

are moved if the misery-charged telegrams have left us hearts to be moved; but sympathy will count for little if it does not lead to action, practical and remedial. If the daily press at the present time make a rule of passing over their duty to the people in everything beyond the bare record of disaster, we cannot help it, and can only await the advent of saner thoughts. Its conductors have great influence, and could lead the people better if they would.

In St. Andrew Street, Quebec, a train of platform cars was, shortly before noon, moving very slowly along the track on the north side of the street, when two little children playing near, attempted to climb up on one of the cars. One of them, aged five, slipped down between two cars, and the wheels passed diagonally over the head of the child, severing it in two.

A few days later a boy was killed from the same cause in the same street. He prepared to jump on the cars, with the intention, it is supposed, of taking a ride. As the cars came up, the little fellow made a spring, and missing his footing fell under the wheels of the cars. As soon as possible the cars were stopped, and the injuries of the boy were then open to the gaze of the horrified lookers-on. It was discovered that the wheels of the car had run over the boy's neck, almost severing the head from the body; to which the journal from which these facts are taken adds several details which I think it best to spare the readers of the SPECTATOR the study of. I have also suppressed the names in these two cases, not wishing to give unnecessary pain.

Theta.

CANADA'S GREATEST WANT.

No intelligent observer, anxious for our country's status as a nation, can fail to realize that some important element of prosperity is wanting. It cannot be questioned that we have a goodly heritage of a productive soil, healthy climate, a most enlightened system of government, a geography of extended waterways, boundless mineral wealth, and just such natural products as seem well adapted to develop the best qualities of our prolific, hardy and industrious people. The sprinkling of Saxon intelligence and enterprise seems to fill any possible vacuum of native want; but, notwithstanding all this, our progress lags; our advancement is haphazard and precarious; our legislation unsteady. We have no millionaires amongst us as the result of a steady, healthy commercial growth. Our successful men can be counted by tens; our unsuccessful by hundreds. The bone and sinew of our population migrate to the United States. We have no decided characteristics, no literature; even no glaring propensities or idiosyncracies; but are painfully passive and imitative,—in fact, decidedly *Colonial*.

If all this be true, it is not flattering to our national pride, if the cause be not our country, climate nor system of government, but rather because we have *no well-informed and strongly-directed Public Opinion* to control our public men and rebuke the unhealthy greed for office, which, in the absence of any great party question, is sapping the very life-blood of the country, curbing independent thought, and absorbing the public mind with unimportant local subjects, which have no bearing on the general development of the whole country.

By way of illustration, take the late disgraceful proceedings at Quebec attending the change of Ministers—truly a most humiliating squabble—in which every principle of decency and the country's interests were ignored, and men bartered their principles as nimbly as they changed their seats. Is there anything hopeful or congratulatory in such proceedings? How much better would it have been, in the depressed condition of the country, if the same energy and money had been spent in promoting some rational effort to bring back and secure to this Province the trade which our commanding position entitles us to, and which is through our supineness being diverted from its natural channel, the St. Lawrence. But so far from this being the case, the actors, not being amenable to Public Opinion, are encouraged in their Legislative jugglery, and a new era of "grab" inaugurated, costly and discreditable to every sentiment of propriety or right. Then the Orange riots, which brought such disgrace and injury on our city, were simply the emanation of one strong-willed man unrestrained by Public Opinion. The mad imbecility which characterises most of our public measures in this Province, especially in connection with the railroad policy, the history of which, if written, would amaze even the ghost of Boss Tweed, is a specimen of what men dare do unrestrained by Public Opinion.

The same reckless spirit seems to pervade the general government at Ottawa, and which though painfully apparent to any intelligent observer, goes on unrebuked, piling up the agony of debt, with no thought or care how the bill is to be paid. Instance the Welland Canal, where enormous outlay has been made for portions now long finished, lying idle and useless for fully three years, till other portions, only lately commenced, are completed. The letter of "An Engineer" in the *Montreal Gazette* of the 11th inst., gives an exposé of how matters are conducted on the Canadian Pacific Railroad, showing over 4½ millions spent on surveys notoriously imperfect, and over 7 millions on construction of portions which ought to have been left untouched for the present, as useless in opening the country it is designed to benefit, and which to-day, after two years working, is as difficult of access as it was under the Hudson Bay Co.

