

of the oldest physicians in Quebec, enjoying an immense practice, and a reputation of the highest order, was appointed Dean of the Faculty and Professor of the Institutes of Medecine and of physiology. He delivered an inaugural lecture which has been printed and is considered a remarkable synopsis of the various branches of studies of the medical profession. Dr. Blanchet had been a member of Parliament for Lower Canada under the old constitution and after having retired from public life for many years he was again elected for the city of Quebec in 1854. His health being considerably impaired in 1856, he resigned his professorship and had the title of honorary professor conferred on him. His chair has not yet been refilled, but a lecturer has been appointed in his place. He died on the 22nd of April last and an interesting biography of that able and charitable physician written by Dr. J. C. Taché, is to be found together with his portrait in the 6th No. of *Le Journal de l'Instruction Publique* and in the *Canadian Medical Chronicle*.

The other four professors appointed to that faculty were Dr. Frémont, the present Dean, who is the professor of surgery, Dr. Nault, professor of Materia Medica and secretary of the Faculty, Dr. and Landry, professor of anatomy who has visited Europe and collected a museum of anatomy and a library for the University. To these are now to be added Dr. Jackson appointed in 1854, professor of midwifery, Dr. Lemieux lecturer on the Institutes of Medecine and in physiology and Mr. L. M. Larue, lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence and Hygiene. The latter is a young gentleman recently admitted to the medical profession and who has studied in the Universities of Paris and of Louvain for the express purpose of filling the chair to which he will soon be appointed.

The building of the school of medecine was also the first begun and the first completed. It is situated in St. George street and has another entrance on University street which is a kind of Lane on the Seminary ground; on one side of this street is the school of Medecine and on the other the University, and the Boarding house or *Pensionnat*.

The school of Medecine is a building 70 feet in front by 60 in depth and 50 feet high. It is four stories high on St. George street and three on University street. It contains dissection rooms, an amphitheatre, a library, two museums one of pathological and the other of normal anatomy, a collection of surgical instruments, a vast laboratory and a depository of medical preparations, and large and well laid out class rooms. The library contains about 3,000 volumes, and the collections are of the most costly description.

(To be concluded in our next.)

PIERRE J. O. CHAUVEAU.

Canadian English. (1)

BY THE REV. A. CONSTABLE GEIKIE.

Read before the Canadian Institute, 28th March, 1857.

It is a growing opinion that the English tongue is destined to become, for many purposes at least, the language of the world. But supposing such an extension of our vernacular to be probable, will the world speak "English undefiled," or English very defiled indeed? I know nothing of the tendencies in Australia, New Zealand, or at the Cape; but certainly, the English we often hear spoken, and see written, in the United States and Canada, is by no means an improvement on the original. That the American retains some obsolete words, or uses current words in obsolete ways, cannot fairly be objected to, though the very same reasons justify the language of modern Quakerism. But this process will account for a small fraction of the peculiarities of his language. He is daily inventing words which are neither English in character, nor needed to supply any deficiency in the language; and even where peculiar circumstances may make such a coinage, or such perversion of words from their primary significance pardonable, the circumstances are continually disregarded, and they are applied in cases where no such need exists, to the exclusion of the proper phrase, and to the injury of the language.

Canada inevitably partakes of the same influences. Her language is largely affected by such lawless and vulgar innovations. New words are coined for ourselves by a process similar to that which calls them into being in the neighbouring States; still more, they are imported by travellers, daily circulated by American newspapers, and eagerly incorporated into the language of our Provincial press. The result is that, with that alacrity at sinking which belongs to human nature, we are in a fair way of appropriating what is worthless in the word coinage of our neighbours, in addition to all which our peculiar position may generate among ourselves.

It is not necessary to attempt any methodic classification of words or phrases; the purpose of this paper will be sufficiently accomplished by noticing a few of the most characteristic novelties as they occur to me. Neither shall I make any distinction between obsolete words and modern inventions. It is enough if it can be shown that words, unrecognized by good authors, are daily used; that words duly recognized are used in improper ways; or that extraordinary creations, and combinations of letters and phrases, are extensively circulated without supplying a recognized want, or contributing in any sense to the enrichment of the language. To refer, then, to a few examples of such transatlantic innovations on the English language: when Englishmen wish to mark their sense of the services of some public personage, by a suitable testimonial, they are said to *give* or *present* something to him, and the thing so *given* or *presented* is called a *gift* or *present*. But with us it is becoming fashionable to speak of such a gift as a *donation*, and still more of a thing *donated*. A minister is, with peculiar delicacy, dragged up before two or three hundred people and a band of music, to receive a *present* from his congregation, of a horse, it may be, or a purse of money,—and this gift, dubbed a *donation*, is *donated* to him at what is called a *donation-meeting*. Webster says, that *donation* is usually applied to things of more value than *presents*; but while such may be true in the States, I have known it applied here to be a basket of musty cakes. I suppose that *donation*, has a certain meaning in law. Its most ordinary English application is to a single gift in money, in contra-distinction to the periodical payments of a fixed sum as subscription. When applied to a *present*, public or private, I apprehend such an application of the term has its origin in mere pomposity. The language stands in need of no such expression so long as we have our old Saxon *gift*.

In England, when one man accommodates another with the use of money for a time, he lends it. The sum is called a *loan*, but he who provides it is said to *lend* or to have *lent*. Here, however, it is becoming usual to speak of having *loaned* to another. Webster

(1) We must say that few of the innovations in language alluded to in this interesting article, are known in Lower Canada, and that so far as our observation goes, the criticism of the writer is rather severe. However it is proper that every means should be taken to check at the outset any doubtful improvement of the two languages spoken in this country.

It is with this view that we republish the present article. We are aware that the accounts given of the alleged corruption of the French language in Lower Canada have been greatly exaggerated; and we certainly are of opinion that Canadian critics ought to be guarded, in making any uncalled for disparagement of the people of this colony.