

"bubble of reputation" out of the public purse. We have only to look around in this very city, and see before us, in standing mimicry, the result of placing such men in positions of responsibility and trust. Although we fall far short of the evils which have arisen in the sister city, we are fast verging toward it, and it is high time we were putting the right men in the right place, to see that the enormous sums annually spent in Montreal are spent judiciously and honestly.

The ancient capital of this province is now suffering from the effect of placing power in the hands of mere pretenders to knowledge. Her public works have cost treble what they should have done, and they are still imperfect in every way. Her treasury is depleted—her mercantile supremacy has been lost—and all owing to placing the reins of power in the hands of presumptive pretenders to knowledge, men too ignorant to learn better because, paradoxical as it may appear, they "know too much," and revel in the *pride of ignorance*.

### GRAINING STENCILS.

(See page 301.)

Although we do not recommend the practice of using machines for graining, and believe them particularly objectionable to be used by young men learning their trade, still they are exceedingly serviceable for many kinds of graining where a mere repetition of pattern is of no consequence, and where despatch is a matter of far more consequence than variety. Very few grainers can produce a piece of good work, if it has to be done hurriedly; in fact good grainers decidedly object to perform their work in an inferior manner. Such work therefore, that has to be done with great rapidity, and at a cheap rate, is generally performed by men who know not how to grain, and whose work and coloring is but a caricature of the grain of wood they profess to imitate. To such men a good graining machine is of the utmost advantage.

On page 301, we give an illustration of Callow's improved machine for quick and easy graining, by cloth combing, or wiping out the work through FLEXIBLE PERFORATED METALLIC PLATES, having corrugated surfaces that improve the work and protect the wet colour from being blurred or soiled. The pattern can be changed by sliding the plate in a backward, forward or curved direction, which alters the pattern in the plate, so that different designs can be produced at each and every motion of the plate.

A set of sample plates have been left at this office for the inspection of those requiring further information.

### PORTABLE ENGINE.—PHILADELPHIA EXHIBITION.

(See page 293.)

The Ames Ironworks contribute a number of portable and semi-portable engines. In the former the water space is carried under the grate, and the smoke-box is a direct continuation of the boiler (which is lagged), and the furnace front can be readily removed. The engine is on a bed-plate, and can be removed from the boiler and used as a stationary engine, and is fitted with a governor made by the firm; the heater is formed in the bed-plate; a hand-pump is fixed to the larger engines to fill the boiler when the engine is not running. On the next page will be found a table giving the principal dimensions of the engines made by this firm.

**DEFECTIVE SIGHT.**—Those spots which appear to float before our eyes are the so-called *muscæ volitantes*, and are in many cases a consequent on debility. When we regain our former health they become less troublesome and finally disappear.

### CANADIAN ANTIQUITIES.

(See page 296.)

This is the second article on Canadian Antiquities which we have received from the pen of Charles Walkem, Esq., of Ottawa, formerly of the Civil Staff, Royal Engineer Department, and which it affords us much pleasure to record in the columns of the CANADIAN MECHANIC'S MAGAZINE, where it will be bound in a volume of that work and placed on the shelves of the Library of Parliament, and in the Institutes of the Dominion, thus securing, for all time, we hope, a record of those very interesting relics of the early history of our country, which are fast crumbling away under the wasting influence of time, as well, too, by Goths and Vandals, who obliterate everything of a national interest (in this money-making age) to lucre, and leave not a remnant of romance or interest connected with the stirring time when the white man first landed on our soil and fought his way to the conquest of this magnificent continent. We cannot realize, in the present centennial, the value of such records of past days; but when the red man shall have disappeared from the face of the earth, and grey old time shall have tinged the early history of Canada with the attractive hues of romance, and a greater taste for literature has diffused itself among our people, many then will appreciate the forethought of Mr. Walkem, in placing on record the valuable information he has in his possession. We trust he will continue to supply us with copies of all the valuable statistics and sketches he may still possess.

### QUEBEC.—RUINS OF INTENDANT'S PALACE.

"It is the voice of years that are gone! they roll before me all their deeds!"—OBSIDIAN.

"Here desolation holds her dreary court."—BYRON.

One of the most prominent incidents connected with the celebration of the "Centenary fête" at Quebec, on the 29th December, 1875, under the auspices of the Literary and Historical Society of that time-honored old city, was the military occupation of the Intendant's Palace, in St. Roch's Suburbs, by the American insurgent force under the leadership of the notorious Benedict Arnold, and its subsequent destruction by the guns from the ramparts under orders of the Governor General, Sir Guy Carleton.

Neither the general description of the old building in the centenary pamphlet, the photograph of its ruins, as the fantastic sketches and views before its destruction by authors and artists, convey any adequate idea of its real extent and capacity in length, breadth or height.

My present object, therefore, with your permission, is to supply these deficiencies through the medium of your excellent MAGAZINE from an original plan and elevation of "*le vieux Palais*" (the old Palace) drawn to a scale of twenty feet to an inch for military purposes, about the year 1770, or five years before its destruction in 1775. And more especially do I feel it a duty to submit this plan for publication, since it has become a part of the military history, not of Quebec only, but of Canada.

The following is an extract from the centenary pamphlet: "This once magnificent pile was constructed under the French King's directions and the means supplied by his munificence, in 1684, under Intendant DeMeulles. It was burnt in 1712! when occupied by Intendant Bégon, and restored by the French Government. It became from 1747 to 1759, the luxurious resort of Intendant Bigot and his was-sailors. Under English rule it was neglected,\* and Arnold's riflemen having from the cupola annoyed Guy Carleton's soldiers, orders were given to destroy it with the city guns." "Skulking riflemen in St. Roch's watching behind walls to kill our sentries. Some of them fired from the cupola of the Intendant's Palace. We brought a nine-pounder to answer them." (Extract of journal of an officer of the Quebec Garrison, 1775.)

\* This is very questionable, as the plan and elevation of the building here submitted were made for general repairs and military accommodation.