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NOTICE.

As the year is now verging to a close, we think it opportune to make a call upon such of our subscribers as are in arrears with us. The rule of payment in advance ought to be applied everywhere, and it was made one of the chief recommendations of the Quebec Press Association, lately organized in this city. All our friends should understand that an illustrated paper which requires so great an outlay, must, as a matter of business protection, insist upon this rule. For those who do not pay at once, the price of the NEWS is \$4.50 per annum, the extra half-dollar being intended to cover the interest on delay and postage. But as a further inducement, however, and in order to regulate our books and accounts with the opening of the new year, we will charge only the regular rate of \$4.00 to such of our subscribers as will settle with us immediately, or between this and the close of December. We are glad to know, from the reports of our patrons and the notices of our contemporaries of the press, that the efforts we have made to improve the paper are duly recognized, but with proper encouragement we are prepared to improve it still more. Our readers can help us in this, first by prompt payment of their subscription, and by inducing others to subscribe. Let each reader of the NEWS send us at least one subscription besides his own, and by thus doubling our circulation, we shall be enabled to give them a paper second to none in its special sphere. Canadians, all over the Dominion, should take pride in supporting an illustrated family and literary journal, and making it a truly national institution, the reflex of Canadian life, progress and thrift.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, 11th Nov. 1876.

THE ARMISTICE.

Any physiognomist who looks at the grouped portraits of Turkish statesmen and generals which grace one of our interior pages, in the present issue, must come to the conclusion that the old Moslem spirit has not yet died out. These are fine, firm faces, with great brows, expressive eyes, and the forms are those of men whose physical condition is not only sound, but gritty. It is one of the fal-

lacies of the day to imagine that the Turkish race is effete, and the famous catchword of the Czar NICHOLAS has really no application. The present Sultan is a sick man, as it happens that he is consumptively inclined, but in so far as he represents his race, he is hale and hearty. If we needed proof of Turkish vitality, we have it in the energy and intelligence displayed during the present war. The campaign against Montenegro was mismanaged owing to the wretched condition of the raw troops and the topographical obstacles of that hilly country, but in the valleys of the Timok and the Morava, AD-DUT-KEM, the Turkish commander-in-chief, displayed many of the qualities of a skilful general, while his troops gave proof of discipline, dash and fortitude. The strategical combinations, which resulted in splitting Tchernayeff's army in twain, were very brilliant, and the several battles around Alexinatz, followed by the storming of Djunis, were won by downright hard fighting. There is no room whatever to doubt that, if the Turks had not been interfered with, they would have made short work of Serbia, and even as it is, they have practically concluded the campaign, their way being open to Belgrade.

It is, therefore, with the prestige of victory in their favor that they consent to suspend hostilities and open a conference for the settlement of the great questions at issue. All through the negotiations for an armistice, Turkey has set herself right with Europe, and she has sympathies today which were refused her six weeks ago. This change has taken place even in England, and for the very excellent reason that it is England's proposals for mediation and scheme of accommodation which the Porte has adopted. What they would not allow their hereditary enemy, Russia, to impose upon them, they have freely accepted through the intervention of a neutral power, which was disposed, nay determined, to give them fair play.

We are not the apologists of Turkey. In this war, considered in its causes, she needs no apology. As Mr. DISSEL said truly, in his fearless Aylesbury speech, the war was provoked by Serbia in the most unwarranted and wanton manner, and the peace of all Europe jeopardized without any reason, and against all remonstrance, by one of the weakest of States. Serbia is subject to Turkey, by the faith of treaties and centuries of possession, and it was clearly the latter's right to put down the insurrection. In doing so, many excesses were committed, but they have in several instances been grossly exaggerated, as is now admitted, and in other instances, they have been repaired as far as was possible. And thus, at the conclusion of this stage of the war, Turkey stands with a record which would not do injustice to any civilized nation.

What adds to this agreeable impression is that, throughout all this, England's policy of good sense and moderation has been vindicated. The wild excitement of a month ago has entirely subsided, Mr. GLADSTONE'S appeals are silenced, and the sagacity, firmness and courage of Lord DERBY have restored England once more to her station as one of the arbiters of Europe. The present armistice does not at all mean peace. It may prove only the lull before the outbreak of a more terrific storm. But we have the faith that in the conference about to be held, England will maintain her stand, and it is to be hoped that, through her influence, a permanent arrangement may be agreed upon. The Eastern question will of course always remain a hot-bed of dissension, but a system of reform introduced by Turkey in her Danubian Provinces, at the present time, would go far towards postponing another outbreak for years to come.

BRIGHTER DAYS.

It is a curious fact that one way to remove the distress coming on this winter is not to relieve it. We may well take care of children and of the sick, but for the healthy and strong, it were well to try

the effect of acting on the words of the Apostle, "If any will not work, neither shall he eat." The main wealth of the country is indirectly derived from the farmer. Indiscriminate charity to able-bodied men directly injures the farmer from whom the means of bestowing this indiscriminate charity is derived. The fact is, town life is much more pleasant than country life to the majority of people. We know of two girls who went to stay at a delightful country house, who cried all night. Wages too, when work is plentiful, are, compared with what these wages will bring in the two different places, higher in town than country. The result is that people press into town, and our centres of civilization are like the lion's cave in the fable, all the foot-tracks point inwards, and whereas many enter, few go out.

