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All articles, contributions, and letters on matter pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The Canadian Institute has, through Professor Ramsay Wright, its President, and William Canniff, M.D., the chairman of its Historical Section, appealed to the County Councils for aid in collecting historical documents, which no doubt abound in many parts of the Province, and which will one day be invaluable as material for writing its history. The memorialists suggest that histories of individual families should be collected and the accounts of the various local enterprises carefully noted. Information should be obtained from individual recollections of events and traditions; private and public letters; manuscript memoirs and diaries; old newspapers and pamphlets; deeds, grants and commissions, printed or engrossed. They further propose that rewards should be offered to encourage the

collection of such data. The Councils, if composed of intelligent men, can scarcely fail to see the desirability of the action suggested. If they would engage heartily in the work, there is little doubt that, at a trifling expense, a large amount of more or less valuable material could soon be got together and deposited in safety for future reference. The officers and members of the Institute, especially Dr. Canniff, deserve the thanks of the whole country for the energy and perseverance with which this laudable enterprise is being followed up.

Mayor Fleming has, after a good deal of apparent hesitation, entered the field as a candidate for a third term. It would, perhaps, be unfair to recall too pointedly his own former opinions with regard to third terms for mayors. The exception proves the rule. He may, we suppose, be excused for having come to the conclusion that no other man so well qualified for the position being available, it is his duty to set aside his prejudices and place his services once more at the disposal of the city. While, as we have before intimated, there is much to be said in favor of a change, when such a man as Mr. Warring Kennedy is the rival candidate, it is comforting to think that so long as the choice lies between these two, the city cannot be very badly served in the mayoralty. Under the circumstances it is of greater importance that the attention of the citizens should be directed to the desirability of electing the very best class of men available as councillors. We shall not take it upon ourselves to go over the list of candidates, but we may venture to express our earnest hope that, setting aside all party and personal predilections, the voters will, on Monday next, cast their ballots for the very best men, the men of highest intelligence, truest unselfishness, most unsullied reputation and greatest strength and dignity of character, to be found on the lists. Only by the election of such men to the Council can that Council be transformed into a dignified and business-like body, worthy of its high trust and of the city which confers it.

The Volunteer Electoral League of Montreal has been doing some gratuitous work which merits the grateful recognition of all good citizens of that city, and the record of which will cause the people of other cities to wish for similar organizations. During last week, the *Star* tells us, the

League Secretaries sent out no less than five hundred notifications to electors whose names had been found incorrectly entered on the Voters' Lists. In fifty or sixty samples of these errors which are given by the *Star*, it is probable that in nearly every case the name of the voter could not be identified with that on the list, and many would be likely to lose their votes if the error were left uncorrected. For instance, Huber could scarcely be recognized as Heber, or Childs as Charles, or Crowley as Connolly, or Grady as Brady. And these samples, taken at random, are by no means the worst perversions. The reader at a distance cannot avoid a feeling of wonder, not unmingled with suspicion, at the number of such errors, and the grossness of many of them. But our informant gives no hint as to the cause, which he characterises as "unknown." Either the officials who prepared the lists did their work in so slipshod and perfunctory a manner that their replacement by more conscientious or competent men should follow on the instant, or some one with sinister ends to serve must have had access to the lists and have mutilated them while in process of preparation. We have once or twice had occasion to call attention to the nature and aims of this truly patriotic society. Its usefulness has now been demonstrated in the most practical manner, especially as the secretaries did not content themselves with notifying the parties whose names were erroneously entered, of the fact, but sent along with the notification full instructions in regard to the mode of procedure by which the error might be rectified.

The recent announcement that, consequent upon the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal, the dockage fees had been or were about to be lowered in Liverpool, suggests the great change in commercial conditions which has been wrought by this stupendous enterprise. Not only is Manchester itself made a seaport and so freed from the necessity of paying tribute to Liverpool on all its merchandise, but many neighboring manufacturing towns, such as Salford, Oldham, Bolton, etc., will no doubt henceforth make Manchester instead of Liverpool their seaport, with considerable gain to themselves. The fact that so little, comparatively, has been said of this magnificent work during the seven or eight years which have been occupied in its construction, illustrates the quietness with which the British sometimes project and carry out