

ON THE LATE FIRE IN QUEBEC.

Now o'er the ancient town lay night and sleep—
 Assemblers of all human cares and woes—
 Suddenly upon the silent air
 The cry of "Fire" all loud and startling rose.
 Then leapt the flames in sudden fury forth,
 And with their lurid glare lit up the sky—
 With awful crash the roofs went tumbling
 down.
 As though the dreadful day of doom were nigh,
 From street to street the fire-flend rushing on,
 Whirring all he met with in his scorching folds,
 Whilst strong men gazed with faces blanched
 and white,
 And women shrieked and moaned in wild
 despair.
 Amid the roaring flames majestic rose
 The stately temple of St. John, whose bells
 Toll'd loud in warning all the dismal night.
 But when the morning's second hour had come
 Upon the altar of that sacred flame,
 The Spotted Lamb was offered to appease
 The anger of the Lord Most High. In vain!
 The flames flew on like some fierce bird
 of prey.
 And swoop'd upon the tall majestic spire,
 Enveloping the building, nave and aisle—
 Whilst wildly peal'd the bells their own sad
 knell.
 Then on and ever on till morning's light
 Show'd all the dreadful havoc they had
 wrought.
 Whole streets of ruins met the awe-struck gaze
 Of those who all night long had tolled and
 prayed.
 Hundreds of homes destroy'd, their inmates
 thrown
 Upon the world's cold pity; that sad night
 Left thousands shelterless 'neath Heaven's blue
 dome.

Montreal, June 18, 1881. J. A. S.

PARNELL ON IMPERIAL CONFEDERATION—IRELAND AND THE COLONIES AND THEIR INTERESTS.

LONDON, June 21.—Mr. Parnell, writes a correspondent, thinks that the project of a confederation of England and her dependencies is a practicable one, but says: "I doubt much whether the Colonies would consent to a union of the kind, because it would certainly entail a contribution from them to the Imperial revenue. At present they have all the advantages of a connection with the mother country without any of its expenses. England would always defend them if they were attacked. As an example I may mention the recent war against the Zulus, which was undertaken at the Imperial expense. The Navy as well as the Army were free of charge, and they practically benefited by the Diplomatic and Consular machinery of Great Britain, which is spread over the world, and do not contribute to its support. If there was representation for the Colonies in the Imperial Parliament taxation would necessarily follow. The question of free trade and protection also comes in here. At present the Colonies claim a right to protect themselves against English manufactured articles. If they joined in a confederation of the kind suggested by the Herald the question of protected duties would become a common one, and a uniform enactment over all communities forming the confederation would be necessary, just in the same way that a State of the American Union is not permitted to protect itself against the manufactures of another. England would have a great deal to gain by such an arrangement, but the Colonies would have a good deal to lose, and they are not at all likely to consent to it. As regards the share of Ireland in the transaction, the programme of Home Rule put forward by Mr. Butt contemplated a confederation between England and Ireland and Scotland, and Ireland and her Parliament would have borne the same relation toward the Imperial Parliament that the State and its Legislature in the American Union now bears toward the Congress at Washington. The Land question has rather thrown the question of the self-government of Ireland for the moment into the shade, but if the former question is settled on a lasting basis, there can be no doubt that a more or less extensive measure of autonomy will follow for Ireland as one of the most immediate consequences."
 Mr. Parnell says the correspondent, while he admits the value of the scheme to England points out the disadvantages to the other component parts of the Empire, which certainly deserve attention. Mr. T. P. O'Connor dissenters from the scheme on the ground that the maintenance of the Empire is opposed to the interests of the working classes of England. But on the other hand it may be said that the working classes of England understand little of the subject. They might doubtless be easily influenced by appeals to support members who advocate the maintenance of British power and glory, but nothing could be hoped at present in this direction from the present House. Consequently it would be wise if the Irish party would set to work at once to educate English constituencies to the adoption of the Imperial programme, based on the plan of federation.

THE IMPRISONED CZAR.