Now there is hardly a farmer in the country that would not take in an able-bodied man to work for his board at least during the coming winter, hard though it be, and many will take in man and wife. If arrangements were made for transporting the labourer to his place, the vast army of the unoccupied could be transported to situations where they could honorably work for their keep instead of being supported on charity, which has such a degrading and enervating effect on the character.

There is a vast amount of stone breaking which could be done to immense advantage for our municipal councils during the winter. If they would make arrangements to pay men just enough to keep them for doing this work during this winter, the country would be provided with one of the main elements of civilization—good roads—for a long time to come, and thus good would come out of evil and permanent prosperity result from temporary distress.

The fact is our workmen have to learn that the price of labour, like that of every other commodity, depends on the ratio of supply to demand, and that if they cannot get more than 25 cents a day for their labour, it is *wisest to refuse it* and live on the charity of others.

A man should reckon the value of this increased consumption of food and clothes when he works, and not refuse work when he can get it with wages greater than the cost of this increased consumption. Nay, as Satan finds mischief for idle hands to do, and as it is important for a workman to keep his hand in practice, it is almost as well to work for a little less. Our tradesmen and manufacturers often sell at a loss and are glad to do it.

Many of these labourers forced into the country this winter would probably stay there in the summer, and we should no longer have the anomaly of farmers being unable to get labour except at ruinous prices in the country, while there are thousands of men unemployed in town.

A CHECK TO DRUNKENNESS.

There was a pitiable case of death caused by drunkenness, in this city, last week. The unfortunate victim spent nearly the whole day in one public house, and left it only to die in his own backyard. This is evidently a case calling for action on the part of the authorities. At the Coroner's inquest the most searching examination should have been made, and the share of a third person or persons in the death of the wretched painter investigated. The temperance question is being seriously agitated at the present time, as well it may. Influential delegations had interviews with the Premier, in this city, the other day, on the same topic. Little came of these interviews, as indeed little has come of much previous legislation on this head. The Dunkin Act is very well so far as it goes, but it naturally cannot be enforced in cities like Montreal or Toronto, and, doubtless, it was never the intention of its author that it should be. There are very few Acts which seem to have any force in our large towns, and while the License system has certainly

effected some good, especially since the appointment of an influential Board of Commissioners, it remains true to say that drunkenness is visibly on the increase throughout the country. The particular case to which we have alluded above leads us to urge stricter vigilance, by the police, over public houses and drinking places generally, and thus preventing the supplying of an inebriate with more liquor than he can bear. We do not know the police regulation in this respect, but there ought to be a law, if it does not exist, forbidding publicans or their servants to supply liquor to customers who have already obviously had more than enough. Furthermore we ought to have a law resembling the English Adulteration Act, making it penal on the part of the publicans to sell "hoccussed" drinks. Any man who is caught selling liquor to a drunken man ought to be punished, and the punishment ought to be graduated according to the magnitude of the offence. Similarly, any man who is caught vending any adulterated liquor ought to be amenable to the severest penalty. For the carrying out of these suggestions—which apply not to Montreal only, but to every large city or town in the Dominion—we hold that the Board of License Commissioners should be charged, through the police, with the strictest vigilance over the management of every public house or saloon to which a license has been granted. This supervision would result in a marked decrease of drunkenness.

PUBLICITY AND ITS EFFECTS.

The earnest appeal of the Grand Jury of Quebec for the suppression in the journals of all references to matters of a kind that would be calculated to injure the minds of the young, must command the sympathies of all good men. Still it must not be forgotten that it is this very element of a general publicity that affords our best security against the fiendishness which is conceived in the recesses of the evil heart, and which could be checked in its very birth if the publicity could be brought in soon enough. All references to crimes of the sort indicated should be conceived and expressed in a grave spirit, and one favorable to the maintenance of law, social order and a pure mind. Needless details should be withheld in the daily or weekly press, and parents should exercise a wise discretion as to the literature they permit to come under the eye of the younger members of their families. The passions are perhaps as much moved by perpetual small appeals as by the occasional appearance of a shocking incident, however greatly worse the latter recital might be in itself. The sympathies upon which the healthy course and government of this world have been made to depend, act for the most part quietly, and do not need constant agitation to promote their normal expression. Besides these things, parents should themselves, with all necessary caution, take up the sometimes disagreeable task of informing the minds of the young in a grave way, on arrival of the proper age for such disclosures, of some of the evils that subsist in the world, so fortifying their spirits against solitary brooding and sickly thoughts. If an appeal is needed, there should always be the pastor and the medical adviser to recur to. The sympathy of experience and maturity with young manhood and womanhood in their enquiries after truth—of father and son, and mother and daughter—is, we believe, a great want in our Canadian society, nor do we think, by promoting such sympathies, the independence of the younger citizens need be unduly infringed upon. There is one thing more deserving of calm consideration, and that is, that the instructors of youth should especially uphold the morality of the New Testament—which is so distinct as to have the force of law—in opposition to the law teachings upon moral and social questions that are so often met with in the world. The "man that is not passion's slave" is on the road to good citizenship and an honoured and useful life.