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OUR CENTENNIAL STORY.

THE BASTONNAIS:

A TALE OF THE AMERICAN INVASION OF CANADA IN 1775-76.

By JOHN LESPERANCE.

BOOK II.

THE THICKENING OF THE CLOUDS.

XI.

ADVICE AND WARNING.

The rallying cry of the band of malcontent farmers was the yelp of the wolf. This was adopted out of hatred of the very name of Wolfe, the conqueror of Quebec. "Loup" was the title applied by them to every English resident, and more especially to the British soldier. We have seen how the sound was used to gather the conspirators in the forest at night, and how Batoche recognized it. Although the Americans had been only forty eight hours in the environs of Quebec, they had already learned the meaning of the signal. This was apparent when the hermit with his three companions reached the bridge which spanned the little river St. Charles, on the high road leading directly to the town. There a squad of New Jersey militiamen was posted as sentry. As the Canadians approached they were challenged, and on uttering the cry of the wolf, were immediately admitted within the lines. The officer in command understood French, and Batoche was the spokesman of his party. The following colloquy took place.

"What is your desire?"
 "We have come to offer you our services."
 "In what capacity?"
 "As scouts."
 "Do you live in the town?"
 "No, at Beauport."
 "You are farmers?"
 "Yes."
 "Have you arms?"
 "Yes, for we are also hunters."
 "You know the country then?"
 "For ten leagues around."
 "And the town?"
 "We know all our countrymen in it."
 "Can you communicate with them?"
 "We have many means of doing so."
 "That is well. We shall need your services."
 We have said that the object of Barbin and his companion was to enter into direct communication with some of the Continental officers, make known their plans of operation and devise some mode of systematising their services. This they partially accomplished in the course of a further conversation, and were told to return in a few days to receive direct commissions from headquarters. But they had a second duty to perform, or rather Batoche had, as he informed his companions on their way to the rendez-vous, after hearing full particulars of everything that had taken place in the two days since the Americans had invested Quebec. Batoche delivered his ideas somewhat as follows. Addressing the officer, he said:

"You are aware that my countrymen within the town are divided in sentiment?"
 "So we have heard."
 "One party espouses the cause of England and has formed into a regiment to fight for it."
 "That we know."
 "That party is now particularly incensed against you."
 "Ah!"
 "Another party favors the cause of liberty and liberation."
 "Yes, they are our friends."
 "Well, they are very much discouraged at what has recently happened."
 "Indeed? How so?"
 "May I speak freely?"
 "As soldier to soldier."
 "And will you believe my words?"

The officer fixed his eyes on the quaint energetic face of the old hermit and answered emphatically:
 "I will."

"And you will report my words to your commander?"

"Yes."
 "Then, listen to me. The day before yesterday, after landing on the north shore, you deployed your forces on the Plains of Abraham?"

Batoche went into this and the following other particulars, which he had learned from Barbin, in order to have them confirmed by the American officer, so that there could be no mistake about the conclusion which he drew from them.

"We did," was the reply.

"And you sent forward a flag of truce?"

"Yes."

"That was for a parley."

"It was a summons to surrender."

"That makes matters worse. In the town it was supposed to be for a mere parley. When the truth is known, the effect will be still more disagreeable."

"What do you mean?" exclaimed the officer.

"Excuse me a moment. Your messenger was dismissed?"

"He was," replied the officer with impatience.

"And the flag fired upon?"

"Yes," was the answer accompanied by an oath.

"Then this is what I mean. Your friends within the town are indignant and disheartened because you did not resent this double insult. They cannot explain it to themselves. They reason thus: either the Bastonnais were strong enough to avenge and punish this outrage, or they were not. If they were strong enough, why did they not sweep to the assault? If they were not strong enough, why expose themselves and us to this terrible humiliation? In the first instance, their inaction was cowardice. In the second supposition, their drawing up in line and sending a flag to demand surrender was a painful fanfaronade."

Batoche had warmed up to his old weird manner, as he spoke these words. He did not gesticulate, neither did he elevate his voice, but the light of the camp-fire flickering upon his face revealed an expression of earnestness and conscious strength. Advancing a step or two towards the officer he said in a lower voice:

"Have I spoken too much?"

