexation, to win over his hosts to the cause of American independence. In this work, Mesplets, being a practical printer, assumed the mechanical management. The experiment was a failure, but the newspaper "plant" was destined to bear other and better fruit. When the Deputation returned home, not laurel-crowned, Mesplets, the practical, remained in Montreal, and in a building, still visible, in what is known as "Custom

House Square," the future leader of Conservative opinions in this Province first saw the light. Visitors to the Caxton Exhibition, which took place in Montreal in June last, had an opportunity of examining the infant newspaper (an eight column weekly) and comparing it with its venerable representative of nearly a century later. It would be vain, within present limits, to attempt to describe its progress during the long interval of a most wonder-working age. Its history during that time, if it could be written, would be the history of Canada itself. To come to a comparatively recent period in its career, it may be said that it was a journal of no small influence, forty years ago. It passed successively through the hands of Robert Abraham, James Moir Ferres and Messrs. Lowe and Chamberlin, its political and general reputation increasing at each stage. All those who have been connected with it, editorially or otherwise, in times bounded by memory or trustworthy tradition, were men who made their mark. Some of the most accomplished writers and profound thinkers that Canada has produced, have contributed to its columns; and, as a factor in our political history, it has no superior in the Dominion. But never was its progress so rapid or its influence so extended, as in the period during which it has been under the control of the present proprietors, Messrs. T. & R. White. In 1870, these gentlemen, who had already won a high reputation as journalists, the one as editor and the other as business manager, entered into possession of THE GAZETTE. The paper was already the acknowledged and principal organ of the Conservative party in the Province of Quebec. But since then, its increase, in every respect, has been constant and manifold. The Messrs. White have spared no expense and no exertion to bring it up to a standard of excellence which should fear no comparison. And that they have succeeded the accompanying illustration is only one evidence. Testimony to the fact is found not only in the magnificent establishment in which THE GAZETTE is printed, and a most extensive job business is carried on, but in every city, town and village of the Dominion, where its expressed opinion is with many an authority on any question. Of Mr. Thomas White, the editor-in-chief, it is needless to say more than that he is equal to his reputation. As a Manager, Mr. Richard White has certainly no superior, and few, if any, equals in Canada. The staff is composed of just such co-workers as these gentlemen would naturally select, and some of them are well known in the world of letters.

The GAZETTE building (see accompanying illustration) is a well known object in Montreal, the reputation of the journal, the extent of the business, its central situation and towering height, making it conspicuous in the midst of much that attracts attention. It is 100 feet square. On the ground floor are two capacious press rooms, one, on the east side, for newspaper, and the other, on the west, for job work. The news press room is fitted up with a large 2-cylinder Taylor press and a fine 2-feeder Wharfedale press, one of Chambers' and one of Forsaith's folding machines; addressing and despatching machines, &c., &c. In the job press room are 6 large cylinder presses and 4 Gordons.

On the main flat, entered from St. Francois Xavier street, are the business offices, assistant editors' and reporters' rooms, the news composing room, the job composing room, &c. A separate room

is devoted to the ticket department, with presses specially adapted to all styles of railway ticket printing—the only machines of the kind in the Dominion. On the second flat are the chief editor's rooms, and an apartment in which wood-cutting is carried on—the latter being a new and important feature in the business.

This mere sketch, however, can give but a faint notion of the amount of various work that goes on from day to day, under careful supervision, in this extensive establishment. To fully appreciate the enterprise and energy of which it is the evidence, it would be necessary to accompany the manager himself through its several departments, and those who have had an opportunity of doing so can testify that their time has not been spent in vain.

**THE PRINTERS' MISCELLANY.**—The November number of this excellent monthly comes to hand full of interesting matter. Every printer in the Dominion should subscribe for the *Miscellany*. It is issued at the very low price of \$1 per year. Mr. Hugh Finlay, editor and proprietor, St. John, N. B.

THE CANADIAN SPECTATOR is the name of a new high class weekly, the first number of which appeared on the 5th instant. It is printed from old style type manufactured at our foundry, and presents a very handsome appearance. The *Spectator* is edited by the Rev. Alfred J. Bray.

We last week had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Wm. Walker, representative of the Napanee Paper Co. Mr. W. has just returned from the Lower Provinces, and reports business in the printing line looking up. Good.

The result of the Typographical Union troubles in Montreal has been the abolition of both Nos. 97 and 145, and the organization of No. 176. Mr. Thos. Alty, an esteemed member of the craft, is President.

#### NEW PROCESS FOR PRINTING MUSIC.

A new process for printing music has been invented by M. Alissoff, of St. Petersburg, who has obtained, by means of photo-lithography, a complete impression of pieces of music on stone, zinc, or wood. His process is shortly described as follows: He first has printed, in the ordinary way, on very fine ungunned paper, the various signs employed in music printing. This paper type—for this is what it is—is kept in cases in the same way as metal type. To compose, this type is gummed on to a plate of glass, the gum giving a certain necessary transparency. To aid in the composition, a copy of the piece of music, on paper ruled vertically and horizontally, is placed below the glass, and as the paper type is three or four times as large as ordinary type, the operation of composition is very easy. The composition completed, the ruled copy below the glass is withdrawn, and a photograph is taken, the size being regulated by the lens. The negative is then available for zinc, copper, or wood, and capable of multiplication indefinitely. Corrections of the proofs are made in the most easy manner possible, the operation being simply to ungun and replace the wrong character by another. The execution of a page of music after this process is said to surpass in appearance that of any of the ordinary methods. Moreover, the expense of metal is done away with, and, in addition, by means of this process, fancy titles, ornamented with vignettes, arabesques, &c., may be reproduced. We may close by mentioning that the Imperial Polytechnic Society of St. Petersburg has awarded a medal of honour to the inventor, in recognition of his ingenious invention.