

1841 we had one great constitutional struggle, when we made the transition from an aristocratic to a popular form of government. Such men as Baldwin, Papineau, and W. L. Mackenzie, though not faultless, were ever to be remembered for the sacrifices they made at the shrine of Canadian freedom. As to the rebellion of 1837, the wonder was that so mighty a political change was effected with so slight a ripple on the surface of our history. The events leading up to the Confederation, as well as those since that period, needed to be carefully studied in order to bring the student *en rapport* with the political questions of the day.

The third qualification was to have a fair method of studying contemporary politics. The meridian line of party cuts through all our political circles, from the Central Government at Ottawa down to the Council Boards in our towns. Hence it was difficult to get from any single quarter a full presentation of living issues. The newspaper was a natural history in daily parts, but the newspapers, as a rule, were special pleaders for their party. Hence it was absolutely necessary for a man to read two sets of them. The Reformer should read a Conservative paper; the Conservative should read a Reform paper. The question "How to study politics," for most men, resolved itself into the question "How to read the newspaper." Our first efforts should always be to arrive at the facts of the case. Having these we stand on a rock. Having these, we can estimate at their true value the philippics of the editorial column and the rhetoric flights of the political orator. It is remarkable how great blustering Blunderbore giant of general assertions cover and cringe before Jack the Giant-killer in the shape of a fact.

Selections.

We understand that a young leading member of the bar, of Montreal, with true Canadian spirit, is making a collection of all works possible to obtain relating to Canada. He is fortunately possessed of ample means with which to gratify this desire.

The new Peter Redpath Museum is being pushed forward to completion with a care worthy of this grand structure. We believe we can say, without fear of contradiction, it is one of the most substantially built edifices of any kind in British North America. The glaziers are busy putting in Pilkington's, Lancashire, British plate glass. The walls inside are nearly all finished and dry. Plasterers are busy setting in the various cornices. God bless the liberal donor, whose noble example we hope will stimulate others of our wealthy citizens to do likewise.

We are glad to know all early books on Canada are much sought after and bring excellent prices. "Smith's History of Canada," published 1815, "Hochelaga Depicta," "Hawkins' View of Quebec," and some others, are very much in demand, and bring high figures.

MR. GERALD E. HART, we believe, has one of the finest collection of books on Canadian History owned by any one gentleman in this city.

We understand a widow lady living on Sherbrook street, near Union Avenue, one of the most indefatigable collectors of all that is *antique* or *curious*, and whose ceramic collection is second to none in this city, is about to donate her entire large and valuable collection of *bric-a-brac*, to the new Redpath Museum.

MR. V. B. HALL, on St. James street, displays some very fine, rare proof Gold, Silver and Copper Coins, rare large silver Indian medals, and several Military medals, also the very scarce Chateaugay War Medal.

PAUL HOLLAND KNOWLTON.

The following sketch of the early days of the late Col. Paul Holland Knowlton, Esq., M.L.C. was, from its singularity, selected some twenty years ago, from a Canadian paper, and is now reproduced as of fresh interest, on account of his late decease:—

"A writer in the *Brattleboro Phoenix*, relates the following romantic history of a Green Mountain boy:—

The town of Newlane, in this county, was many years since the birthplace of an infant, who was christened Paul Holland Knowlton. As he grew up to manhood, the Yankee spirit of enterprise carried him to Canada, and in the interior of the country he commenced the practice of law. His industry and perseverance were rewarded with success, and after a time he removed for more lucrative practice to the City of Montreal. Prosperity and good fortune attended him, and he soon became a delegate and was elected to the Canadian Parliament, where his ability and good judgment secured to him a respectable position and influence. While a member of the Parliament, he received a letter purporting to be written by an old lady in England, also of the name of Knowlton, stating in substance, that she had not a single relation, and was alone in the world; that, seeing his name in the papers, as a member of the Canadian Parliament, and it being the same as hers, she thought he might be of the same family. She further stated, that she was possessed of considerable property, and knew of no kindred to whom to leave it, and that if he would come to see her she would pay his expenses, and make him heir to her property. Mr. Knowlton, supposing this to be a hoax, made no answer, and paid no attention to it. Two or three months after, he received another letter from the same person, urging in still stronger terms his visit to her, and with so much apparent sincerity and earnestness, that he resolved to go to England and see what truth there was in it.

He did go and found his correspondent as she had described herself. She was living in an elegant mansion, in the country, and in handsome style. She was delighted with the visit of Mr. Knowlton, and spared no pains to make it agreeable to him. After spending some time there he prepared to return home. The old lady defrayed all his expenses, and made him many presents, and before his departure she renewed to him her promise to leave to him all her property, and related to him the incident which led to the correspondence.

She informed him that she was betrothed to a young man of the name of Paul Holland, who was an officer in the British Army. That he had fallen in battle before the consummation of his nuptials, and that she had since remained unmarried and true to his memory. That seeing his name uniting the name of her lover and her own, she was struck with the singular coincidence, and thought she could not better show her devotion to the memory of her betrothed, than to bestow her property on him, who seemed by his name to be the representative of both. He left her and returned to Montreal, and within a year afterwards received intelligence of her death, and that by her will

he was made sole heir to her estate. He set out immediately for England, and found on his arrival everything prepared for him. His claim was recognized, and he entered at once into the possession of a large fortune. He is now living in the enjoyment of his good fortune at Montreal, and is now, or recently has been, a member of the Canadian Parliament.

This is a true sketch of the history of one Vermont boy. The regions of fiction, and the highest flight of the imagination, do not furnish a more romantic adventure."

LIST OF NEW AND OLD BOOKS

—FOR SALE BY—

W. R. HAIGHT, Bookseller and Stationer, 92 KING STREET EAST, TORONTO, ONT.

Parties wishing any of these books should order at once, as in many cases we have only a single copy of the books in the list.

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- McGee, T. D'arcy, B.C.L.—A Popular History of Ireland from the Earliest Period to the Emancipation of the Catholics. 2 vols. Crown 8vo., half-morocco, in splendid condition. 823 pp. 3 00 (Scarce and out of print)
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