

The Dominion Illustrated.

\$4.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

THE SABISTON LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING CO

RICHARD WHITE, PRESIDENT.

ALEX. SABISTON, MANAGING-DIRECTOR.
The Gazette Building, Montreal.

TORONTO NEWS COMPANY, WESTERN AGENT,
Toronto, Ont.

London (England) Agency:

JOHN HADDON & CO.,
3 & 4 Bouverie Street, Fleet Street, E.C.
SOLE AGENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

All business communications, remittances, etc., to be addressed to "THE SABISTON LITHOGRAPHIC AND PUBLISHING CO., MONTREAL."

Literary communications to be addressed to
"THE EDITOR, DOMINION ILLUSTRATED."

31st JANUARY, 1891.

With reference to our Prize Competition, we think it well to remind our subscribers that the coupons—entitling the holder to compete—are only sent when applied for. All direct subscribers who wish to take part should, therefore, write at once for same.



The Civic Elections.

It is a curious phase of Canadian and American life that the possession of a seat in the chief civic governing body carries with it so little dignity and general respect. In the United States this extends even to the representatives of the nation, so that a member of Congress often is—as portrayed in the cartoons and jokes of the comic papers—considered as fair a mark for ridicule as any buffoon in the country. With us, an M.P. receives a certain degree of respect; but an alderman, however estimable a person he may be, derives all the honour in which he is held from his private virtues, not from the dignity of his office. It is probable that this lack of public appreciation of the office has arisen from the number of inferior men—socially, mentally and morally—who have been elected to civic representation by similar classes in the voting community (thanks to universal suffrage), and also from the amount of bribery and corruption proved to have been going on in many cities to such a degree that the terms "alderman" and "boodler" are there almost synonymous. Such a feeling on the part of the more intelligent public cannot but be extremely detrimental to the best interests of the community, and produces with many people such a degree of apathy as results in their neglecting to vote at all, leaving the outcome of the election largely in the hands of a certain pushing and determined class who not only themselves vote as often as possible, but spare no exertions in seeing that those of a similar way of thinking are brought to the polls. These people generally have ends in view, and in most cases obtain what they want through the neglect of the very class whose intelligence and greater interests in the general welfare of the city should make them the most active in working for the best and most honest representation. The Montreal civic elections will take place on 2nd February; and, for the best interests of the city, it is to be hoped that those who really wish to assist in its material progress will let nothing stand in the way of their registering their votes. This is especially necessary in the election for the mayoralty. The chief civic officer of the commercial metropolis of Canada should be a gentleman and a man of honour, free from any taint of boodle or bribery, and one who knows enough of the usages of society to welcome and entertain any distinguished visitor in a manner worthy of the city. We sincerely hope that none other will be elected.

Public Libraries.

The rapid advance of cities and towns throughout Great Britain in all things helpful to the growth of literary life is a marked feature of the present day. As far back as 1850 special legislation opened the way for public libraries to be established throughout the kingdom, regulating the taxation to cover the necessary expense; the maximum of this tax was fixed at the low figure of one penny to the pound. Since that date additional acts have been passed, facilitating the placing of the best reading of the world freely before the masses. There is now scarcely a town or city in England but what has one or more free libraries, and, largely through this means, the interest in literature throughout the country is widespread, and permeates all classes. When we reflect that in London alone there exist public libraries aggregating over two million volumes of books, seven-eighths of which are accessible to a respectable student, it will be seen what a vast mine of literary treasure the London author or journalist has at his feet. No wonder that such advantages make that city the literary centre of the world, apart from any other consideration. Canada is shamefully behindhand in this respect. Toronto, always the leader in such matters, has seen the folly of leaving the literary culture of her citizens at the mercy of spasmodic philanthropy or occasional bequest, and has made the maintenance of a free library part and parcel of her civic institutions, with the result that to-day she possesses a really excellent collection of books, especially rich in what should be a *sine qua non* in every library in Canada—a valuable and comprehensive collection of books and pamphlets on the history of this country. Hamilton has recently followed Toronto's example and has now a very creditable public library. Both cities are annually devoting large sums to the purchase of new books of interest, while steadily increasing their stock of bibliographic rarities. No wiser step could be taken by the other large cities of the Dominion than to make the establishment and judicious maintenance of similar institutions an incorporated part of their civic expenditure.

The Late Duke of Bedford.

The tragic death of the DUKE OF BEDFORD brings into public prominence a name high in the annals of England for much that goes to make a great house celebrated. By repute dating back to the time of Edward I, the family of Russell came into royal favour in 1506, through the possession and exercise by its founder of unusually polished and refined manners as especially shown to the ARCHDUKE PHILIP of Austria with whom he was accidentally brought into contact. Raised to the peerage in 1539, he participated to a large extent in the grants of land made to the gentry in the following year on the dissolution of the great monasteries throughout England. Large additional estates accrued to the family in subsequent years through marriage and in other ways; one of the latest and most valuable being Covent Garden and adjoining property—now in the heart of London. The title of EARL OF BEDFORD had been granted to the family representative in 1550, and the 5th Earl received the highest patent of nobility in 1694, being made MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK and DUKE OF BEDFORD. In English history one of the most prominent members was LORD WILLIAM RUSSELL who was executed in 1683 for supposed participation in the Rye house plot, and of whom MACAULAY speaks in the highest terms of praise. Another was EDWARD RUSSELL afterwards EARL OF ORFORD, who won a great victory over the French at La Hogue in 1692. The Duke just deceased was born in 1819, and served in the Scots Fusilier Guards from 1839 to 1844. He entered Parliament a few years afterwards, and represented Bedfordshire for 25 years, when he became a Peer, thereafter sitting in the Upper House. As owner of a very large number of houses in London, his duties as landlord were much criticised, but he was an unusually liberal man in many ways, giving largely to charities, although in the most quiet and unostentatious manner.

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891.

QUESTIONS.

FIRST SERIES.

- 1.—State where mention is made of the war of 1812, and give particulars as concisely as possible.
- 2.—Give details of the announcement of forthcoming books by Canadian authors.
- 3.—Where is mention made of an unfinished work by an English writer now dead.
- 4.—Describe briefly a midnight scene in the forest, and state where mentioned.
- 5.—Some habits of a well-known English novelist are mentioned. Give particulars.
- 6.—Where, and in what connection is mentioned the most prominent poetess of this century.

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 135 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January.

The second series of Questions will be given in our issue of 28th February.