IN THE MIDST OF AN ARMY AND MINISTER OF A PRISON.
 ST. PETERSBURG, June 19.—A Berlin correspondent of the London Times sends another curious account of the Czar's mode of life in his palace at Gatchina, which he left on Wednesday last. "There was no relaxation in vigilance. The palace was strictly guarded and watched. A short time ago two of the young Grand Dukes, cousins of the Emperor, were stopped in the grounds by a Cossack, who threatened to spear them if they advanced. A friend, who had occasion to visit the castle to see an official, reported that as soon as he left the railway station and took the direction toward the palace, he felt conscious that the eyes of the police were following him, but it was only when he was about to cross the bridge over the castle moat that he was actually stopped. Here the police officials were all officers. They ascertained his business, and escorted him to the service gate of the palace, the only one which was allowed to be approached. He at once found himself in the police office, surrounded by officers. His passport was taken, his description, the time of day and business were all duly noted in a book, which the chief of police is supposed to examine every day. An officer was then sent to inform the official inquired for, while the visitor was kept by the police. On the officer returning with a message that the official could be seen, he was escorted by a police officer down the long corridors to the room of the person he wished to see. All the way Cossack sentinels, with drawn swords, were tramping up and down. It can readily be imagined that no official of the palace, however high he may be placed, is particularly overjoyed at present by the visits of his friends. The visitor was therefore exhorted for the love of heaven to confine his conversation to the merest commonplaces and not to stay too long. When he got to the train on his return journey he felt heartily glad and fortunate, though he could not shake off the sensation that the police were still at his back. Looking out of the windows of the corridor into the courtyards, of which there are four within the castle walls, he saw innumerable stacks of piled muskets, denoting the presence of a large force of infantry, and on the open place in front of the palace were picketed the horses of about a squadron of

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Grant says he will stand by Conkling.
 The red spider spoils almond orchards.
 The military camp at Niagara is in full swing.
 Sir William Howland leaves for England next month.
 Gold dust on ladies' hair bothers their dancing partners.
 The Princess Louise cables that she is sorry for the Quebec fire.
 A square yellow parasol has an spray of crimson roses painted on it.
 The sardine fishing has been unparalleled this spring in the Mediterranean.
 The money owned in the shape of foreign loans in default to England amounts to \$1,050,000,000.
 Some of the clergymen of London and Guelph say the London disaster was "an act of Providence."
 Coney Island waters have been playing quails all season and now begin to throw dishes in the same way.
 Jay Gould, Vanderbilt and a few others will soon own all the Great Republic, and all through the industry.
 The German Emperor is in declining health.
 The death of his favorite nephew, the Czar, was a terrible shock to the imperial octogenarian.
 Mr. John O'Farrell, Q.C., of Quebec, denounces the Bell Telephone Co. for laying 10,000 telegraph poles in the narrow streets of that city.
 A new marine plant, *Lucus vesiculosus*, is claimed by Brazilian druggists to be a sovereign remedy against obesity. Fat people can try it without any risk to health.
 The City Item of New Orleans mentions fourteen murders in that city within five months and not one conviction. Such a fact, it thinks, must counteract all efforts to draw emigration to the State.
 Since the great fire in St. John, N. B., four years ago, 438 brick and stone buildings have been erected in the burnt district at a cost of \$4,237,000, and the total number of wooden buildings, 683, at a total of \$936,887.
 They were getting ready for a Sunday excursion, and the father said:—"Wild can carry the sandwiches; Billy can carry the cawls and spiglass; Johnny can carry the umbrellas and lemon sugar, and I'll carry the pistol."
 The existing cedars of Lebanon are only 900 years old. The cypress trees at Montezuma, Mexico, according to a French botanist, are 6,000 years old and consequently he makes them out coeval with the creation of the world.
 Gen. Cialdini, late Italian Ambassador at Paris, says he has documents to prove that he duly warned the Roman Cabinet that France intended to pounce upon Tunis and gain a foothold there which would threaten the future of Italy.
 A Springfield pastor went into his pulpit to preach in a bright red dress gown, and was oblivious to the astonishment of the congregation, until an usher handed him a card on which was written: "You have forgotten to change your coat." He hastily retired, and returned in his customary suit of solemn black.
 A peasant lately entered a coffee house in Milan, over whose door was written the traditional "Coffee with Billiards." He called a waiter and ordered: "Give me a cup of coffee with billiards." The waiter laughed, and the peasant saw that he had committed a blunder. "Who said I wanted a whole billiards?" he added, "bring me only a slice."

THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY.

SOMETHING WRONG WITH ITS INTERNAL MANAGEMENT.
 The late escape of seven convicts from the custody of the keepers of the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary has turned public attention to that institution. It is though incredible that any Warden, no matter how delirious in other respects, would allow his prisoners to get away out of his hands without making some effort to retain them in his custody. A gentleman who has been connected with the penitentiary for the last twenty years makes some serious charges against its management. The outbreak of the men on board the train was, in his opinion, but the result of the lax discipline maintained within the walls of the prison. "What can you expect," said he, "will be the behavior of a crowd of convicts who have no fear or respect for their keepers. In St. Vincent de Paul the keepers associate with the prisoners, and in many cases trade with them. It is no common thing to see convicts drunk from liquor supplied to them by those whose very duty it is to keep them from them. There is one keeper who, I have no doubt, makes \$10 a month extra by selling tobacco to the prisoners. Again there is too much favoritism shown to the prisoners. Nobody can expect that convicts will be subordinate when they see some of them treated with leniency and others with unnecessary severity. Why, about two weeks ago they all refused to go to church and the keeper had to give in to them. The next Monday, emboldened by success, about ninety of them refused to work. The keepers threatened and coaxed without any avail, and in this case also they had to yield. You may guess what kind of discipline is maintained when last week they had to bribe a man to go back to the dungeon where he was sent for punishment by giving him a plug of tobacco."
 "Why do they not manage at St. Vincent de Paul as they do at Kingston?"
 "I will tell you. The keepers of St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary are recruited from the country. They are as a general rule men who before they come to act as keepers never knew anything but how to drive cattle. It requires a man with some knowledge of the world to fill a position of so much responsibility and trust. It is as certain as anything can be," he concluded, "if there is not some kind of a change in the management of St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary shortly there will be an outbreak among the prisoners which may cost many lives."

HE WANTED TO WARN THEM.

As the special train which went up to Ottawa on 16th inst., with the delegates of the Engineer's Convention on board was nearing Lachine on its down trip the engineer espied a man on the track a little ahead, waving a red flag, and gesticulating violently. The breaks were soon put on and the train brought to a stand still, when the following dialogue took place between the signaller and the conductor of the train:—
 "What is the matter? Where is the danger?"
 "There is no danger. What I want is the boss of this shanty." The man that runs this blasted old concern."
 "I am the man," replied the conductor, "now what do you want?"
 "I will just tell you. Yesterday that old cart of yours, (pointing to the engine) when it was coming down vomited a lot of sparks on my crop and burnt it. If that occurs again I will smash up the whole railway for you. I thought I would just stop you and tell you that."
 The conductor gave the signal to start not trusting himself to speak lest a charge of assault might be added to the one of damaging property. The train moved on leaving the old habitant shaking his fist at the enraged conductor and looking sadly at his burnt up fences and blackened crops.

MR. DE COSMOS IN ENGLAND.

LONDON, June 22.—The following is the first result of the DeCosmos mission here: In the House of Commons Lord George Hamilton gave notice of his intention to ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies whether the attention of his office had been directed to the constant complaints of the inhabitants of British Columbia, that although it is ten years since they were incorporated with the Dominion, the main condition which induced them to assent to that incorporation, the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway system, had, in spite of frequent protests, not been commenced upon that seaboard; whether or not the fact that a large portion of the most fertile part of Vancouver Island, including large coal fields, had, in years past, been transferred by an act of the Legislative Assembly to the Canadian Government at their request, under the railway clause of the terms of union, to accelerate the construction through Vancouver Island of the said line of railway; whether under these circumstances the Colonial office had any intention of representing to the Canadian Government the necessity of complying as soon as possible with the terms of the Carnarvon settlement, which, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, were, in 1874, agreed to, both by Canada and British Columbia.

