

Mr. Abbott has resigned the solicitorship of the Canadian Pacific Railway to devote his whole time to the mayoralty. This is a capital answer to his opponents.

In the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, the United States lose a representative man. He was a strong individuality and his influence will live.

Father Beckx, the venerable General of the Jesuit order, died a few days ago, at the ripe age of 91. He held the office of General much longer than any of his predecessors.

The appointment of Sir Alexander Campbell to the Lieutenant Governorship of Ontario is officially confirmed. The nomination does honor to those who made it and to him who receives it.

Albani's father, M. Lajeunesse, after following his daughter for years, has now retired to live in Chambly, where his children were born. He has an only son who is a priest of the seminary of St Sulpice.

Mlle Arturi, Miss Arthur, a young Canadian lady, who has been studying in Europe, has just made a most successful appearance with the Toronto Philharmonic Society, in Dvorak's "Spectre Bride."

Rev. Lewis Drummond, son of the late Justice Drummond, of this city, recently lectured on the "French Element in the Canadian North-West," before the Manitoba Historical and Scientific Society.

The distinguished Father Labelle found settlements by building churches as centres and rallying points. He has eleven new bells for churches in Shipton, Archambault, Wauworth, Arundel, Pousouby, Amherst, Marchand, Lynch, Minerve Kamika and Preston, all in the Northern country, at the foot of the Laurentians.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

We have been asked to give some notes relating to the constitution and functions of the Sovereign Council, which took the place of the Government of the Hundred Associates, and imparted a new form to the administration of New France. The subject is the more interesting that the Quebec Government have lately published the proceedings of this Sovereign Council.

It was established in 1663, and included the following scheme:—A Sovereign or Supreme Council, consisting of the Governor, Bishop and Royal Intendant, with five Councillors—afterward increased to seven and then to ten—an attorney-general and a chief clerk.

The Governor, representing the King, had absolute control of the troops, was charged with the external relations of the Colony, and was the medium of communication with the Mother Country. The Bishop governed in all matters, spiritual and ecclesiastical.

The intendant had under his charge all affairs belonging to finance, police and justice. The councillors saw that the ordinance of the Supreme Council were duly executed and acted as judges in all petty causes.

The Supreme Council, as a body, had control over all affairs and persons in the colony, and were the highest tribunal and court of appeal, but the execution of their measures was left to the several minor functionaries. The Council disposed also of the revenues of the colony.

The king reserved to himself the privilege of levying taxes and imposts, and there was nothing in the provisions of the Council which enabled the people to exert any direct influence over its proceedings.

The manufacture of homespun goods

or *blottes du pays* may be traced to the same important date. Previously almost all kinds of manufactures were forbidden in the colony and the inhabitants had to depend for their clothing and other articles of domestic use exclusively on France. About this time Talon had several of the restrictions, relative to linen and fabrics of other materials, removed.

The famous old seigniors of Lower Canada took their rise also at about this period. The Carignan regiment, which came out with De Tracy, furnished the first owners of these, such as the Portneufs, Beaucours, St Ours, Sorels, Chamblys, Lavaltries, Repentignys, Contrecoeurs, Verchères and others.

Contemporaneously, too, a number of converted Iroquois immigrated to Canada and settled at La Prairie de la Madeleine, opposite Montreal. The land being too flat and swampy for the raising of maize, or Indian corn, they were subsequently transferred to Sault St Louis or Caughnawaga, where their descendants still survive, as the wards of the nation.

The feudal system was introduced in Canada at the same epoch. In regard to the tenure of and the administration of the law, the customs of France were maintained. The military officers and persons of good family received grants of land as seignories, and, under the title of censitaires, so diers and others were encouraged to settle on them.

Registers of births and marriages were kept in the colony as early as 1621, and were continued under the new system, with as much exactness and regularity. The result has been a series of records unsurpassed in our country, which enabled the Abbé Tanguay to produce that unique work: "The Genealogical Dictionary of Canadian Families."

The trouble in respect of the liquor traffic emanated about this time. After much wrangling among interested authorities, Bishop Lavau carried his point in a certain measure, orders coming from France that forbade the carrying of liquor to the woods or to the habitations of Indians.

OUR ENGRAVINGS.

FRONT PAGE.

The picture on the front page is a splendid work of art, and here reproduced as appropriate to the season. Whatever the birds may think, puss believes himself to be entitled to protection from the storm.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

This is a series of sketches illustrating the progress made on the great Inter-oceanic Canal at Panama, and each one of the sketches gives a special view of the operations.

