

THE NELSON MONUMENT IN MONTREAL.



THE majority of the readers of the Owl, have doubtless had the pleasure of visiting Montreal, and of beholding its many magnificent buildings, extensive shipping accommodations, pleasant parks, crowded markets and busy streets. In that great metropolis, the eye meets with a goodly number of objects of a nature to awaken within the youthful Canadian's breast feelings of loyalty, of pride in his country's past and of confidence in her future. Among the numerous patriotism-inspiring spots and structures of Montreal none can vie, in point of far reaching significance, with the statue of Nelson which rears its stately form on Jacques Cartier Square.

The Canadian people erected that monument to honor the great naval hero, and to give emphatic expression to their appreciation of the justice and statesmanship displayed by England in her dealings with the colony she had wrested from France. To rightly understand this twofold object which the Nelson monument embodies forth one must needs recall to mind a few facts of English and Canadian history. By the treaty of Paris, signed on the 10th of February, 1763, Canada was lost to France forever. In October of the same year a royal proclamation was issued in which the King informed his subjects that, as "soon as the state of the new American colonies permitted, the governors would call general assemblies, until which time all persons resorting to the said colonies might confide in his Majesty's Royal protection for enjoying the benefits of the laws of England." This proclamation was productive of much well-founded dissatisfaction. The English colonists were led to infer from its wording that Canada was to be governed in exactly the same manner as a county in the centre of England. The French settlers on the other hand, were

loud in their denunciation of laws and customs heretofore altogether unknown to them, and when they found themselves obliged, under pain of being expelled from the country to take the oath of abjuration, their previous half-hearted confidence in British justice deserted them altogether. General James Murray, the first Governor-General of Canada, with that good judgement so characteristic of Englishmen, instead of introducing English laws pure and simple and setting aside entirely those under which the colonists had formerly been governed, adopted a compromise, and thereby delayed for a time, the impending storm of revolt. However, the arbitrary form of government under which they were living was not at all satisfactory to the residents of Canada, and by petitions they repeatedly and earnestly solicited the ruling power of Britain to consider their grievances and to set about remedying them. That cumbersome, cool-headed, mighty body, the British Government is as a rule very slow to act and especially to initiate reforms. "All their (English) statesmen," says Emerson, "learn the irresistibility of the tide of custom, and have invented many fine phrases to cover their slowness of perception and prehensibility of tail. The favorite phrase of their law is: 'a custom whereof the memory of men runneth not back to the contrary.' They hate innovations. Bacon told them that 'Time was the best reformer;' Chatham, that 'confidence was a plant of slow growth;' Canning, 'to advance with the times,' and Wellington, that 'habit was ten times nature.'" Under ordinary circumstances, petitions and resolutions from her dependencies are treated with stoic indifference by England and if considered at all are rejected as "trivialous and vexatious." For centuries the foremost statesmen of the world have sat in the British House of Commons and that parliament has been for years and is still fully conscious of its ability, of its superiority, and it has been and is still prone, to a certain extent