"You have spoken the truth!" roared the officer, stamping his foot violently, and then muttered in English:

"Just what I said at the time. This old Frenchman has told the truth in all its naked harshness."

The officer was Major Meigs, one of those who had most strenuously disapproved of the despatch of the flag of truce, and whose opinion of the event is recorded in history.

He thanked Batoche for his valuable information and assured him that he would repeat all he had said to Colonel Arnold.

"Perhaps you would allow an old soldier to add another word," continued the hermit, as they were about to separate.

The officer was so impressed with what he had heard, and with the peculiar manner of the strange being who addressed him, that he granted an eager permission.

"As a lover of liberty, as an enemy of the English, as a friend of the Bastonnais, I think after what has happened it would be better for your troops to withdraw for a time from within sight of the walls of Quebec."

The officer looked up dubiously.

"They might retire to some village a little up the river. There they could revictual at leisure."

No answer.

"And wait for reinforcements."

The officer smiled approvingly.

"And give their friends in and around the town time to organize and complete their arrangements. As yet we have done little or nothing. But in a week or ten days we could do a great deal."

"The idea is an excellent one, and will be considered," said the officer, shaking the hand of Batoche, after which the interview terminated.

Whether the old man's advice had any weight or not, the very course which he suggested was adopted a couple of days later. Feeling his inability to press the siege unaided, and learning that Colonel McLean, with his Royal Emigrants, had succeeded in reaching Quebec from Sorel, on the very day that he himself had crossed from Point Levis, thus strengthening the garrison of the town with a few regulars, Arnold, on the 18th November, broke up his camp and retired to Pointe aux Trembles, to await the arrival of Montgomery from Montreal.

(To be continued.)

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, MONTREAL.

St. Martin's Church was completed in the Fall of 1874. It stands in a part of Montreal's "beautiful situation," and which a few years ago was quite suburban. This neighbourhood is now being rapidly built upon, and opened out into streets and terraces. The growth of the city in this direction has been so decided as to demand the erection of an Episcopalian Church. To meet this want, St. Martin's was built. It is capable of sitting 500. It has an elegant Rectory House attached, and underneath the Church is a lofty and well lighted basement, divided into class rooms, and where the Sunday School and other congregational meetings are held. The whole is well equipped to do its good work in this growing neighbourhood. The Parish assigned to the new Church of St. Martin's extends from Sherbrooke street to the city limits on the North, and from Durocher street to St. Lawrence Main street. The Church stands well nigh in the middle of the Parish, and is sufficiently removed from any other Anglican church to show its necessity at once to the eye of the beholder looking down on the Parish from the neighbouring mountain. The Revd. J. Philip Du Moulin M. A., one of the Bishop's Chaplains, was chosen as its first Rector. The Churchwardens are C. J. Brydges and John Molson, Esq. The organist is Mr. Herbert Oldham.

(For the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.)

A LITTLE GRAMMAR.

It is obvious to all careful readers of the English language that there are many irregularities in it, some of which are so evident and so easy of rectification that I often wonder that our educators have not ere this reduced their number. These irregularities are particularly numerous and noticeable in the spelling and derivation of words.

I solicit the attention of teachers to this defect in our language. And in thus addressing them I make no pretension to originality or learning; but as a student of English, I think that many anomalies may by them be easily reduced to rule to the great advantage of both native and foreign scholars. If judicious alterations be made in the school-room and adopted by the members of the fourth estate, they will not fail to make their way into our general literature. Teachers, Editors, and Reporters for the press are all-powerful either to corrupt or refine their country's speech.

With your permission I submit to your numerous readers a few instances of anomalous spelling.

From *cedo*, to *yield*, to *go*, we derive *cede*, *accede*, *concede*, *precede*, *recede*, *secede*, which are, I think, spelled correctly; but *exceed*, *proceed*, *succeed*, *incorrectly*, though they come from the same root.

From *cessum*, we get *cession*, *access*, *excess*, *process*, *recess*, *success*, *abcess*, and *decease*. Should not the last two be spelled, *abcess* and *decess*?