THE EARTHQUAKE ON THE RIVIERA.

A terrible shock of earthquake was lately felt along the French and Italian Riviera. At Mentone, several persons were killed, and half of the houses will have to be rebuilt. The greatest loss of life, however occurred in the villages along the Italian Riviera. At Cerreto, near Diuro-Marino, 300 persons were reported killed by being buried in the ruins of falling buildings. Railway traffic was suspended beyond Savona. At Genoa the shock was very violent, and the Ducal Palace and many houses were seriously damaged. At Turin the churches suffered severely. In the neighborhood of Bordighera many houses fell, killing the inmates. The total number of persons killed is estimated at 2,000. The panic among the fashionable throngs at Cannes, Nice, Mentone and Monaco was extreme. Thousands fled to Paris and Italy, while those who remained established camps in the



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fields and on the heights. A battalion of infantry patrolled the streets, and sentinels paced up and down in front of the vilas and shops. All the cabs and omnibuses were turned into habitations and commanded fabulous prices.

BLARNEY CASTLE.

Blarney, "town of the loc tree," has triple attractions. There are the large tweed woollen mills belonging to a brother of Father Prout, which employ about 800 hands, and are models of deftness and dispatch. The bathing establishment and cure is perfect for well people who wish to enjoy good food and a sight of the Groves of Blarney at a comfortable distance—too near to make them a walk too far to stroll into them. Then there is Blarney Castle, with the stone especially meant for London cockneys and rubbishy persons of that kind. Cork people take pride in never having kissed the Blarney Stone, and spend much wit on the tourist who invariably attempts the exploit. As the stone is in the battlement, low down and three feet out, with the sheer descent, and from the tower unpleasantly obvious, and as one must lie flat over this space with little to cling to, then turn the head about to reach the stone with the lips, the feat needs agility and is, perhaps, impossible for those who are nervous. The Castle is very interesting as a bit of architecture. It was held by the McCarthy family from time immemorial. Donogh McCarthy, third Earl of Clancairy, owned it till the beginning of the last century. One can see pretty well how it grew from a square tower with immensely thick walls and dark, low-roofed rooms in two stories. A smaller and higher watch tower was added at one corner, carrying its own narrow, spiral stair for watchmen and servants. Then later came a more comfortable addition; the *bauen* or courtyard for cattle and horses was added lower down the hill, which was inhabited forty years ago. Ask a native who it was that destroyed a castle, and he will say the Danes or else Cromwell. These are the two distinctive agents that have left the deepest impression on the people. Blarney Castle may have been attacked while Cromwell was in Ireland, but not by him. Father Prout accepted the Cromwellian legend in his version of "O, Blarney Castle, My Darling:"

"Then the gates he burned down to
[a cinder,
And the roof he demolish'd likewise;
Of the rafters they flamed out like
[tinder,
And the building flared up to the
[skies;
And he gave the estate to the Jellers,
With the dairy, the cows, and the hay,
And they lived there in clover, like
[heifers,
As their ancestors do to this day."

Munster is not only full of interesting and often beautiful ruin; great names in history crop up in whatever direction one moves. Cork saw two kings of the McCarthy family in 1172 and 1567 and a pretender, Perken Warbeck in 1493. Sir Francis Drake escaped from the Spanish fleet up the Carrigaline River and Edmund Spenser was married in Cork and received Sir Sir Walter Raleigh at his castle of K. Colman, near Buttevant. All that remains of his house is a miniature feudal tower, the spiral stairs worn by many feet, and the window seats, lit by a slit of light between slabs of stone, to economize glass and keep out hostile bolts, testifying to Spenser's very moderate means. The wide unwooded plains before it are melancholy, but the ring of the purple mountains and the silence contribute to make the spot an ideal place in which to recall the man who made real poetry for England during his stay in Ireland:

"Under the foot of Mole, that mount,
[a fine bore,
Keeping my sheeps among the cooly
[shude
Of the green alders by the Mollies
[shore."

His descendants were not extinct at the beginning of this century, but were fallen in estate. Mallow, plain of the Alow, where famous fox hunts took place, has another ruin somewhat like Blarney Castle, but larger, which shows the fortified courtyard or *bauen* and the various parts of the building very well.

THE PRICE OF SAFETY.

It is charged in Canada that Sir John Macdonald is helped along by American gold. The idea is, perhaps, that when Sir John is successful there is no danger of Uncle Sam getting licked by Canada; and in that case the Americans can go right on with their buncombe and needn't spend a cent for cruisers.