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THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

will be essentially

A CHRISTMAS NUMBER,

containing appropriate illustrations, Christmas Stories, Poems and Sketches, beside the usual amount of varied matter.

TO ADVERTISERS

the opportunity is a good one for putting their goods before the notice of the public, during the Holidays.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, 16th Dec., 1876.

PRACTICAL AND ANALYTICAL EDUCATION.

Education has been declared to be the most difficult study to which an intelligent man can apply his mind, but certainly there can be few departments of thought which will better repay the time and energy consumed on them. It might properly be defined as the art of bringing the human creature into true relations with his God and into a rational harmony with his surroundings. The Edgeworthian idea, though pretty fully developed in the lady's clever and always entertaining books, cannot be said to have maintained its ground with the fullness that might have been expected, in Anglo-Saxon discussions of what is suitable to be imparted to the minds of the young. The useful was Miss Edgeworth's predominant idea, and she carried it so far as to exclude all descriptions of scenery and of pictorial nature in her portrayal of living groups, and their conduct and utterances. The painful void thus created may be within the memory of some who recall their early school days. Still we cannot be said even now to be competing with that ingenious instructress in all that relates to the mechanics and chemistry of our daily life—or in adapting to the strength of the young scholar's understanding their visible exponents in notions of food and tools—house and clothing—land carriage and boat. How these ideas will subdivide themselves under the analysis of the able teacher—and how many and varied industrial forces and operations will thus be brought within their scope—and the sympathies which will go on to be established between them and the primary ideas of created things, and the researches that have exhibited the mutual relations of these, are views of the question which we have not just now space to enlarge upon. We need only say at present that if we succeed in making our children practical, we shall have gone a long way towards enabling them to realize a livelihood, and towards protecting their lives from disease and casualty. Miss Edgeworth had little to say in favor of that Scriptural History and morality which certainly lay at the foundation, whether she knew it or not, of her own moral teachings. To come down to a later day, Dickens also availed himself of the affections that Christianity only could create, without fairly acknowledging their source or depicting their more complete workings.

THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.

At length in Quebec all the parliamentary and a number of special committees are in full swing, and since the night on which the Budget speech was made there have been night sittings in the House. The work done since our last issue has been the passage of the Civil Service Bills, the Superior Court Act and a number of Public Bills introduced by private members, also the consideration of a few items in the Estimates. The Superior Court Bill provides that the Chief Justice when informed that the despatch of judicial business in any district requires the services of more judges of the Superior Court than there are in such district, or whenever the sole Judge of any district is unable to discharge his duties for any reason whatever, he shall have the power to require one or more of the Judges of districts other than those of Quebec and Montreal to discharge their duties temporarily in such district, to hold any term of the Court provided they can absent themselves without injuring the administration of justice in their district. This is an important change and will do away with the inconvenience so recently felt in Three Rivers and elsewhere in the Province. The Budget speech was given at the first evening session, and the House was crowded with spectators, a large number being ladies. Great interest was exhibited, it being the first Financial statement ever presented by the present Treasurer, who took the portfolio only about ten months since. The speech is admitted on all sides to be the most literary Financial one ever given in the House, and, barring its great length, was a perfect success. It gives the Revenue and Expenditure for the past year, showing a surplus of something over \$60,000. It details the estimated expenditure for the coming year at \$2,783,000. It details the last loan and the difficulties the Treasurer had to encounter in London, and concludes by the new Government Railway Policy.

THOUGHTFUL CHARITY.

A friend writing to us from Quebec states that he had the pleasure of being present at an entertainment, a few evenings since, which might be adopted with advantage in Montreal by some of our charitable societies. It was a children's concert, and consisted first of a number of glees with solos rendered by a choir of some sixty little girls ranging from six to sixteen years of age; and secondly, of a presentation of "Cinderella" also by children. As to the first part, the best description which can be given of it is by appending the two following verses from a local paper which will give an idea of the simplicity of these glees:

I saw the little children
With faces beaming bright;
As they stood upon the platform,
They formed a pleasing sight.
And oh, such queenly dresses
And pearls and flowers rare,
I thought that all in fairyland
Could not with these compare.

I heard their bird-like voices
Which rose so soft and clear,
While friends and parents gathered
Their little ones to hear.
I saw their smiling faces
Which no trace of sorrow bore,
For a pure heart in each bosom
Was the brightest gem they wore.

The representation of "Cinderella" was very creditable, and our correspondent is sure if something of the same sort could be got up in Montreal, it would meet with great success. The children belong to the first families of Quebec; so, as the Hall was crowded, one can fancy what a beautiful sight it was. Of course all their relatives had to be present, especially the brothers and sisters, who were flitting about the hall from one group to another in all the glory of their pretty dresses, ribbons and other finery. We venture to press this on the consideration of our friends, as we know the St. George's Society, for one, will be glad of a novelty that would promise to be as successful as those they have already tried.

THE BROOKLYN CATASTROPHE.

