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 COMPANY; Montreal; Publishers.

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for the advertising and subscription departments of this  
 paper. Good percentage, large and exclusive territory,  
 given to each canvasser, who will be expected, on the  
 other hand, to furnish security. Apply to the Manager.

#### THE NEW STORY.

We beg to announce that we have arranged with Mr.

#### WILKIE COLLINS

for the exclusive right to publish, in serial form, a New  
 Story he has just written, entitled

#### "THE LAW AND THE LADY."

This story is not only worthy of Mr. Collins' great repu-  
 tation, but is stated to be the best he has written. Our  
 readers may therefore expect a rare treat from its  
 perusal in our columns.

In our next number a large instalment of this story,  
 with appropriate illustrations, will appear in the form of  
 a Supplement.

#### NOTICE TO NEWS DEALERS.

We beg to call the attention of News Dealers through-  
 out the country to the fact that we have secured the sole  
 right for Canada of publishing Wilkie Collins's new story,  
 "The Law and the Lady," in serial form.

Owing to the fact of Victor Hugo's "Ninety Three"  
 being yet uncompleted, it has been thought advisable to  
 postpone the commencement of the above until our first  
 number in November, when the News will appear with  
 many additions and improvements. We feel sure that  
 the varied attractions we shall then be able to present to  
 our readers will fully compensate for any disappointment  
 that may have been caused by the postponement of our  
 new serial. In the issue of the 7th November a more  
 than usually large instalment of the same will be given.

#### NOTICE.

We desire to inform our readers that application has  
 been made for letters patent incorporating a new Litho-  
 graphic Printing and Publishing Company, into whose  
 hands will pass, after incorporation, the whole of the  
 Publishing, Lithographic, and Printing business hitherto  
 carried on by George E. Desbarats, and the Engraving  
 and Lithographic Printing business of Messrs. Burland,  
 Lafrechain, and Co., an amalgamation of the two houses  
 being about to be effected. The new Company—which will  
 be known as the Burland Desbarats Company—will be in  
 working order on or about the first of November next.  
 Upon the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS the Management  
 intend to concentrate their efforts so that, on its becom-  
 ing the property of the Company a manifest improvement  
 shall be developed in its every department. On and  
 after the date mentioned the Management purpose to  
 present the country with a Pictorial Paper of which it  
 may, on every score, be proud.

The artistic staff will be increased and remodelled, and  
 every detail of the illustrations carefully followed and  
 supervised, so that the Pictorial pages of the News shall  
 be steadily and progressively good, and shall vie with  
 and eclipse, if possible, its American and English contem-  
 poraries.

Portraits of prominent men, events of general and local  
 interest, notable public edifices, interesting scenery, mer-  
 cantile and manufacturing houses, will be illustrated by  
 able artists. Politics of every shade, society in its various  
 phases, will furnish subjects for humorous cartoons,

where the sharp edge of satire shall be made to do good  
 service. Works of art will be reproduced from time to  
 time, and always in the best style known to modern skill.

In its letter-press pages the News will be essentially a  
 family and literary paper. It will be made a necessity  
 to the fireside of every Canadian home. The ladies, the  
 children, the weary paterfamilias, all will find recreation  
 and instruction in its columns. The stories and novels  
 published will be by the best writers of the day. The  
 selections, carefully made, avoiding everything that may  
 offend the most sensitive conscience or the most fastidious  
 taste. In politics its character will be perfect independ-  
 ence, and it will entirely avoid all approach to person-  
 alities or partizanship. It will likewise eschew all religious  
 discussion, and all comments or remarks that might  
 annoy any sect or congregation, leaving to each the entire  
 liberty of its worship, and giving to each credit for entire  
 good faith.

