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THE CANADIAN Illustrated News.

HAMILTON, FEBRUARY 21, 1863.

NAPOLEON AND AMERICA.

The benevolent heart of His Majesty of the Tuilleries is sadly pained by the condition of the North American Continent. The 'caving in' of things generally in that hitherto favoured land excited his imperial commiseration to an unspeakable extent. For him to remain inactive, under such circumstances, is not to be expected, the troubled nations of the western world must be taken under his special protection and care. A few doses of the *idees Napoléoniennes*, judiciously administered, would be a sovereign remedy for their disordered systems. So, after making a careful diagnosis of the case, or cases rather, the Imperial M. D. graciously condescends to prescribe. There is this striking peculiarity about the Emperor's nostrums, that they are administered to the suffering patient in inverse ratio to his strength, that is to say, the weaker the patient the stronger the dose, and vice versa. For Mexico, therefore, he prescribes an expedition of armed men; the dose to be repeated until a cure is effected. His other American patient, however, is a different kind of subject, and to call him 'the sick man,' would certainly be no misapplication of terms, but his sickness is rather that of delirium than of weakness. There can be no doubt that his frantic exertions to cast out the devils that are tormenting him, are fast exhausting his strength; but there are a few vigorous kicks and cuffs in him yet. These would pretty certainly be the reward of any royal or other quack who attempted to force a remedy down his throat against his will. In his case, then, the treatment must be of another kind, palatable cordials, to be given with gentle opiates, that will not cause a muscle of his face to twist in the swallowing, but which will gradually bring him to a condition suitable for the application of more effective specifics.—These the Emperor has supplied in the shape of copious dispatches by his foreign ministers, sugar-coated with the usual quantity of diplomatic civility, and profuse with renewals of 'distinguished consideration.'

To those of our readers who have no wish to wade through five or six columns of closely printed matter to ascertain the purport of these dispatches, we offer the following brief synopsis:

The correspondence opens on November 16th, 1862, with a letter from Mr. Dayton, United States Minister at Paris, to M. Druyn l'Huys, referring to the mediation to the courts of Great Britain and Russia. Mr. Dayton attempts to prove that the Federal cause has made satisfactory progress during the year, instances in proof that the rebels have lost during that period the eastern shore of the Chesapeake, the dockyards and country round Pensacola, all Virginia west of the Alleghanies, Kentucky, Missouri, and part of Tennessee, all the ports and fortifications on the Atlantic coast of any value, and most important of all they have lost New Orleans. On November 23d, M. Druyn l'Huys replies: He admits the great strength of the Northern States, but thinks that 'the conditions of soil and climate seem to oppose insuperable obstacles to the progress of the struggle, and that the equal energy of both sides tends to impress upon it a character of indomitable desperation.'

He concludes by offering the friendly of

fices of France, should they at any time be required. Four dispatches follow, from Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, in one of which he deals with the abortive mediation scheme, adopting a very decided tone as to the reception it would meet with in the United States. After saying that foreign nations have already prolonged the war by fostering the hopes of disloyal citizens, he grows warlike as follows: 'This Government will, in all cases, reasonably warn foreign powers of the injurious effect of any apprehended interference on their part. And having done this, it will measure its means of self-defence by the magnitude of the dangers with which the country is threatened.'

On January 9th, the French government, unable to wait until their proffered services were asked for, convey the proposal to Mr. Seward, that the belligerents should appoint commissioners with a view of bringing the war to a close. On the 6th of February Mr. Seward replies, refusing to accede to the proposition.

Altogether the Emperor has played his part with ability, and not without success. Although his proposition has been rejected by the Washington Government, he has succeeded in convincing many, ordinarily shrewd Yankees, that he earnestly desires the restoration of the Union, and the triumph of 'the best government the world ever saw.' To produce this conviction must have been the only object he had in view, since he perfectly understood that the North could not and would not accept his overtures for peace.

What will be the next move in the prosecution of his designs it is difficult to say. With Mexico as a base of operations he will probably await future development, and act according to his interpretation of the 'logic of facts.' Should division in the North or favorable offers from the South present the opportunity, he will no doubt dispel the amiable weakness in favor of foreign despots, which the American people have frequently manifested.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT, GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH.