I invite your scholarly readers to the consideration of this not unimportant subject, and request to give the public the benefit of their researches in this interesting department of study. And for this purpose, if you approve, I know of no better medium than the columns of the ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Yours &c.

A. B. C.

Montreal.

REVIEW.

We have to thank the author, Mr. J. G. Norris, for the receipt of a pamphlet, intended for private circulation only, containing an account of all the steps that were made by him to bring about the visit to Canada of the Prince of Wales, in 1860. It will be unknown to many of our readers, as we confess it was to ourselves, that it is mainly due to Mr. Norris that the Royal visit of 1860 took place. This gentleman, in 1858, proceeded to England, at his own expense, to lay before the Queen a petition from her loyal Canadian subjects to allow the Prince of Wales to visit Canada for the purpose of opening the Provincial Exhibition in Toronto. Although the visit could not take place in that year, the mission of Mr. Norris was not fruitless, as the Prince came over two years later. At the date of the Royal tour, Mr. Norris had departed from Toronto to take up his residence in British Columbia, where he has since zealously labored in the cause of Canadian Union, but he is now on a visit to Ottawa, and his return has revived the particulars of his patriotic mission to England. We join, with several of our colleagues on the press, in expressing the hope that some mark of Royal favor may yet be given to Mr. J. G. Norris.

We have received a pamphlet containing the Proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Manufacturers' Association, of Ontario, held at Toronto on the 25th and 26th of last November. To this meeting we referred at the time in the columns of the ILLUSTRATED NEWS. What we mean to draw more particular attention to to-day is the republication in this brochure of a number of the letters and articles on Free Trade and Protection, from the pen of Mr. W. Dewart, of Fenelon Falls, which first appeared in the columns of our own journal. These papers were much noticed when originally printed in the News and they deserve to be widely read for their sterling good sense, accuracy of statement, originality of view, and clearness of deduction. The article on England's Foreign Trade is really a remarkable production, and we trust that Mr. Dewart may find time, amid his other engagements, to continue his valuable researches.

THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARY COMPANION for 1876 is an improvement, if possible, on the issues of preceding years, carrying up to date a mass of most useful intelligence which it is impossible to find elsewhere in a similar form. The very best recommendation we can give of this valuable work is the enumeration of its contents. Part I. The Governor General and staff; the Queen's Privy Council for Canada; The Chief Justice and Judges of the Supreme Court. Part II. Members of the Senate. Part III. Explanation of Parliamentary terms and proceedings. Part IV. Members of the House of Commons. Part V. Counties, Districts, Cities and Boroughs returning members to House of Commons, with names of Candidates in each constituency at last General Election, and at each subsequent election, and the total vote polled for each candidate respectively. Part VI. The Local Governments and Legislatures. Part VII. The Deputy Heads and Chief Officers of the Civil Service of Canada. Part VIII. Political addresses and Party "platforms." Part IX. Political Societies and organizations, with names of office bearers. Part X. Table of precedence for the Dominion. The Editor, Mr. Henry J. Morgan, is also preparing The Canadian Legal Directory and Law Guide, which, from his known ability, will doubtless prove a work of sterling merit and general usefulness.

We have received a pamphlet from Dawson Bros., containing a humorous account of the late debate on Free Trade in the House of Commons. The author is evidently no friend of Protection to native industries, but he hits off speakers on both sides with a great deal of mirth, and at times with clever justice. As we had occasion to say a few weeks ago, we hail as a good sign the cultivation of political literature, outside of the narrow and personal circle of city journalism, and we trust that some of our good pens will meet with sufficient encouragement to pursue this species of writing still further.

The second part of George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda*, entitled "The Meeting Streams," has just been published. All we can say of the work at this present stage is that it is fully equal to any of the former productions of the author's genius, and embodies elements of wonderful power, which when properly worked out, as they will be, will result in another triumph for George Eliot. The Canadian copyright edition published by Dawson Bros., of this city, is beautifully printed, on excellent paper, and does credit to the publishers.

THEATRE ROYAL.

