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All remittances and business communications to be addressed to G. B. BURLAND, General Manager.

All literary correspondence, contributions, &c., to be addressed to the Editor.

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NOTICE.

We are preparing an unusually fine

Christmas Number

OF THE
CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

Containing a series of

HOLIDAY PICTURES,

Accompanied by several

Christmas Stories,

POEMS, SKETCHES AND ARTICLES.

ORDERS SHOULD BE SENT IN EARLY.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

Montreal, Saturday, Dec. 15th, 1877.

1877.

ON the eve of a new year, and the opening of the seventeenth volume of our journal, we feel justified in calling upon the public in every part of the Dominion to aid us in making the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS second to no journal of its class in the world. We have accomplished much in the way of improvements, and we think that we have fulfilled the promises which we made twelve months ago. But we feel that there still remains much to be done, and we call upon our friends to assist us in doing it. This is the only illustrated newspaper in the Dominion. It is also the only purely literary weekly. In this double capacity it has special claims upon the patronage of Canadians. It is a national undertaking, designed to reflect, REPORTAGE AND EDITORIAL, the life, the sentiments, and the daily history of Canada. No other paper can do this in the same way, and hence the ILLUSTRATED NEWS has an intrinsic value quite distinct from any other publication.

Its principal features are:

I. The pictorial illustration of all leading Canadian events as they occur.

II. A complete gallery of all Canadian celebrities, with biographies attached. This gallery has now reached beyond three hundred, and is the only one of the kind ever published in the country.

III. The reproduction of the finest works of art.

IV. A great variety of original and selected literary matter.

V. Stories, sketches, poems, and other contributions by leading Canadian writers.

VI. Special attractions for the home circle.

Every Canadian ought to be interested in the success and continued progress of the ILLUSTRATED NEWS, and should consider it his duty to encourage it to the extent of at least one year's subscription. None know better than ourselves how much it can still be improved, and we warrant that if we receive the patronage which we solicit, no effort on our part will be left untried to introduce a number of the most desirable improvements. Let

the public throughout the country come forward generously with their support, and we guarantee to furnish them a paper which shall be a real credit to the Dominion. We will supply the material if our friends will only furnish the patronage.

THE MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE OF INSANITY.

We have received a pamphlet on this subject from the pen of Dr. HENRY HOWARD, Government Medical Attendant of the Longue Pointe Lunatic Asylum. The reputation of Dr. HOWARD as an alienist is such that any suggestions which he may put forth on so important a subject, are worthy of attention. In this particular instance, while we cannot say that we coincide with the metaphysical theories of the writer, we agree as to the practical suggestions which he makes. The object of his lecture, read before the Medico-Chirurgical Society of this city, is to urge that the subject of insanity should receive consideration from the Legislature at the next meeting of the Provincial Assembly, and that such legislation should proceed from a medico-legal standpoint and not from a legal standpoint only. That there is need for such a law no one will deny, more particularly in the face of the present increase of crime and insanity; when there is so much evil-doing that it would appear as if men could not do right; when some responsible murderers are, under a false plea, escaping the just consequences of their crime, and some irresponsible imbeciles and insane persons are, through ignorance, unjustly punished. The motives of such legal procedure may be set down in Dr. HOWARD's own words:

"We want a law by which every man shall be, at the earliest possible opportunity, tried for his supposed offence, quite independent of his mental state, whether it be sound or unsound. Let the man be tried, at all events. If the plea of insanity be set up, let the widest possible latitude be allowed to the defending advocate. But let the Crown take the greatest possible caution that nothing in the case shall go wrong; therefore, let the Government have sworn medical experts, men of experience, and let these experts be present at the trial, and hear all the evidence for and against the accused,—and having examined him, let them give their testimony before the judge and jury, not with any desire to either convict or acquit the accused, but simply that the jury may have all the information possible upon which to find their verdict, and the Judge all the information possible upon which to pass a just sentence. If the Judge and jury are satisfied that the accused was sane when on his trial, but was insane when he committed the crime of which he is accused, why of course he must be acquitted and set free. If they are satisfied he not only was insane when he committed the crime, but insane at the time of trial, he must either be sent to a lunatic asylum, or be discharged when cured; or his friends must give security for his safe-keeping. He must in all respects be treated as an innocent man suffering from a terrible disease. If the Judge and jury are satisfied that the accused was sane when he committed the crime, and became insane while awaiting trial, * * * let him be found guilty, and sentenced as if he were sane at the time of trial, but let him be sent first to a lunatic asylum to be, if possible, cured of his disease. If the accused should be found subject to homicidal fits of insanity, for the sake of society let his sentence be to be imprisoned for life, in either an asylum or penitentiary. If Judge and jury should be satisfied that the accused was a dangerous homicidal imbecile, * * * why, of course, sentence him to life-long imprisonment in the penitentiary; such a creature should never be at large, once found to have homicidal tendencies, or tendencies worse than homicidal. All these criminals should be locked up for life, but I would have it done according to law. But let none be hanged."

A London paper has the following on the important question of our fisheries:

If the evidence collected by Mr. Frank Buckland may be accepted, the English lobster fisheries have nearly followed the formerly prolific oyster beds to annihilation, through the same cause—over-fishing. Whether the evil will be stopped in time by recent legislation remains to be proved, but the people of Canada would do well to take warning by what has happened in the mother country. According to accounts which have reached us lately, the lobster fisheries of the Dominion are being terribly overworked. On the 3rd of last month a barque is reported to have cleared at the Miramichi Custom House with £75,000 worth of lobsters on board, consigned to the London market. This is said to be the most valuable cargo of the sort ever shipped from New Brunswick, and we should imagine that the dispatch of many more of equal magnitude would bring the trade to a dead stop for the want of the raw material. It is true that some parts of the Canadian coast are amazingly prolific of crustacean life. So immense is the supply provided by nature, that the Canadians may almost be excused for considering it practically limitless. But we have seen in the case of certain English fisheries that persistent overworking brings about scarcity, and so our friends on the other side of the Atlantic will probably discover if they continue this depopulating process much farther. It is said that quite baby lobsters are ruthlessly slaughtered in vast numbers for preservation in tins. Their flesh does not differ in flavour or appearance from that of adult crustaceans, so that consumers have no means of judging as to the size and age. It would be well for Canada if some one of her citizens took up the work performed in England by Mr. Frank Buckland and his coadjutors toward fish of all sorts. They were too late in the field to save our oyster beds from annihilation, but in other directions they have done a great deal for the preservation of one of the most important sources of our food supply. The Dominion has a splendid property in her maritime fisheries; she should see to it at once that they are not deteriorated by indiscriminate and reckless operations.

ECHOES FROM LONDON.

MR. BAENEM has made a bid for a portion of Temple Bar. He covets the three figures and ornaments.

THE "agony column" of the *Times* will no longer be open to disconsolate lovers, as it has been found to be the cause of much mischief.

MR. HUGH GLADSTONE, nephew to the ex-Premier, has just entered the Scottish College at Rome, for the purpose of taking priest's orders in the Roman Catholic Church.

THE proprietors of the *Daily News* have sent Mr. Forbes a cheque for £2,000 as an acknowledgment of his great services to their "journal" in connection with his war reports.

It is not unlikely that the Prince of Wales may pass a few days in the land of the Pychley during the hunting season. His Royal Highness possesses a strong predilection in favour of the Midland shires.

LONDON Bridge is to be widened after all. The beauty of the structure will become sadly impaired, but the utilitarian results will be considerable, no less than twenty-two feet being added to the carriage-way.

RELIGIOUS London is expecting another revival. The friends of Messrs. Moody and Sankey are already preparing for the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Bell, now at Liverpool, and known to the revivalists as "The Singer Preacher."

THE sailors on board the *Britannia* call Prince Albert Victor "Spratt," and his brother they have already named "Herring." What is more "Spratt" and "Herring" seem to like it, and the Prince is said to have laughed heartily when he heard of it.

A VERY extraordinary influx of fashionable life is observable in the metropolis; there is always a sort of second season just prior of Christmas, but it has begun early this year. Certainly there have been and are some interesting doings in the metropolis, which may partially account for this spurt of life.

