

which, by hydraulic art and secret conveyance of water through the trunks and branches of the trees, were made to sing and clap their wings; but at the sudden appearance of an owl out of a bush of the same artifice, they immediately became all mute and silent.

4. REMARKABLE WORKS OF HUMAN LABOR.

Nineveh was 14 miles long, 8 miles wide, and 46 miles round, with a wall of 100 feet high, and thick enough for three chariots abreast. Babylon was 50 miles within the walls, which were 75 feet thick and 100 feet high, with 100 brazen gates. The Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, was 420 feet to the support of the roof; it was 100 years in building. The largest of the pyramids was 481 feet in height, and 953 on the sides; the base covers 11 acres; the stones are about 60 feet in length, and the layers are 208; it employed 320,000 men in the building. The labyrinth in Egypt contained 300 chambers and 12 halls. Thebes, in Egypt, presents ruins 27 miles round and 100 gates. Carthage was 20 miles round. Athens was 25 miles round and contained 350,000 citizens and 400,000 slaves. The Temple of Delphos was so rich in donations that it was plundered of £10,000,000, and Nero carried away from it 200 statues. The walls of Rome were 13 miles round.

VII. Papers on Canadian Subjects.

1. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE NORTH-WEST.

The "Algoma," yesterday, took up a party of seven gentlemen, under Professor Bell, of the Geological Survey, who will, we understand, be engaged during the summer in making an examination of the country lying between Lake Neepigon and the United States boundary line on the one hand, and Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods on the other. Professor Bell, being a civil engineer as well as a practical geologist, will be able to contribute much important information as to the best route for a railway or other means of communication through the country which he will traverse. We anticipate very important results from this survey of mining region between Lake Superior and the great agricultural country beyond.

2. THE SEAL OF THE DOMINION.

Messrs. J. G. and A. B. Wyon have now on view at 287 Regent Street, says an English paper, impressions from the seals of the four provinces of Canada, and the Great Seal of the Dominion, just completed, with the gold medal that has been struck in commemoration of the union of the provinces. They are all designed and executed in a very high style of art. Of the seals, that for the Dominion is, of course, the largest. It represents the Queen, seated under a Gothic canopy, and holding the ball and sceptre, while the wings of the canopy contain the shields of the province—two on either side—hanging on the stem of an oak. These Gothic canopies occupy nearly the whole of the middle space of the seal; the ground between them and the border is covered with a rich diaper, and a shield bearing the Royal Arms of England fills the space beneath the centre canopy. The border of the seal bears the inscription, "Victoria, Dei Gratia, Britanniae, Regina, F. D. In Canada Sigillum." This work would add to the reputation of any other seal engraver, though it can hardly do so to that of the Messrs. Wyon, whose productions have long enjoyed a high and deserved celebrity. The seal is well filled, as it should be in a Gothic design, but it is not crowded; the ornaments are all very pure in style, and the whole is in the most perfect keeping. The execution is not less remarkable: the relief is extremely high in parts (although it does not at first appear to be so, owing to the breadth of the composition), but, in spite of this difficulty, the truth, sharpness, and finish of every part have been preserved as well as they could possibly be on a medal, or even on a coin. The smaller seals for the provinces are engraved on one general design. The crown surmounts a central shield bearing the Royal Arms, below which is a smaller shield, bearing the arms of the particular province—New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. The Royal motto on a flowing ribbon fills up the space at the sides; a border adapted to the outline of the design runs outside this, and touches the circular border of the seal, containing the legend. These seals are no less remarkable for the carefulness of execution than the one to which we have referred.