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 It is the ne plus ulster. It contains good looks with a slight smart of convenience. It hides a hump between the shoulders, covers up a stoop, and a bow-legged man is made to appear as graceful as an antelope. There are seven different spots on which to wipe the nose, and a Texas steer may play with the wearer all day and not be able to spoil the set of garments. Send in your orders before before the rush begins.

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The Ulster for the coming summer speaks for itself on eight. It can be worn with tails or without. The tails can be lowered by means of hinges to drag on the walk or they can be raised or slowed around to form extra pockets for holding four clean shirts apiece. The collar is fitted with a rubber tube to hold any sort of drink fitted for the occasion. A quart of hard cider can be carried to a Sunday school picnic and slyly imbibed at the convenience of the wearer without any one being the wiser. All the man has to do is to turn his head to the left, slip an amber mouth-piece into his jaws and slowly get away with the tonic, while he seems to be lost in amazement at the wonders of nature. His Ulster is life preserver and when blown up will sustain the weight of three school-maams and a lecturer from Japan. If occasion requires it can be quickly converted into a water-proof tent capable of sheltering a small family. The right-hand pocket is sheet-ironed for use as a kettle in which to make tea or boil eggs, and the left hand is a sort of refrigerator in which to store perishable goods. Each sleeve is provided with a secret pocket for the benefit of those who want to get four aces into a poker hand; and a sheet for a bowie knife is stitched into the back in the most secure manner. Folded one other way you have a stretcher on which you can carry the fat woman who fell from a tree and broke her leg.
 It is the ne plus ulster. It contains good looks with a slight smart of convenience. It hides a hump between the shoulders, covers up a stoop, and a bow-legged man is made to appear as graceful as an antelope. There are seven different spots on which to wipe the nose, and a Texas steer may play with the wearer all day and not be able to spoil the set of garments. Send in your orders before before the rush begins.

HOW TO PREVENT DROWNING.

I wish to show how drowning might, under ordinary circumstances, be avoided even in the case of persons otherwise wholly ignorant of what is called the art of swimming. The numerous frightful casualties render every working suggestion of importance, and that which here offers I venture to think is entirely available. When one of the inferior animals takes the water, falls, or is thrown in, it instantly begins to walk as it does when out of the water. But when a man who cannot swim falls into the water he makes a few spasmodic struggles, throws up his arms, and drowns. The brute, on the other hand, treads water, remains on the surface, and is virtually unmergible. In order, then, to escape drowning it is only necessary to do as the brute does, and that is to tread or walk the water. The brute has no advantage in regard of his relative weight, in respect of the water, over man, and yet the man perishes while the brute lives. Nevertheless, any man, any woman, any child who can walk on the land may also walk in the water just as readily as the animal does, if only he will, and that without any prior instruction or drilling whatever. Throw a dog into the water, and he treads or walks the water instantly, and there is no imaginable reason why a human being under like circumstances should not do as the dog does. The brute indeed walks in the water instinctively, whereas the man has to be told. The ignorance of so simple a possibility, namely, the possibility of treading water, strikes me as one of the most singular things in the history of man, and speaks very little indeed for his intelligence. He is, in fact, as ignorant on the subject as is the newborn babe. Perhaps something is to be attributed to the vague dreaming which is attached to the wading man. When a dog swims it means one thing, when a man swims it means another and quite a different act. The dog is wholly incapable of swimming as a man swims, but nothing is more certain than that a man is capable of swimming, and on the instant, too, as a dog swims, without any previous training or instruction, and that by so doing without fear or hesitancy, he will be just as safe in the water as the dog is. The brute in the water continues to go on all fours, and the man who wishes to save his life and cannot otherwise swim, must do so too, striking alternately, one two, one two, but without hurry or precipitation, with head and feet, exactly as the brute does. Whether he be provided with paw or hoof, the brute swims with the greatest ease and buoyancy. The human being, if he will, can do so too, with the further immense advantage of having a paddle-formed hand, and of being able to rest himself when tired, by floating, a thing of which the animal has no conception. Bridget Mooney, a poor Irish emigrant, saved her own life and her three children's lives when the steamer conveying them took fire on Lake Erie, by floating herself and making them float, which simply consists in lying quite still, with the mouth shut and the head thrown well back in the water. The dog, the horse, the cat, all take to the water on occasion, and sustain themselves perfectly without any prior experience whatever. Nothing is less difficult, whether for man or brute, than to tread water even for the first time. I have done so often, using the feet alone or the hands alone, or the whole four many times, with perhaps one of my children on my back. The printed injunction should be pasted up on all boat-houses, on every boat, at every bathing place, and in every school, "Tread water when you find yourself out of your depth" is all that need be said, unless, indeed, we are of whatever age or sex, or however encumbered with clothing, might tread water with at least as much facility, even in a breaking sea, as a four-footed animal does. The position of a person who treads water is, in other respects very much safer and better than is the sprawling attitude which we assume in ordinary swimming. And then the beauty of it is that we can tread water without any preliminary teaching, whereas "to swim" involves time and pains, entails considerable fatigue, and is very seldom adequately acquired after all.—Nature.