"MARY ANNE," Mr. Disraeli's pet terror, has hitherto been masculine. A woman's International Association is to be formed. Already it has a secretary, a gentleman who wishes to bind the women of all nations together in a fight against the forces which endeavour to overwhelm them in their struggle for independence.

A CURIOUS invention is announced for stopping fractious horses. Under a coachman's seat is placed an electric magnet, from which one wire is carried along one of the reins to the horse's bits and another to the crupper, so that the whole length of the animal's spine forms part of an electric circuit. A sudden shock, which the driver can administer at discretion, will, it is said, bring the most obstreperous runaway to a sudden stop, and will arrest the most inveterate jibber. A series of small shocks will stimulate a "screw" to marvels of pace and style.

THE post-office is about to adopt a system whereby persons desirous of having a certificate of the posting of a letter, newspaper, or book, packet without registering it, or obtaining for it any special security, may obtain such a certificate on payment of one half-penny for each letter, newspaper, or book-packet. Forms of certificate will be sold at all the post-offices, on which the address of the letter or packet, must be written by the sender, and after examining it, the clerk at the counter will retain the letter, &c., and give the certificate back to the sender, impressed with the dated stamp of the office, as evidence of a letter having been posted.

HEARTH AND HOME.

IMAGINARY WANTS.—If we create imaginary wants, why do we not create imaginary satisfactions? It was the happier frenzy of the two to be like the mad Athenian, who thought all the ships that came into the harbour to be his own, than be still tormenting ourselves with insatiable desires.

SELFISHNESS.—No selfish man or woman was yet completely happy. Such may cheat themselves into a belief that they are, for thought and conscience are lost in the mad whirl and rush of life. But it is a mere delusive happiness, which disappears at the moment we think to clutch it, and, like the wily *imbecile*, leads us an endless dance over bog and moor, to escape us at last. Then, weary and spent, we lie down; and perchance that most terrible experience, the remorse of a wasted and misapplied life, comes in and takes possession of us for ever.

NEW FRIENDS.—There are no new friends who are as dear as the old—those who give their young confidence to our matured sympathies, or who meet us as companions, each on the same level of experience and thought. They know us when the struggle is past and we are made; they see us perfected in fortune and repute, and we know nothing of those early days of trial when we failed more often than we succeeded, and for every step forward used to slip two back. They see us only as success, and it is then as if we had been born in the purple, which the older know that we have bought by our own exertions only, and donned but of late years.

OURSELVES AND OTHERS.—If the peculiarities of our feelings and faculties be the effect of variety of excitement through a diversity of organization, it should tend to produce in us mutual forbearance and toleration. We should perceive how nearly impossible it is that persons should feel and think alike upon any subject. We should not arrogantly pride ourselves upon our virtues and knowledge, nor condemn the errors and weakness of others, since they may depend upon causes which we can neither produce nor easily counteract. No one, judging from his own feelings and powers, can be aware of the kind or degree of temptation or terror, or the seeming incapacity to resist such, which may induce others to deviate.

MAN.—Man is a creature put into this life to be awakened and educated with reference to himself and to his fellows. He is put here to be educated through the body and through matter into ascendancy over them, and to be educated respecting his character, for the sake of his condition hereafter. In order therefore to judge of what is good and what is bad, and among bad things what are worse and what are better, and among good things what are best and what are least good, we must consider the relation of things to the design and destiny of human existence. That which tends to make the most of a man, and to make him quickest in the things for which he was created, and which is most efficient in preparing him for harmonization in himself and social harmonization, and for immortality and glory, is the best; whereas that which most stands in the way of these things is the worst—but nothing is indifferent which has a bearing on man's development for time and for eternity.

ABOUT MARRIAGE.—No test of character is more trying than the test matrimonial, if the contracting parties are not perfectly harmonious. Marriage can become obnoxious from excess of attention, if not indulged in the right spirit, and equally from neglect and indifference. A wife may make such demands upon her husband's attention and time as to make him feel himself little better than a slave, and slavery is galling