

TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF.

(To the Editor of the Trade Review.)

WITH Politics, in the ordinary acceptation of the term, I take it for granted you, as editor of a purely commercial paper, have nothing to do. Your readers are the merchants and traders of the Provinces, the active minds which nurse and nourish our best interests. Among these we will find men who have heretofore been marshalled in the ranks of various political parties, and who naturally feel biased according to their previous associations. Your paper was not started to approve or condemn those old party predilections; but I think the time has arrived when you can judiciously and patriotically urge upon your readers the sinking of former political animosities, which heretofore have done much to retard the material interests of our noble country, and the uniting in one common band for the purpose of promoting just legislation and the fullest development of our vast natural wealth. Our motto should be, "Our agriculture, our manufactures and our commerce." Let the best men of all former parties be elected for this purpose. Partyism, in days of yore, was carried to an extreme, and became a curse, blighting our best energies. A fair start can now be made without compromise. In fact, as yet—under the new system of Confederation—there can be no parties, and I hold him to be a shallow-hearted politician who, for his own purposes, would engraft on our new system the poison of old religious or political animosities.

Let there be but one aim. Let everyone strive who can best promote the welfare of his country. Party necessarily will ensue, but let it arise on fair legitimate questions of internal economy in our legislation. The terms "Reformer" and "Conservative" have now lost their point. What is there to reform? Is not Confederation reform? And if there be nothing to reform, what necessity can there be to combine to "conserve" that which is not assailed? As I have said, questions will, beyond doubt, arise to divide the opinions of our public men. "Protection" and "Free Trade" possibly may be the respective watch-words of new parties; and in their several theories, statesmen may find plenty to occupy their talents without uncaring the buried enmities of the past. "Reform" at the present crisis may be taken to mean a prospective union of our interests with those of the adjoining States; but this would be too incendiary a motive to be credited in the present temper of our people. The marshalling of old parties is now entirely out of place. Good measures will not require such assistance; and the brave-hearted honest yeomen of the "Dominion of Canada" do not seek to be arrayed in line against their neighbours by political mountebanks.

Should you approve of the course above suggested, I would invoke the aid of your sensible pen in its behalf.

CANADA.

It may not be amiss to warn holders of the Westmoreland Bank notes against disposing of them at a heavy discount under the influence of fear. In some instances probably purposely excited. When the Bank suspended there were between £80,000 and £90,000 of its notes in circulation. Even supposing there was no other resource available, the Stockholders are responsible for £120,000, or double the amount of the subscribed capital. They are all men of means, and the note-holders' security is therefore ample. If the people of the Counties where the Westmoreland Bank's notes have circulated chiefly can bring themselves to believe in the ultimate redemption of the notes, the latter may still be employed as a circulating medium, even at a small discount. Indeed, unless the people come to this decision they will be obliged to do without a currency of any description, as the Sir John Banks are sending out no paper worth mentioning, and certainly can do nothing towards supplying the deficiency that will be caused if the Westmoreland Bank's notes pass out of circulation.—*Ed. John Telegraph.*

THE PARIS IMPERIAL EXHIBITION.

TO those of your readers as may be detained in Canada by their official duties, to those who may feel disinclined to undertake so long a voyage, and even, possibly, to those who may yet think of coming over, it will not probably be altogether uninteresting, not only to learn the exact state of preparation at which the "Exposition Universelle" has arrived, but also to be made acquainted with some of the details respecting its origin and progress up to the present period. I therefore now send you a preliminary letter in which I will endeavour to give you some short facts touching the past and present, and conclude by doing my best to give you an idea of the future, and then—

"Cast the shadow of coming events before them," at least as they are promised to arise within a very few days.

If I were inclined to astonish your readers by a dic-

play of my classical knowledge, or if I wrote solely to please those who despise all modern ideas, I could with great ease trace up the origin of similar institutions (such as the present Exposition) to the Bazaars of Tyre and those of Carthage, or the assemblage of vendors of every sort, who came together to traffic and exchange their wares during the Olympic games of the Greeks. Hence it is to say that ancient Rome, Venice, Genoa and Bruges held a fair from time to time, in which the *so-called* *carriers* met the Chinese, and the sons of the South carried out commercial exchanges with their brothers of the North, and thus each became possessed of the products of another and perhaps a distant quarter of the globe.