On the night of the first production of "Rose Michel" at the Academy, the doors of the Theatre Royal were once more opened to a company of amateurs self-styled "Invincibles" who attempted to play the "Lady of Lyons." Amateurs are not subject to criticism but we cannot give their acting a word of commendation. Miss Lillie Lonsdale appeared as *Pauline* after, we regret to say, a lengthy absence from our midst; she did the part full justice and was heartily applauded by a Montreal audience with whom she has ever been a favourite; she was assisted by Miss Belle Chippendale who played *Madame Deschappelles* with great force; as *Claude's* mother, Miss Lizzie Burgess, a lady of Mr. E. A. McDowell's company who by kind permission was allowed to assist her sister actresses' shared the plaudits of the audience.

HUMOROUS.

PROFESSOR (to Freshman)—"What is a circle?" Freshman (after much reflection)—"A round, straight line, with a hole in the middle."

—Pungite, frates, pungite,
 Pungite cum amore,
 Pungite pio vectore,
 Diligentissime pungite.

"DON'T you think," said a husband in a mild form of rebuke to his wife, "that women are possessed by the devil?" "Yes," was the answer, "as soon as they are married."

A man who can sit with his feet in hot water, and a yard of red flannel around his throat, and not feel the sweet influence of spring, is dead to the subtle instincts which link humanity to nature.

A new book is entitled "Die Hauptstroemung der Literatur des neunzehnten Jahrhunderts." This title will give you all the necessary time to get out of the back door while the agent is mentioning it.

WHEN you can't find a match in the safe, you can be sure that there are at least two rusty screws, a corroded pen and four tacks in there. The number of tacks may occasionally vary, but it is believed that the other figures are impartially correct.

A traveller was lately boasting of the luxury of arriving at night, after a hard day's journey, to partake of the enjoyment of a well-cut ham and the left leg of a goose. "Pray, sir, what is the peculiar luxury of a left leg?" "Sir, to conceive its luxury, you must find 'tis the only leg that is left!"

A timid young man, the other day, handed a well-known Paris restaurant keeper a volume of Horace, on the fly-leaf of which was written: "Please give the gentleman who will hand you this book a good lunch, and oblige yours, Paul F." The restaurateur did as desired, and in the evening gave the book to its owner. "What a piece of luck!" cried the latter. "I forgot the book at some café, and had long ago written the lines, in case I should ever lose it."

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

ROSSI will make his first appearance in London about the middle of April as *Hamlet*.

THERE is some reason to hope that a few Shakespearian representations will be given in which Mlle. Ristori, Signor Salvini, and Signor Rossi will appear together in London.

Mlle. TIETJENS has just been offered \$4000 a week to remain in America, and sing twice a week during the Centennial, together with hotel and travelling for six persons, private carriages, &c.

IN a burlesque now played in London in the Duke's Theatre, a scene represents a skating rink with a ballet on rollers. This performance entertains better than was expected, because the girls sometimes glide off the stage into the orchestra, and often sit down with a thud.

WHEN Wagner desires to compose, he has to see that all the draperies and hangings of his room are in perfect harmony; and it is then indispensable that his own costume should be in harmony, as regards color, with the sort of music he intends to write. His dressing-gown and slippers must be in accord with the music upon which his mind is to play.

THE Holburg Theatre of Vienna celebrated its centennial recently, on which occasion its director, Dr. Von Dingelstedt, was raised to the rank of baron, its three stage managers were made Knights of the Order of the Cross of Francis Joseph, the four leading actors and actresses were permitted to style themselves hereafter "royal imperial court players," and all the attachés received decorations or gifts of money.

THE Rabbi Bettelheim of San Francisco, in a lecture on "The Merchant of Venice," declares that *Shylock* is not a fair type of a Jew. Shakespeare erroneously makes a devout Jew conduct himself as no devout Jew would have done under like circumstances, a mistake which the Rabbi would excuse, because the dramatist could have had no means of knowing their characteristics. The Rabbi, however, accuses Shakespeare of founding the play upon the incident of *Gertendus* and *Mannu*, which occurred in Venice thirty years before, and exactly reversing the facts. *Gertendus*, a Christian, lent money to *Mannu*, a Jew, exacting as a bond a hand's breadth of the debtor's flesh. *Mannu* could not pay, and *Gertendus* demanded the penalty. The case came before Inquisitor Sixtus, who decided against the Christian creditor.