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NOTICE.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE

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THE ONLY ENGLISH

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With the commencement of the New Year we call upon our friends throughout the country to renew their subscriptions and procure additional subscribers, promising them that, on our part, we shall leave nothing undone to give them a good paper, both in its artistic and literary features. We beg also to urge upon them the propriety of remitting as early as possible. The subscription for one year, when paid promptly in advance, is only four dollars, but when there is delay, we are obliged to charge four and a-half, and it is necessary that we should adhere to this rule.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, January 6th, 1877.

FRENCH REPATRIATION.

The Vice-Consul of France at Montreal has lately gone on a mission to Ottawa for the purpose of inducing Government to furnish French immigrants in this city with the means of returning to their country. The grounds for the petition are, in the first place, that these people were grossly deceived with false promises by Dominion agents in Paris and other parts of France; and, in the second place, that since their arrival here they have met with every discouragement both from the French Canadian population and the clergy who regard them as infidels and communists. The alleged consequence is that they are utterly out of work, have no prospect of employment, and stand in face of the present severe winter without any resource whatever.

The motive of the Vice-Consul, Mr. PERRAULT, in acting as he has done, is worthy of respect, and the philanthropy which he displays is additional proof, if any were needed, of his fitness for the position which he occupies. On the other hand, it must look ungracious to resist any application for relief to a number of men, women and children who are really in want of many of the necessities of life, and whose prospects are as cheerless as their present destitution is deplorable. But spite of our regard for the Vice-Consul, and our sympathy for the suffering immigrants, we feel bound to say that, in our opinion, the Government should use very great deliberation before they embark upon the scheme submitted to them.

The principle of repatriation is a false one in almost every respect. There is just a shadow of excuse for the money expended in inducing our French Canadians to return from the United States to their native villages, though our feeling about this policy is one rather of toleration than of approbation. But the idea of our Government, and through them the taxpayers of the country, being called upon to disburse their money to send back

men who came here of their own accord, and for their own personal behoof, strikes us as fallacious indeed. In the first place, such action would be setting a bad precedent. If Frenchmen, who are dissatisfied here, may be repatriated, why not Englishmen, Irishmen, Scotchmen, Welshmen, Icelanders and Mennonites? Where is the line to be drawn? In the next place, that course would be a stultification of our immigration policy, a confession of our unfitness for colonization, and the effect in Europe would be very grave. Furthermore, we have been told that some of these malcontents have threatened the Consul or Vice-Consul with assassination if he did not procure their repatriation. If this is true, it becomes a question whether such people deserve the extraordinary consideration which is demanded for them.

If our immigration agents in Paris and elsewhere have deceived these people, let the Government punish the dishonest officials who do us infinite harm abroad. Let them also compensate the disappointment of the immigrants by grants of land or other favors within the limits of Canada. This would be legitimate, would entail no unusual expense, and would aid our general work of colonization. If finally the people must go back at all cost, we would suggest that the French Government themselves should be called upon to bear their share of the expense, just as Canada does in the matter of French Canadians in the United States. At all events, we believe we represent a wide-spread feeling when we urge upon the Government to act in this matter with great caution and deliberation.

THE ACROPOLIS OF MYCENÆ.

The excavations of Dr. SCHLIEMANN on the site of the Acropolis or citadel of Mycenæ, may be ranked as among the most remarkable and interesting scientific labours of the age. Mycenæ was the capital of Argos, famous forever in the song of Homer, as the home of the Atreidæ—AGAMEMNON, the king of men, and MENELAUS, the injured husband of HELEN—and the scene of the tragic murder wrought by the knife of the voluptuous CLYTEMNESTRA amid the orgies of a royal banquet. And the vengeance of ORESTES was wreaked there, as we are told in Euripides. Mycenæ was perched high on a rock in a nook of Argos, and surrounded by hills. This is the Homeric description. PAUSANIAS tells us of its strong walls, of the two Assyrian lions supporting the pillar above the gateway, of the tombs of ATREUS and those who returned with AGAMEMNON out of Ilion, "for Ægistheus, having gathered them together at a feast, slew them every one." These and other treasures the old city of the Peloponnesus kept, when Dr. SCHLIEMANN suddenly came upon them, and almost at the first stroke of the spade, made discoveries of the most interesting character. At latest advices, he had opened five tombs. In the smallest of them he found the bones of a man and a woman, covered by at least five kilogrammes of ornaments of pure gold, with the most wonderful archaic impressed ornaments. Even the smallest leaf is covered with them. Ear-rings and ornaments represent an altar with two birds. One ear-ring represents HERCULES slaying the lion. There were found two sceptres with wonderfully chiselled crystal handles and many large gold and bronze vessels. In another tomb Dr. SCHLIEMANN found a beautifully ornamented gold cup, and four large bronze vessels. This tomb is the largest, and will probably yield much more treasure. He has now the firmest conviction that these are the tombs which, as PAUSANIAS writes, belong, according to the accredited tradition, to ATREUS, AGAMEMNON, CASSANDRA, EURYMEDON. By nearly every mail we may look out for something fresh from the explorations of Mycenæ, and as it is the province of a journal like ours to note such incidents, we shall faithfully chronicle the discoveries as they are made known to us.

