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FERGUSON & GREGORY.

Hamilton, July 1st, 1863.

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THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, SEPT. 5, 1863.

FERGUSON & GREGORY, Proprietors.
J. A. SPENCER, Editor.

FRANCE AND THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.

SOME months ago we ventured to suggest that NAPOLEON'S operations in Mexico might yet be found to have a far wider importance than merely the conquest of that country. It did not seem probable that our mercenary-pugnacious Frenchmen could thus be brought in such close contact with a fight without lending a hand to one side or the other for the glory of *l'abbé France*. Various facts have since transpired to give a greater appearance of probability to this opinion than it then had. Thus: We learn by a letter from Colonel Hamilton of Texas, to President Lincoln, that the leading Secessionists of that State, despairing of the success of the Confederacy, are trying to effect a union with the Mexican States on the Southern bank of the Rio Grande, and if successful, intend asking the protection of France. The New York Tribune learns, from a private source, that ex-President Miramon, Gen. Cobas, and other leaders of the Church party, in alliance with the French, have for two months been the guests of Confederate States officials at Brownsville. Also, that an agent of Miramon, a few weeks since, left Matamoros with a few hundred armed followers, announcing that he was authorized to conquer Texas. Again: according to the London Morning Post, an alliance between France and the Confederate States had been spoken of as probable in Paris. These facts may of course be perfectly innocent; but it is undeniable that the present situation of affairs gives them a peculiar significance, which our neighbors would do well not to disregard. Let us see what that situation is.

Napoleon has obtained a foothold in America, by establishing a monarchy whose dominions confront the Southern boundary of what was once the United States, and may possibly be so again, if the two sections are allowed to settle their quarrel without foreign interference. Now, this is in direct violation of the declared policy of the United States. The Monroe doctrine expressly declares that the political institutions of Europe are so essentially different from those of America, that any attempt to introduce them on this Continent would be resisted by the United States. It is just possible, of course, that no attempt would be made to put this pretensions doctrine in practice, against so powerful an enemy as France. It would not be the only instance of Brother Jonathan's

bark proving worse than his bite. But, on the other hand, the Monroe doctrine is no idle whim or passing fancy. To carry out its provisions has been the dream of the ablest statesmen of the Union. It has been inwrought with the popular sentiment of the people. It is difficult, therefore, to believe that a flagrant violation of it would be permitted without a protest of some kind. Napoleon, at least, would never leave it out of the account in summing up his chances of a peaceful retention of Mexico. Under these circumstances, it is evidently to his interest that the Confederate States should successfully maintain their independence, thus giving a practical death blow to the Monroe doctrine. It would be still further to his interest to give such assistance as would attach the South, through gratitude, to his cause. So placing a friendly power on the whole Northern frontier of his American dominions.

But the present condition of the South furnishes even stronger arguments than the foregoing in favor of the probability of the conjectured alliance. Driven back at every point by the persistent resolution and superior power of their adversaries, the Confederate leaders must look upon the future with gloomy forebodings. They may yet make a long and desperate resistance, but they cannot fail to see that the odds are fearfully against them. It is certain, at the same time, that they will never submit to the detested Yankee rule, until every effort of arms and diplomacy has been exhausted. There seems nothing improbable, therefore, in the supposition, that for the valuable aid of Napoleon they would be willing to yield, as a reward, a portion of their territory. It is manifestly better for them to lose Texas than to lose everything for which they have taken up arms.

We have reason to believe that the eyes of our American cousins are fast opening to the importance of these facts. They can no longer indulge in the amiable delusion that the Emperor desires a restoration of the Union. It must be abundantly plain to them that the danger of foreign interference comes not from the much abused British government, but from their own, supposed-to-be, very excellent friend on the opposite side of the channel. We doubt not that the day is coming when it will be equally plain to them that, but for the firmness with which the British government maintained the neutrality it promised, every hope of restoring the Union must have vanished. In fact, that government is to-day the only barrier against a European recognition of the Confederacy, and against an active interference by France.

THE DEBENTURE DEBT OF HAMILTON.

A copy of a proposed "Act to reconstitute the Debenture Debt of the City of Hamilton, and to facilitate the arrangement thereof," has come into our hands. Some of its features we regard as calculated to work great injustice to our city. The whole Act will appear in the next number of the *News* with editorial comments upon it. For the present we subjoin four Sections, as follows:

Section 4, provides that the rate of interest be doubled in default of punctual payments, and reads:

5 If any Coupon shall be presented for payment, and shall not be paid before the expiration of forty days after the day for payment mentioned in the Coupon, the half-year's interest secured by the Coupon shall, immediately after the expiration of the forty days or after presentation and refusal, which ever event shall last happen, be raised to a sum double the amount of the interest for which the Coupon was issued, and the increased sum shall be payable by the Corporation upon presentation of the Coupon as though such sum had been therein specified, and shall be so payable not as a penalty but as liquidated damages for the delay.

Section 11, concerns defaulting rate payers:

11. If any ratepayer shall omit to pay his quota of the rate or rates authorised by this Act during the period of twenty-eight days after the time fixed for payment thereof, he shall, after the expiration of the twenty-eight days, be held liable to pay to the Corporation double his quota of the said rate or rates, and the increased sum shall be so payable by him, not as a penalty, but as liquidated damages for the delay; and the Collector or Collectors shall have the like powers for levying the said double rate or rates as they had for levying the single rate or rates, and shall levy the same accordingly, and the burden of proof of payment of the rate or rates shall be on the ratepayer.