Such may be said to be the origin of our modern "Great Exhibition," first tried in England and subsequently successfully copied (in 1855) by the French.

The present Emperor allows no other nation—as far as his power goes—to outvie that over which he rules. He, therefore, seeing the benefits which arose from our efforts in 1851 and again in 1862, quietly determined to out-do them all, and called into his council those who were most likely to carry out his plans, and bring his wishes to fruition.

To M. Rouher, the then Minister of Public Works, the scheme was explained and he was desired to draw up his official report on the project. This the talented statesman undertook to do—and on the 22nd of June 1863 a decree of the Emperor founded on the report of M. Rouher, announced that an exhibition should be opened in Paris in 1867. "That it should be universal in its character, and that invitations should be sent to every part of the world," calling on the most distant to send representatives "with specimens of their various arts and productions," and four years were thus given wherein to prepare.

A second Imperial decree announced the names of thirty-six French individuals of elevated rank and known talents, together with three Englishmen, to assemble under the presidency of His Imperial highness Prince Napoleon, for the purpose of carrying out the details of this vast undertaking.

The English gentlemen chosen, were—Earl Cowley, the present British Ambassador; the Earl of Granville, formerly British Ambassador; and Mr. Cobden, the champion of free trade—of these three, one, Mr. Cobden, has passed away and has not been replaced.

Amongst the French Committee, we find several important men—such as Thouvenin and the Duke de Morny. Prince Napoleon has retired. The French seceders and those vacancies caused by death have been filled up—not so ours—Lords Cowley and Grenville alone represent our nation. The Prince Imperial is now the President of this important commission.

With regard to the expenses calculated at 20,000,000 francs (£4,000,000), it was agreed that the city of Paris should contribute 12,000,000 (£2,400,000), and that the remaining 8,000,000 (£1,600,000), should be raised by public subscription.

To guarantee the realization of the latter sum, a committee consisting of 22 noblemen and gentlemen (including Baron James Rothschild) consented to act.

It was generally admitted that the two great faults of the London Exhibition were in the first place, a confusion in the arrangement of the goods of the different countries; and in the second the inconvenience and fatigue arising from the galleries—to arrive at which was sometimes very difficult and always troublesome. So it was determined that a strict classification of goods, according to the countries whence they came, should be rigorously observed, and that the galleries forming a part of the last exhibition should be left out in the *Exposition Universelle* of 1867.

And now arose the great difficulty—the choice of a site. After considerable time had elapsed—and many discussions had arisen—the *Champ de Mars* was selected—a spot almost flat—containing 400,000 square metres of land. The situation, it is true, was somewhat distant from the populous parishes of the French Metropolis. But no other could be found capable of affording the necessary room throughout Paris. The French Government paid down the necessary sum, and the site was at once bought up.

The great disadvantage of the *Champ de Mars* was the fact, that in the part where it was determined that the exhibition should be erected, the ground only measured 472 metres (39 miles each) in breadth, and 965 in length; while the Palace, as it now stands, occupies 370 metres in breadth, only being 102 metres for entrances and a road on each side. The length of the building is 482 metres.

The next question which arose was the disposal of the surplus land. The exhibition itself only covered 148,000 metres. Three hundred thousand remained for use. It was at length decided that this large area surrounding the Palace should be converted into a splendid park, and the task of laying it out in an ornamental manner was confided to M. Alphond, who had already displayed his wondrous talent in the way in which he had converted the *Bois de Boulogne* from an ugly forest into one of the most beautiful spots on earth.

On the 3rd of April, 1865, the first pile of the present erection was driven into the ground.

THE PRESENT PROSPECTS.

About a month ago only, the building in which the goods of all nations are to be deposited was completed, when a few high officials and the members of the public press were permitted to enter and view it.

Great indeed was the general disappointment on this occasion. The form of the erection is an oval or as architects themselves term it—two semi-circles joined together. On entering it, you find it divided into a large gallery, some 20 yds wide, and above 15 feet high. This portion is intended to receive engines and machines of every sort. But so great is the competition in this department, that not only have the agricultural instruments been sent to an island in the Seine (Billancourt), but many have been utterly shut out. Within this outer gallery, we find another

and another, considerably smaller varying in their height and size, so as to accommodate exhibitors with the space they may require, varying in dimensions from 3 to 20 feet square. The mode selected of filling these was far better than our own. The whole building was divided into sections engaged by each nation, and these secured, if I may so call it, a national isolation, and then each country filled up its own space. England and France took the largest portions. The Ottoman Empire, the East, the Belgians, Spaniards, Russia and Germany followed, and not only filled up every stall, but vainly demanded more room.