ST. GABRIEL ACADEMY.

A pleasant re-union of the nature which makes the relationship between pupil and teacher so easy and agreeable, took place recently in one of the class rooms of St. Gabriel's Academy, St. Gabriel village. The pupils of the eighth junior class presented their teacher, Miss Mary Rutledge, with a magnificent album, filled with their portraits, as a token of the affection and esteem in which they held her. There were present the Rev. Father Salmon, the lady teachers of the other classes and several friends. The following is a copy of the address:—
 Dear Teacher—The scholastic year, now so near its close, has been for us, under your gentle supervision and direction, such a happy one, that we feel it a duty before parting for a few weeks, to testify in some manner our love and respect towards you. The promptings of our hearts, to which you have endeavored to give so many acts of kindness and sympathy, have led us to have urged us on many occasions to give expression to our sentiments of esteem; but we controlled our emotions for the time, satisfied that we were at least of good will in your regard, confidently anticipating an opportunity of giving a unanimous and happy proof of our appreciation of what you have done for us in guiding us in the paths of knowledge.
 In union with the other pupils of St. Gabriel's Academy, we have learned to value the many facilities afforded us for intellectual development. We have a veneration for our beloved pastor, who so happily directs the institution, which we joyfully assist with our hearts; and we are proud to be a part of the successful efforts in the education of youth of the teachers associated with you. But while we could not do more than to thank you for the noble efforts which you have made in the public interest, we are now more advanced in our studies.
 Deeply impressed, therefore, with a sense of the great debt of gratitude we owe you, we cannot find words sufficiently adequate to express our feelings. Our young minds, we know, are incapable of comprehending the great importance of good will in your regard, confidently anticipating an opportunity of giving a unanimous and happy proof of our appreciation of what you have done for us in guiding us in the paths of knowledge.
 As a memento of the occasion we ask your acceptance of the accompanying album which contains the portraits of our Rev. Pastor and several distinguished ladies and gentlemen, highly capable of forming a true estimate of our lives, by which you will be justly esteemed, and who have witnessed our progress under your charge with many evidences of satisfaction. We hope that in after years, when the present joyous groups of your pupils shall be scattered, you will occasionally call to mind the useful period of your life spent amongst us, and that your remembrance will vividly revive in their happiest moods the youthful faces of the pupils of St. Gabriel's Academy, whose school days you made so happy.
 Signed on behalf of the pupils by
 DENISE BOUTRUE,
 SARAH DONOVAN,
 KATHIE LEBLANC,
 MAGGIE O'BYRNE,
 BRIDGET CLANCEY.

MISS RUTLEDGE, THE FAIR RECIPIENT OF HIS

Miss Rutledge, the fair recipient of his tokens of affection and esteem, was too overcome to answer her little pupils. The Rev. Pastor, Father Salmon, by her request, answered in her name and thanked the presenters for their kind act of friendship on her behalf. A promise was exacted from her beloved teacher before they would allow her

FRAGMENTS.

to depart that she would come back after the termination of the vacation and take upon herself for another year the guidance of the class.

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