IN THE Province of Quebec, we are not much troubled with thin ice, but in southern sections both of Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, they have frequent acquaintance with its dangers to skating parties. In Toronto a Humane Society has been formed which will make its commencement by the distribution of medals for the rescue of lives from drowning, but it may not be generally recognized that three or more young men could at any time form an active or organized society, by submitting to training in the simple ladder and pole exercise for delivering those who are immersed through broken ice. If they will add to this acquisition the knowledge and practice of the restorative methods for persons apparently drowned, they would have a Humane Society upon the London plan working with efficiency. If it be urged that amateur work would be insufficient on account of business engagements, we can only say that it might be joined with the recreation of skating, and that the numbers of the club might be increased so as always to have some on duty on the very few days when the ice is shaky. The weak places in the ice should, it is well to add, be always indicated by bushes or danger boards as a warning to heedless skaters.

THE following deserves notice at the present time:—A thoroughly practical, efficient and inexpensive method for rapidly and effectually extinguishing fires has been invented by Mr. JULIUS HALL, London, England. In applying the invention to large buildings, such as theatres, warehouses, stores, &c., Mr. HALL provides around the ceiling of each room, or warehouse, a cornice of two inch piping, the lower part of which is perforated with two or more rows of holes to allow the water when pumped in to be distributed into the warehouse or room in the form of rain. At any convenient part on the outside of the building, a metal box is fixed incased in an iron bed having two or more junctions, for the purpose of affixing the engine-hose; from this box vertical pipes are fixed, having taps; the other end of the vertical pipe is fixed to the cornice. On a fire breaking out on any one floor, the engine-hose is fixed to the junction, the proper taps turned on, and the water is then forced up the vertical pipe, and falls from the cornice. The invention is equally applicable to ships, and deserves general public attention.

A GREAT difficulty is experienced in Montreal from the lack of proper means to regulate the supply of water in dwellings. The following brief account of an improved metre may therefore prove timely in its suggestions. It is so constructed as not to become choked by sediment or other impurities passing in through the supply pipe. In the case is placed a tank, which is divided into two equal compartments, and balanced upon pivots. When the tank is tilted, the head of a valve stem strikes upon a stop attached to the bottom of the case to allow the water in the compartment to flow out. When the tank is tilted, the water flows into the upper compartment of the tank until that compartment overbalances the other and reverses the tank. This opens the valve of the full compartment, and allows the water contained in it to flow out, while the other compartment receives water. By this construction, exactly the same quantity of water must flow into each compartment each time to tilt it, and, by registering the number of times the tank tilts, the exact amount of water that has passed through the metre is ascertained.

A CANADIAN in England writes to state that Canadian wares are not properly marked. He thinks that canned meats, fish, &c., ought to be well advertised as from the Dominion of Canada. He gives this example: "I have noticed lobster tins labelled Halifax, N. S. These things

are sent into inland towns and villages (but all with local marks), both in England and the continent. Now not one in a hundred would know any more about where Halifax, N. S., was, than if it were in the moon, except that it is always supposed that such things come from the United States, and they get all the credit. Every package should have 'Dominion of Canada,' in big letters, on it. It would be one of the best advertisements we could have, and I do hope that our manufacturers will look at this from a national standpoint." This is a subject upon which we have several times called attention as one of great importance.

WE are obliged to differ from our correspondent, who gave in our last such a complete description of the Sayabec Station of the Intercolonial Railway, in the opinion he sets forth that the Notice Boards for level crossings should be discussed because they are invisible on a dark night. We consider that the lettering should be in black and white so as to be as visible as possible, and in addition, for all nights when the moon does not appear, a proper signal light should be attached to the Notice Board, of the same kind as is used upon the railway itself. Let us also add that gates, even without watchmen for sparsely peopled districts, would be a considerable point gained, both as regards keeping cattle off the line and checking the course of vehicles on arriving at the crossing.

OUR columns recently contained an historical sketch of the beautiful residence of our Lieut.-Governors at Spencer Wood. It is among the advance sheets of a new series of papers on Canadian history on which our contributor, the author of "Quebec Past and Present" is engaged and which are intended to appear next spring—a fresh bouquet of "Maple Leaves." We add another specimen in this day's issue, but of a totally different complexion. In fact MOUNT LELAC is a spicy résumé of Canadian history, during one of its most stormy phases.

THE project for a Shakespeare memorial in Stratford-on-Avon has taken the shape of a theatre, the corner-stone of which will be laid on the 23rd of April next. It is proposed, if sufficient funds can be procured, to make this a model theatre, with a permanent stock company paid from the fund or by the town, and independent of popular favour. By this means it is expected there can be secured a company of the best actors animated by a common spirit, each willing to take a subordinate part if necessary; each being more desirous to revive a good drama and style of acting than to create a sensation.

THE proposed museum for Colonial and Indian productions in London is a most hopeful sign of the times, and will help to prove to British capitalists that there are some safe investments for their superabundant means outside the limits of the British Islands.

ROUND THE DOMINION.

THE Quebec Legislative Assembly was prorogued on the 28th ult.

THE manufacture of starch from potatoes is a growing industry in New Brunswick.

THE Dominion Parliament is summoned to meet on the 8th of February for the despatch of business.

UPWARDS of four thousand barrels of Canadian apples were sold in the Liverpool wholesale markets on the 29th of November.

THE City Council of Toronto have appointed a committee to take steps for preparing the reception of the Governor-General on his forthcoming visit to that city.

It is reported that the difficulty between the locomotive engineers and the management of the Grand Trunk Railway has been arranged, the engineers of all three grades accepting \$2.75 per day.

THIRTEEN children lost their lives on Christmas night during a fire in a convent near Joliette, Que. A panic seized on the community and their pupils, and the result was a holocaust. All the missing children were under fourteen years of age.