The Management claim that, with this programme for  
 its guidance, it deserves the liberal support of all Cana-  
 dians, and trust that strict attention to the details of its  
 business will prevent any unpleasantness ever interfering  
 between its patrons and the success of the CANADIAN  
 ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

## Canadian Illustrated News.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, OCT. 31, 1874.

#### THE ELECTORAL LAW.

When the first cases of contested election were tried  
 about two months ago, we ventured to point out what we  
 considered a weak point in the operation of the law. We  
 stated that, as the object was to ferret out corruption, it  
 was hardly advisable, at least in prominent cases, that the  
 respondent should be allowed to withdraw from the in-  
 vestigation as soon as one instance of bribery was brought  
 home to him or his agents. As every election is a matter  
 of public concern, even more than of private or personal  
 interest, it seems clear that the whole truth about every  
 one of them should be revealed. Our remarks on this  
 head have been endorsed in several quarters and suppl-  
 emented by one or two observations which we regard as  
 equally important with our own.

There is no doubt that the law is far reaching in its  
 inquiries and inexorable in its logical sequences. Any  
 man, whether an accredited agent or not, who spends  
 money unlawfully in the service of a candidate, makes  
 himself responsible for the annulling of the election. It  
 does not matter whether the candidate knows anything  
 about the transaction or not. Even if he should know of  
 it and condemn it, that would be no palliation. So far,  
 there is no fault to find with the law. But the event has  
 proven that it should be hedged in by additional provi-  
 sions. Human nature being what we all know it to be,  
 and the franchise being always liable to abuse, there is  
 probably not a single election held throughout the  
 Dominion which would not be voided by this law if brought  
 up for contestation. Any sharp, unscrupulous partizan,  
 seeing the election going against his party, can cross into  
 the enemies' ranks, bribe an elector to vote for his adver-  
 sary, and thus make sure of securing his deposition before  
 the courts. The ballot may possibly diminish such  
 chances of intrigue, but your electoral wire-puller is of  
 that shrewd class whom hardly any precaution can balk.  
 In view of these facts, it has been suggested, and we  
 believe with reason, that the unseating of the member is  
 not sufficient punishment for such cases of corruption.  
 The bribers themselves should be held responsible. Ac-  
 cording to the present reading of the law, the judge is  
 instructed to send in to Parliament the names of such  
 canvassers and agents as have been found guilty of bribery.  
 The punishment is plainly insufficient. These men should  
 meet with palpable chastisement. They should be fined  
 or imprisoned according to the gravity of their offence.  
 It is they who are to blame for the inconvenience, annoy-  
 ance and expenses of the trial. It is their fault if a re-  
 spectable member of Parliament is deprived of the honour  
 of his seat. They are responsible for the trouble and cost  
 to the country of a second election. It is therefore only  
 right that they should pay a penalty commensurate with  
 their guilt. Perhaps no more efficacious cure for bribery  
 could be imagined than the punishment which we advo-  
 cate. Let the ward runners, the vote jumpers, the pot-  
 house politicians, understand that they will be fined or  
 imprisoned if caught in the act of purchasing votes by any  
 of the indirect means of which they have the secret, and  
 we shall soon see them keep aloof from meddling and  
 intrigue. In that case, too, the bar-room drinking, the  
 cab-driving, the idle assemblages in front of polling  
 booths, will also disappear, and the outlay of each candi-  
 date will be strictly confined to printing and hall rent.

It is intended at the next session of the Quebec Legis-  
 lature to introduce an election law. The Cabinet are at-

tentively watching the operations of the present law with  
 the view of improving upon it, if possible. We, therefore,  
 respectfully submit these considerations to them, in the  
 confidence that they will see their way towards embody-  
 ing them in their improved scheme. Of course it were  
 visionary to expect total freedom from corruption at elec-  
 tions. No law which human ingenuity can devise will  
 prevent certain men from being venal. But much as the  
 present legislation has done, it is plain that more is asked  
 for, and we trust that at Ottawa the measure will be  
 revised and strengthened. Public sentiment has been  
 singularly favourable to the crusade against bribery, and  
 is prepared to encourage still further steps in the same  
 direction. The lesson taught within the past few months  
 is bound to be fruitful in good results, and it is the  
 bounden duty of the leaders of the people to give that  
 lesson all proper force and significance.