On Thursday, 12th of February, 1863, His Excellency, Lord Monck, Governor General of Canada, proceeded in state from his residence to the Parliament House at Quebec, but did not then speak from the Throne. The death of Sir Allan McNab, Speaker of the Legislative Council in last session, having left the chair of the Upper House vacant, the election of a gentleman to preside was the first business. Several members had been named by newspaper report; but doubts of ministerial, or of opposition success, led to the omission of their eligibility as an issue of party conflict.—There was no cause for a party contest; for with one consent the House pronounced that it possessed a gentleman qualified by high intellect, by learning, by position in society, by professional eminence as a lawyer, and by spotless reputation, to be the official steward of their legislative privileges and of their honour. That gentleman was the Hon. Alexander Campbell of Kingston, an elective member for Cataract Division. He was proposed by the Hon. John Hamilton of Kingston, a life-member of the Council, and seconded by the Hon. L. Dessaulles, elective member for Rougemont Division in Lower Canada. The clerk having put the motion, it passed unanimously. Whereupon the mover and seconder conducted Mr. Campbell to the Chair. In the choice language which that gentleman has always so gracefully at command, he expressed in English and in French a desire to merit the approbation of the House by a faithful performance of all the duties attaching to the office of Speaker.

On Friday, 13th, the Governor General went again to the Parliament Buildings in state. The Hon. Alexander Campbell informed His Excellency that the choice of a Speaker had fallen on him. The members of the Legislative Assembly having been summoned to attend in the Chamber of the Legislative Council, the opening speech was delivered. When Lord Monck had retired, the members of Assembly returned to their own Chamber; and the business of the session then commenced. After presentation of petitions, opposition questions and ministerial replies, the Assembly adjourned to Monday.

On Monday, 16th, both Houses met. In the Upper House, Hon. M. P. L. Latour, elective member for Laurentides Division, speaking in French, moved an address in answer to the Governor General's speech.—Hon. J. G. Currie of St. Catharines, lately elected for Niagara Division, seconded the address.

In the Lower House petitions were presented numerously from Lower Canada in favour of the scheme of Credit Foncier, followed by cheers from Mr. Cartier, the Premier who retired from office in 1862, and Mr. Cauchon late Minister of Public Works. The consideration of the address was appointed for Tuesday and the Assembly adjourned.

As pictorial illustrations are being prepared for this journal, depicting the procession of His Excellency to open the Parliament, with views of the interior of both Houses; also portraits of the two presiding Speakers, and other official personages, a detailed account of the procession, and of the proceedings around the Throne, is deferred until the engravings are ready. Meanwhile an epitome of the speech is submitted to the judgment of our readers.

His Excellency, addressing 'Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,' and 'Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,' congratulated them: 1st, on being assembled at a season when business, commercial or agricultural, is not interrupted by their absence from home. 2d, they were congratulated on the spirit of loyalty and patriotism evinced by the enrolment of Volunteer Militia Companies, and by Drill Associations rendering them ready for service, should such unhappily be required in defense of the Province. 3d, A Bill to amend the present Militia law was announced; its object, the better military organization of the people for the defense of the Province. 4th, A measure for the readjustment of Parliamentary representation in both sections of the Province. 5th, A Bill to effect an equitable settlement between Debtor and Creditor; and for the relief of insolvents. In other words, a Bankruptcy Law, which is urgently requisite to improve the trading morality, as well as for the commercial advancement of the Province. 6th, A measure to improve the administration of justice. 7th, To improve the registration of Titles. 8th, To improve the Law of Patents.

9th, They were informed that after the last session terminated, His Excellency had appointed Commissioners to investigate and report on the condition of the unfinished Parliament Buildings at Ottawa; that delay had occurred; but a report would be laid before them; and a recommendation founded on the report, 'with a view to the resumption and speedy completion of the works.' 10th, Two members of the Executive Council had visited London during the recess to confer with the Imperial Government, and in connection with delegates from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, respecting an Intercolonial Railway; the correspondence with the Secretary for the colonies on this subject to be laid before them without delay.

11th, 'Those gentlemen' (who went to England,) 'were also instructed to call the attention of the Imperial Authorities to the importance of opening up for settlement the great North Western Territory; and of facilitating the establishment of direct communication between Canada and British Columbia. Very favorable results may be expected from these representations, not only in the development of the resources of intermediate and distant possessions of the Crown, but in the commercial benefits that will accrue to this Province as the natural outlet for the productions of the West.'