As a building nothing can be less striking than this "Palace of Industry." Built on a low spot, its size is unimpressive, its strange form and rounded roof give many think, the look of a leviathan snail-shell. In a word, it is about the ugliest building ever erected to the public. But the architects apologise for their want of taste in this respect by showing the great ingenuity they have displayed in thus discovering and utilising the only form in which an exhibition covering so much ground, and calculated to receive such "worlds" of goods could be erected on the piece of ground placed at their disposal.

On entering, the visitor loses all idea of the immensity of the place, from the very circumscribed view that strikes him. The circular form of the galleries renders a long vista impossible. Beyond thirty paces you see nothing, and you will naturally begin to think but little of the undraining, though I strongly suspect that when complete it will take at least a month or more to glance over the whole of the curiosities, the treasures and the wares contained in the *Exposition Universelle*. It will take a thick volume accurately to describe them.

The great charm of the place will be a most beautiful garden in the very centre of the circle, containing every exotic which can bloom in this climate, with ornamental basins of marble filled with fish, statues, &c. &c. To this garden, which is protected by cloisters around it from the rain or the rays of a summer sun, access is afforded from every part of the Palace, so that a visitor when overcome by the heat, or tired of promading in a crowd, may here resort without leaving the building and inhale the fresh air, until he feels inclined to renew his inspection of the various bazaars which will form the "World's fair."

I have before mentioned that the 300,000 square metres surrounding the exhibition, is to be turned into a park. This park is divided into four portions—the English, French, German and Belgian, the first two being nearly double as large as the two latter. To accommodate the still increasing and voracious demand for more room, especially for model houses of strange form, theatres, the houses, churches, &c. &c. which all claimed space, it was determined that these should be erected in these divisions, and thus make the whole of the late *Champs de Mars*, into a real embodiment of the Elysian Fields, surrounding the very largest and most choice commercial mart ever thrown open to the whole world, most fortunately, during a year of profound peace.

I will write further as the opening of the exhibition approaches.—Correspondent to *Montreal Gazette*.

MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE.

At the annual general meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade, the following report was adopted.—

Of the duties imposed by Act of Parliament, that which has occupied most of the time and interest of your President and Council has been in connection with the

HARBOUR TRUST.

The affairs of this Trust have been steadily before the Board during the year now closed, and the most prominent features of its history are familiar to the members. It will be recollected that the present Commissioners entered upon their duties early in 1855 to find several vexed questions for adjustment. Of these the settlement with Mr. John Brown was fully explained to the Board, and disposed of on the 8th of August last. It is now to be stated that the questions for some time existing between the Commissioners and Captain Armstrong, and which were at one time carried into a court of law by that gentleman, have lately been settled, and in a manner satisfactory to both parties. A claim of Mr. Jacques Normand, which has been accumulating for some years, and at one time involving large pretensions for damages, has been adjusted upon a satisfactory basis and paid. The deepening of Lake St. Peter has been completed at an expenditure, during last season, of \$1,937.00, and it will doubtless be interesting to the Board and to the public to know that the contribution of the Harbour Trust of Montreal to this work during the last 15 years, over and above the amount contributed by the Provincial Government, has been \$314,947.91. Windmill Point Wharf is now finished, and made available to the extent of about 1600 feet front, with a depth of 20 feet of water. The entire filling up of the basin within this work will, at the rate of progress made last season, occupy from three to four years more. The expenditure here during the year was \$13,730.00, and the total expenditure on this wharf up to the present time is \$4,659.53.

Of Commissioners' Wharf a portion of 400 feet in length has been made complete, at a cost of \$4,587.55. This wharf affords accommodation for wood and lumber, and retains other portions of the Harbour. There remains an extent of 900 feet of this wharf in an advanced state of construction, but not fully complete.

The spoon dredge and the rotary dredge (No. 1), together with a stone-lifter, have been kept working steadily in the harbor—the former from the 19th of May, and the latter from the 11th of August, until driven out by ice early in December. The progress made in deepening the entrance to the basins has been