The terrible and appalling catastrophe at Brooklyn in the burning of the theatre by which 350 souls have been suddenly thrust into eternity deserves more than the short notice we can give it. The architects especially should be impressed by it, for on them more than on citizens generally devolves the responsibility of averting similar inflictions for the time to come. There is no reason, we believe, that a public building should not have any number of passages for exit that might be called for by such an emergency, on all its sides. Building materials are not so rigid but that they could serve quietly enough as parts of the containing walls—until the emergency demanded their transposition. Call them opening doors or what you will, if the public cared for its own safety as it should do, the thing would be done. The Roman auditorium was entirely fire-proof, however, and iron pillars and railings and tiled seats for the spectators would go far to make a building fire-proof—tiles being also used for the flooring. The staircases are a great difficulty, as things now are, but they might be multiplied. Mr. MACKENZIE has made all Canada his debtor by his law to have all doors of such buildings open outwards. We should like much to arouse the profession in regard to this great problem, and as a commencement should be glad to see such men as Mr. SPRINGLE and Mr. F. N. BOXER, of Montreal, bending their energies to it. We are glad to hear that the proprietors of the Academy of Music are already awakened to the great claims that rest upon them.

THE BENGAL CYCLONE.

The great inundation in Bengal proceeding from a cyclone and resulting storm-wave 20 feet high, by which between 300,000 and 400,000 lives are said to have been destroyed in a single hour of the night, is probably the greatest calamity from the incursion of water since Noah's flood. In addition to the multitude of natives, many British officials were lost. The sufferers were mainly an agricultural people in a fine alluvial country, such as is often more or less exposed to floods. The crops, though they have suffered, are not wholly destroyed. Some of the people of the large islands which were entirely submerged floated in their houses ten miles to the mainland and were thus saved, but the storm-wave penetrated into the mainland also for about 5 or 6 miles. The agricultural implements and buildings have been largely injured of course. Some few saved themselves by ascending trees, and but a few numerically. It is hard to grasp the idea of such a devastation. The London Times says it is a calamity which no human forethought could provide against. That will be thought true enough so far as ordinary conceptions are concerned, but if we permit the mind to deal with possibilities, and to allow the imagination some play, we perceive that the pre-diluvian and faithful idea of the ark and the post-diluvian and infidel idea of the Tower may each take rank at least as suggestions. It is evident that a 20 feet wave would not have affected ordinary three-story-houses, as regards the safety of the inmates, had there been such on the ground, and the notion of attaching a large raft to every domicile in any flat and easily flooded country may be new and strange, but it is not absurd.

OUR MINERAL RESOURCES.

The Committee on Industry of the Quebec Legislature have been doing good work this session. The Rev. Curé LABELLE has appeared before them and made a statement of the development lately undertaken by him on a vein of copper recently discovered in his parish of St. Jerome. He also introduced a Mr. PIET, mining engineer of Belgium, who has assayed some specimens of the ore and claims to have

discovered copper, silver and even gold in them. This latter gentleman possesses certificates from eminent French engineers as to successful investigations he has conducted in France and other countries, and it is suggested Government should appoint either him or some other qualified engineer as Inspector of Mines in this Province. The Committee also suggest that an act should be passed to protect the interest of mining companies as well as the ore of individuals in this Province.

Mr. SAMUEL WILMOT, Government Fishery Superintendent, passed eastward last week, with 150,000 whitefish from the Sandwich fishery establishment. A number of these ova are to be forwarded to the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Exeter. At an interview Mr. BLAKE had with these noblemen in England, they expressed a strong desire to have forwarded to them some of our Canadian fresh water fish for the purpose of introducing them into waters of Great Britain. This whole subject of fish culture is of the most important scientific and national interest and we trust very shortly to be able to give our readers a pictorial view as well as full description of the great establishment at Sandwich.

It is reported that the Dominion Parliament will meet about the middle of January. It is also said that a Ministerial announcement is to be made concerning our relations with the Colonial Office, and that some changes may be expected in the tariff—that duties may be increased on some articles that now pay very little, and a portion of the duties on sugar remitted. The sugar duties should certainly be regulated. Our cartoon last week, on the rise in sugar, has attracted much attention, as chiming exactly with the popular sentiment.

We beg to call particular attention to our sketch and letterpress account of the recent treaties negotiated by the Dominion Government with Indians of the North-West. The subject is interesting of itself through many of its curious and novel features, but it acquires additional importance at the present time, as contrasting the Canadian mode—copied from the British—of treating the Red Man with that employed by our neighbors across the border.

Germany will not take part officially in the Paris Exhibition of 1878, the principal reason given being that the German Government and the Chambers of Commerce do not anticipate that a sufficiency of German goods will be sent to Paris to warrant the large expenditure to be incurred by the Empire. In addition, they think the present time of depression inopportune. We fear the real reason of abstinence is the antipathy of the two nations.

Marshal MACMAHON lately attended the opening of the new building at Sévres for the display of the celebrated porcelain there manufactured. The Chamber was invited to meet him, and did not sit at Versailles until an hour after the usual time. M. GAMBETTA was for the first time presented to the Marshal, who spoke to him in courteous terms. This meeting is significant and is so regarded in France. M. GAMBETTA may yet become a Minister, as why should he not?

In consequence of the large number of exhibits offered by the Canadian manufacturers for the New South Wales Exhibition, another vessel has been chartered to take a cargo to Sydney. That is right. The expedition to Australia is only tentative, but it illustrates Canadian spirit, and we like it.