Then we have the crowning fact of mad outlay of \$60,000 on Rideau Hall alterations in 1878, the last year of Lord Dufferin's administration, and within one year \$55,000 more has been expended in altering alterations for the Princess, and all this because of the passive amiability of a people who have no Public Opinion to conciliate or dread.

I might go on with other startling facts of equally senseless extravagance and mal-administration which are impoverishing our over-burdened country, to sustain the correctness of my thesis, but as a natural sequence similar laxity ramifies into private life, and has borne fruit in the late developments of the "inwardness" of banking life amongst us. The guilty are as guilty as ever, and ready for another onslaught—Public Opinion rather winking than frowning, the country bearing the reproach. We are seeking for our share of the coming emigration to settle our North-West domain—how much eloquence will it take to wipe out the memory of the victims of misplaced confidence, who gave their gold sovereigns for rotten bank bills, and the perpetrators going unwhipt of justice and defying Public Opinion?

O tempora! O mores! But where is the correction of all this? and how is Public Opinion to be manufactured? Ay! there's the rub! We want the raw material in Canada generally, in Ontario in a less degree—in Quebec more. It is the one great provision against abuses in England and the United States, but is always the concomitant of a widely diffused intelligence, the first step towards the attainment of which is an independent Press capable of leading instead of following Public Opinion, and thus restraining the capriciousness of our leaders and the attendant evils of which I complain.

The fact is patent that this continent is on the eve of great development, and the important consideration arises, How much participation will be ours? The age is too intelligent to expect we can hold our own without a studied and intelligent conflict. Our paramount want is a market, the nearer home the better, and 50,000 sturdy farmer emigrants settling annually in the North-West, just such as our neighbours are getting, would ensure for us a future of prosperity. Such questions as these I claim ought to occupy the mind of the country to the exclusion of all minor questions.

Intimately connected with this subject is the construction of the Sault Ste. Marie & St. Paul Railway, incomparably the most important project of the hour both to Canada's commercial supremacy, and cheap breadstuffs to Britain. What is the use of the Canada Pacific Railway unless we keep the trade to our own borders and sea-ports? What is the use of offering a homestead of 80 acres to settlers when 160 acres can be got across the lines in a much better developed country. I claim if we are to share the benefits we must settle all these vital questions.

My observation leads me to the belief that a keener apprehension of all this is wanting in our Government, and so things will continue if they are not aroused by Public Opinion to the exigencies of the hour. I am by no means an advocate for a change of allegiance. I believe we have the elements of a great national growth, if properly directed; but, as I have already remarked, we do not seem wide awake enough to the emergency and necessity for united effort, and, merging all lesser questions of local policy, act for the general good, and Public Opinion must be aroused. We are too passive, like too many business men living on borrowed capital, and unless we change our ways, must come to grief the moment our national construction account is closed; whether it would be prudent to stop and take stock might well be questioned, but it would be better for all hands to haul in sail a little, reduce expenses and stop leaks. If the reader agrees with me, my object in writing this is accomplished, as I seek to help on the formation of a *well informed and strongly directed Public Opinion*.

Progress.

A FEW WORDS ON PRINTS.

A Paper read before the Numismatic and Archæological Society of Montreal, by
Thomas D. King.

PART II.

Chromo-Lithography is by its nature capable of the greatest variety in style, and has been the means, through the Arundel Society, of multiplying copies of the Ancient Masters, such as Hans Memling, Fra-Bartolomeo, Fra-Angelico, and others who have confined themselves chiefly to religious subjects. It has also made us familiar with the works of some of our best water-colour painters, such as Lewis, Harding, Nash, Fripp, Cattermole, Prout, Cox, Turner, Foster, Hunt, Rowbotham, and Fielding. Therefore, to Lithography we are much indebted for not only a rational enjoyment, but for an inexpensive and beautiful home decoration. It has been the means of accustoming the eye to a more delicate sense of drawing and colour by the reproduction of the works of men inspired with a sincere love of nature, men noted for the careful selection of their subjects and the poetical conception of their landscapes. Lithography is, perhaps, the most easy and inexpensive mode of obtaining plain prints, and, where brightness of effect and absolute finish of drawing are not required, it will retain its place among the Fine Arts of design.

In Wood-engraving the traces or marks which are to appear in the print are left prominent or in relief, hence a wood-cut acts as a type and is inked and