#### FEDERATION AND CENTRALIZATION.

Quietly and gradually, yet most positively, the question  
 of organic constitutional change is looming up in Canada.  
 Our present system is a federation, or union of separate,  
 independent Provinces, under a general government of  
 limited powers. There are several thinkers and speakers  
 who desire to alter this into a legislative union, or central  
 government, which shall absorb the autonomy of the  
 provinces. Considering that the present federal system  
 has been in operation only seven years, any transformation  
 must appear *prima facie* as premature and therefore inop-  
 portune; but the fact that the transformation is already  
 mooted, is highly suggestive of the importance of the  
 problem. It acquires additional importance from the  
 circumstance that, in the United States, a precisely simi-  
 lar modification is being discussed by several of the lead-  
 ing minds in the press and on the rostrum. Being on a  
 much larger scale, and involving the experiences of just  
 one hundred years of democratic government, as well as  
 the results of a tremendous civil war, the question in the  
 United States is fraught with useful instruction to our-  
 selves, and is, therefore, altogether worthy of a moment's  
 study.

When the American Constitution was adopted in 1789,  
 two parties were in presence—the Federal and the Repub-  
 lican. The former, led by HAMILTON, advocated a central  
 uniform system. The latter, headed by JEFFERSON, de-  
 manded a federal government with delegated powers.  
 After a brief struggle, HAMILTON was overborne by JEFFER-  
 SON, and the sage of Monticello, in eight years of Presi-  
 dency, had full opportunity to establish his ideas firmly in  
 the minds of the American people. State sovereignty  
 became the watchword of the Republicans, who were  
 thenceforward known as Jeffersonian Democrats, and who  
 ruled the country almost continuously for sixty years,  
 from the end of John ADAMS' term to the close of  
 BUCHANAN'S administration. Then came the war. What  
 neither the pen of the journalist, nor the tongue of the  
 politician had been able to decide, was hopelessly aban-  
 doned to the dread arbitrament of the sword. Whatever  
 may have been the result of that stupendous conflict, this  
 much is certain that it gave the death blow to State  
 sovereignty. Nullification and secession were the logical  
 outcome of Jeffersonian federalism, and when these were  
 crushed by the bombs of Petersburg, or buried beneath  
 the ashes of Atlanta, federalism lay stark dead and cen-  
 tralization rose on triumphant wings to rule in its place.  
 However Americans may strive to deceive themselves, the  
 United States, since the war, are not and will never be  
 what they were before. There lies buried beneath the  
 trenches of Richmond more than the flesh and bone of  
 heroic soldiers in gray and blue. Whoso would convince  
 himself of the change need only look at the distracted  
 South, still groaning under military rule. Nay, he should  
 look at the North itself and view the startling change  
 which has taken place in the last decade since the war.  
 Railway monopoly, mining combinations, land rings, grain  
 corners, banking corporations, the increase of transporta-  
 tion facilities, the zigzag anomalies of credit, have worked  
 their effect not only on commerce, society and morals,  
 but on politics and government as well. The question is  
 now put down in black and white—centralization or anar-  
 chy. American journalists have always proclaimed the  
 failure of the French and Spanish republics because they  
 were central and not federal. Federalism they have held  
 up as the only efficient barrier against monarchy. What  
 if they must eat their own words now and apply to them-  
 selves precisely the same lessons which they have given  
 to others? And what if Canada should follow in the wake  
 of her great neighbour? The motto on the American  
 shield is *E pluribus Unum*, to signify that the federal gov-  
 ernment derived its powers, definite and limited, from the  
 several independent States. That is now pronounced a  
 failure and a mistake. Sir GEO. CARTIER wished to reverse  
 the Canadian motto, and make it *Ex uno plures*, to indicate