Then, addressing the 'Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,' His Lordship said:

12th, 'The Public Accounts of the past year will be submitted to you, together with Estimates for the Supplies required for the service of the current year. The Estimates have been prepared with the strictest attention to economy.' 13th, They were informed that Commissioners had been appointed to inquire into every department of Public Service; the object being to ascertain, and on the knowledge acquired to provide a remedy for the defects of the system now regulating the audit of accounts, and the payment of moneys from the Public Exchequer, and with a view to the retrenchment of expenditure so far as that may be found consistent with a due regard to efficiency. 'I hope,' said His Excellency, 'that the result of their inquiries will introduce such a system of control and economy as may, before long, bring the expenditure of the Province within its annual income.'

Then, addressing 'Honorable Gentlemen,' and 'Gentlemen,' His Excellency remarked:

14th, On the spontaneous contributions sent from Canada, for the relief of distressed operatives in the manufacturing districts of Great Britain; a gratifying evidence of the sympathy of the Canadian people for their fellow-subjects in the British Isles, and which would strengthen the kindly ties, which will long continue, he trusted, to exist between this colony and the parent state.

15th, and lastly, 'I invite you,' said 'His

Excellency,' 'to consider the several subjects which may be brought before you; in a calm, impartial, and unselfish spirit; and I fervently invoke the blessing of the Almighty on your performance of the important duties which the Constitution of the Province has imposed upon you.' And so ended the speech of the Governor General, which, as the programme of the Ministry, is at once large, liberal, and explicit. But under a constitution based on freedom of election, and freedom of debate, in which organized parties on Ministerial and Opposition sides, are alike a political convenience and a necessity in the moral nature of man, as opposite forces are an ordinance in the physical laws of the universe, it may be feared that the infirmities inseparable from political life, will not always admit of debates being conducted in a 'calm, impartial and unselfish spirit.'

On Tuesday, Mr. Rankin of Essex county, moved the Address in the Assembly, and from his speech it is inferred that the Ministry are not in favor of removing the Seat of Government from Quebec to Toronto at the close of the present Session. This summary will be resumed when the debate concludes. Various amendments are on the notice paper.

EUROPEAN NEWS tell of little but rumours which are not likely to amount to much. The British Government it is said has complaints against that of the United States, owing to the seizure of their vessels too near the Bahama coast. There need be no doubt, if there are any such complaints, but that they will be amicably arranged. The Emancipation society have gained a triumph.—The meeting which was held at Exeter Hall was most enthusiastic and the resolutions adopted approved the principles of the Society and expressed great sympathy with the North. The hostile amendments were promptly voted down, and the 'Times' denounced amid groans and hisses. Sir Robert Peel has been speechifying, and took occasion to declare himself favorable to a separation of the North and South, strongly condemning Lincoln's Emancipation edict. Another surmise is that the Emperor's proposal of a meeting to discuss differences, if rejected will result in the recognition of the Confederate States, whether England joins France or not. These proposals have been rejected by the Federal Government, and the world now waits for the next move. The Prussian Chambers and the King are still playing at cross-purposes, having voted by an overwhelming majority an address hostile to the Government. His Majesty has refused to receive the deputation from the Chamber of Deputies for the presentation of the address. The President of that body therefore proposed that the address should be sent direct to the King as a letter, which was agreed to without debate. It appears that nothing short of expulsion will teach crowned heads the danger of resisting the popular will.

The Greeks have at length found a man who is willing to be made a king; the Duke of Saxe Coburg having consented to become a candidate. Kingcraft seem to be at a discount in these days.

The Spanish Government still refuses to recognize the Kingdom of Italy; from such a quarter nothing better could be expected.

FLAT-IRON HEATER.—Mr. Murray Anderson of London, C. W., has been exercising his genius for the benefit of the feminine portion of the community, and has succeeded in making an improvement in the way of heating flat-irons. The heater is made so as to fit the openings in the top of the stove, and a part of it shaped like the flat-iron projects inward, so that it is in closer contact with the fire, and, therefore, more easily warmed. Mr. John W. Coe is agent for this city, and will be happy to supply it to those who wish to give it a trial. It costs only \$1,00,—no very great investment.

PRIZE MEDAL.—The beautiful prize Medal on our centre page was designed and executed by the well-known firm of Messrs. Millidge & Son, Princes street, Edinburgh, Scotland, and reflects great credit on their taste and skill as artists.