The medal which has been struck to commemorate the confederation of the provinces is in solid gold, and is so large and massive that its value in metal alone is 50l. On the obverse there is a head of the Queen, for which Her Majesty recently gave Mr. Wyon sittings; the reverse bears an allegorical design—Britannia seated and holding the scroll of confederation, with figures representing

the four provinces grouped before her. Ontario holds the sheaf and sickle; Quebec, the paddle; Nova Scotia, the mining spade; and New Brunswick, the forest axe. Britannia carries her trident, and the lion crouches by her side. The following inscription runs round a raised border:—"Juventas et Patrius Vigor Canada Instaurata, 1867." The relief on this side is extremely bold, and the composition, modelling, and finish are such as to leave little to be desired. The treatment on the head on the obverse is broad and simple; the hair is hidden by a sort of hood of flowing drapery, confined by a plain coronet, and the surface is but little broken anywhere. The ornaments are massive rather than rich; there is a plain pendant in the ear, and a miniature of the Prince Consort is attached to a necklace of very chaste design.

3. THE EARLY FRENCH SETTLERS OF CANADA.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "MAPLE LEAVES."

Very different was the *status* of our early settlers to that of those who settled in other French colonies, or in some of the English ones. Canada never had to build up its fortunes on the success in after life of ex-convicts, ex-garroters, or ex-ticket-of-leave-men. Hardy farmers, industrious mechanics, soldiers, adventurous fishermen, landed in crowds on the shores of a country reported to contain something more than fertile fields,—mineral wealth in exhaustless quantities. The first nobles of the French realm vied with one another in finding men and treasure to build up this new France, whose future so flattered the vanity of the great monarch. High-born women, such as the Duchesses de Bouillon, D'Aiguillon, and Madame de La Peltrie, undertook to provide virtuous young girls to go and seek their fortunes and husbands in this favored land. It is astonishing to see with what solicitude these emigrants were watched over before they left France, until they landed in Canada. In some cases, the slightest indiscretion caused them to be sent back to where they came from. This is a very different version let it be remembered, to that circulated by Baron Lahontan; but it is nevertheless the truth.

Many French gentlemen of ancient lineage, but unable to maintain their families in the extravagant splendor which obtained at Court, asked for concessions of lands in Canada. The progeny of some of these *seigneurs* exists amongst us to this day. At that early period, none but gentlemen could obtain commissions in the French army; and it required Court influence to procure these appointments.

Canada was then singularly fortunate, both under French and under English Dominion, in the class of settlers attracted to it. Under the latter, religious and political persecution deposited on its shores the cream of the population of other countries. The War of Independence in the New England provinces drove over our borders crowds of the most educated, influential and refined men, whose descendants exercise a powerful influence amongst us to this day.

The historian Ferland has devoted the first fifteen pages of the second volume of his excellent work to vindicate his countrymen from the aspersions which some ignorant writers, such as Baron Lahontan, had attempted to fasten on them. The antecedents of the early settlers of St. Christopher, one of the West Indies, may have been doubtful; but, on reference to history, nothing of the kind can be imputed to New France. From 1621 to 1641, the emigration came plentifully from Perche, Normandy, Beauce, Ile de France, Saint Onge, Poitou, and le Pays d'Aunis. The Huguenots were not encouraged to settle, for fear of religious strife.

The Company of Rouen, and that of M. de Monts, which had preceded it, were under the control of merchants and traders, who resided chiefly in Normandy. It is, then, not surprising that they selected their *employes* at Rouen, at Dieppe, at Cherbourg, at Fecamp, and at Honfleur. These *employee* became familiarized with the country; and when England returned it to France in 1632, and France appeared inclined to keep it, they enticed over to Canada their friends and relatives, who occasionally sailed for America with their whole families. It was from Dieppe that Champlain, after his return from England, where he had been carried a prisoner by the English, sailed in 1633, with a party of officers, missionaries and colonists. These pioneers had doubtless been taken from Normandy and the Pays de Caux.—From "New Dominion Monthly," for May.

VIII. Miscellaneous.

1. IF WE KNEW,

If we knew the woe and heartache
Waiting for us down the road,
If our lips could taste the wormwood,
If our backs could feel the load,