Sections 13 and 15 confer extraordinary powers upon the Trustees constituted under this Act. They are as follows:

13. If, and whenever the Corporation shall fail on or before the first day of October in any year, after the issuing of any Debentures authorised by this Act to appoint one or more Collectors to collect the rate or rates authorised, or shall at any time fail to impose and levy a sufficient rate or rates for the purposes of this Act, it shall be lawful for the Trustees constituted for the purposes of this Act, or the majority of the Trustees, from time to time to appoint a Commissioner or Commissioners with such salary or salaries as the said Trustees or majority think fit, who shall have full power and authority to call for the Assessment Rolls of the current year, and to assess and impose, and levy such rate or rates, and also to prepare Collectors' Rolls and place the same in the hands of Collectors of their own selection, who are hereby authorised to act in the same manner as if they had been appointed by the Corporation, and to do whatsoever else the Trustees or majority think fit for any of the purposes of this Act.

15. If it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of a majority of the Trustees constituted for the purposes of this Act, that the Collector or Collectors appointed by the Corporation are not fairly and honestly performing the duties of their office, but are endeavouring to delay or prevent the collection of the rate or rates hereby authorised, it shall in the same manner be lawful for the Trustees or a majority of them from time to time to appoint such Commissioner or Commissioners, with such salary or salaries as aforesaid, who shall have the like power and authority to appoint a Collector or Collectors to proceed with the collection of the uncollected portion of such rate or rates, with such interest thereon as may be owing, and to take all such steps as may be necessary for that purpose, whether by sale of the ratepayer's lands, if saleable under this Act, or otherwise; and it shall be the duty of the Collector or Collectors so complained of forthwith to hand over their Rolls, and any monies collected, to such Commissioner or Commissioners, or in default they shall be guilty of misdemeanour, and liable to be proceeded against accordingly, and upon conviction, be punished by fine or imprisonment or by both, in the like manner and to the like extent as under section 9 of this Act.

SUPPER TO LORD LYONS.

A supper was given by the officers of the P. C. O. Rifle Brigade, to Lord Lyons, on Tuesday evening, August 25th, at their Quarters, on James Street. The occasion was a pleasant one, and reflected credit on the military gentlemen. The visit of the distinguished ambassador of Her Majesty has been a quiet one, and he has been met rather with private ovations than popular displays. To many it has been a disappointment that there was not a public reception given. On our first page will be found an engraving of the Supper Room on the occasion.

THE REVIEW AT BRANTFORD.

We have made such arrangements that in our next issue we will be enabled to present our readers with sketches illustrative of incidents at the Volunteer Review at Brantford on Thursday last. We will only anticipate a narration of the doings on that occasion, by stating that it was a grand and successful affair, and must doubtless prove beneficial in its practical results to our Provincial Militia.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS TO THE NINTH BATTALION.

Our artist has taken sketches of the colors presented by Mrs. Isaac Buchanan, to the above Battalion in this city, on Wednesday last, and will also prepare a drawing of the presentation scene. We defer a report of the proceedings until our next number, when they will be published in connection with the engravings.

THE BUSINESS OF EDITING.

An able writer, possessed only of the talent to write, is not always a good or successful editor. Indeed, the reverse is apt to be the case. On the London daily papers, great historians, novelists, poets and essayists, have been tried, and nearly every one has failed. An editor of the Times once said to Moore, "I can find any number of men of genius to write for me, but very seldom one of common sense." Successful editors have been men of this description. Campbell, Carlyle, Bulwer and D'Israeli failed in the editorial field; while Burns, Sterling and Philips succeeded.

A good editor cannot be a mere composition machine. He must read, select, direct, alter, condense, and combine; and to do all this well, he has but little time for composition. To write for a paper is one thing—to edit a paper is another.

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE ABBEY OF RATHMORE AND OTHER TALES, by Mrs. J. V. NOEL, of Kingston. Sold in Toronto by A. S. Irving; in Hamilton, by Mr. Eastwood.

This is a duodecimo volume of 271 pages, comprising several interesting stories by a lady not unknown to the literary world. The style is pleasing, the plots ingeniously woven, and the tone of the volume excellent. The book is well calculated for leisure hours.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE: Published by Leonard Scott & Co., New York.

We have received from the publishers the August number of this time-honored periodical. Among the articles we find 'A Visit to an Insurgent Camp,' in a third letter from Poland; a criticism on George Crnikshank and his productions; the conclusion of an article on the 'State and Prospects of the Church of England;' and a continuation of the interesting series of sketches known as the 'Chronicles of Carlingford.'

LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW, for July, published by Leonard Scott & Co., New York.

This number is before us. The contents embrace articles upon 'The Resources and Future of Austria,' 'Natural History of the Bible,' 'Our Colonial System,' 'Washington Irving,' &c. The article in relation to the British Colonies is one likely to interest thoughtful Canadian readers.

DEMAGOGUISM.

Gov. Curtin, of Pennsylvania, now a candidate for re-election, exhibits the spirit of a demagogue in a recent speech. He is voluminous in his threats as to what his nation is likely to visit upon England, at the close of the rebellion in the States. The Governor is after votes, and panders to the sentiment of the worst class of the State he inhabits. Demagoguism inclines to bluster and brag, as a means to accomplish political ends.

A collision of the armies on the Rappahannock may soon be anticipated. Reports are telegraphically announced that portions of the Southern army have been crossing the river, while some of the specials regard its movements only as a feint to cover a projected cavalry raid.