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City subscribers are requested to report at once to this office, either personally or by postal card, any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

## NOTICE.

The indexes of the two volumes XV. and XVI. will be ready this week, and those of our subscribers who may desire them, especially for binding, as we recommend them to do, will be at once supplied on dropping word by messenger or postal card.

## ST. JOHN, N.B.

Our next number will contain the first of a number of portraits of the principal public men and notabilities of St. John, N. B., accompanied by brief biographical memoirs. We beg to call the attention of all our friends in New Brunswick and the Maritime Provinces to this series.

## VALLEYFIELD ILLUSTRATED.

In the next number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS we shall present three pages of illustrations of the principal buildings and points of attraction about the flourishing town of Valleyfield, thus initiating the series to which we allude elsewhere in the present number.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Jan. 5th, 1878.

### OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES.

An attempt is being made in Montreal and elsewhere to found a National Society. The motive is a praiseworthy one, which has always received our heartiest support, and if we have expressed any scepticism as to the scheme, it was not directed against the idea itself, but against the mode adopted for its fulfilment. Mere sentiment will never lead to practical result in so matter-of-fact a community as ours, and a foundation of practical work is what is needed to build such an association upon. The carrying out of a National Policy—so far removed as possible from the narrow and selfish requirements of party—would be something tangible for the advocates of a National Society to embrace, and if this were done in a proper spirit of patriotism, and with a full knowledge of the labour to be accomplished, we should have faith in the permanency of the organization. A newspaper exclusively devoted to that object would meet a clearly-felt want, and ought to succeed under skilful management. Such a paper, put forth as the organ of the Society, would be a rallying point for the members, and a source of authority for the public.

The resources of this country are not understood by ourselves. Canadians are altogether too prone to ignore or undervalue the wealth that lies within their reach. Not only do they allow outsiders to indulge in the ungracious task of belittling them, but, in many instances, they aid in the work of depreciation. Hence that lack of self-confidence which is so painfully apparent in our midst, and that want of alert initiative which characterizes all nations that feel the vivifying breath of genuine patriotism. Anything which shall tend to enlighten this ignorance and remove this apathy ought to be hailed as a benefaction, and it is the plain duty of every public man, whether through the medium of voice or pen, to take his share in the mission. Within the sphere of their opportunities, it is the intention of the conductors of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS to make this very subject the object of their particular attention during the present year. Feeling that they have exceptional means of

doing so through the aid of the pictorial art—the very best mode of reaching and impressing the public eye—they have resolved to spare space every week for the illustration of everything that may tend to show the resources of the country. For this purpose they have engaged a Special Correspondent, a gentleman of tact and ability, widely known through his connection with the press, who is to visit in succession every place of interest throughout the Provinces, and communicate to us the fruit of his researches. Public buildings, historical sites, portraits of leading men in every locality, bits of scenery, scraps of curiosity, will be selected by him and illustrated. And in a very special manner, he will devote his care to the different industries, manufactures, and branches of business which he will meet as he goes. It must be interesting to all to learn what our people are doing in the way of enterprise and self-support, how much skilled labour they employ, to what channels their capital is directed, and what specific results may be expected from our different lines of trade. In many instances, our readers will be surprised at the facts laid before them, and we trust that gradually all will appreciate the immensity of the resources which lie within reach of the energy and good-will of the people of Canada. The work which we propose will in time form the most valuable gazetteer ever published in this country, and, apart from the letterpress, which will be both reliable and interesting, the pictorial attractions will form a precious auxiliary. We feel, therefore, justified in calling upon our friends everywhere to aid us in this national undertaking.

### THE OUTLOOK OF THE YEAR.

There are only two or three points on the horizon of 1878 that the glass of foresight can descry. A wide space in such cases must always be allotted to the chapter of accidents, but beyond these we are restricted to a very few events of almost daily occurrence. The first of these is the rather speedy termination of the Eastern War in favour of Russia. From present appearances, at least, there is nothing to prevent her advancing directly upon Constantinople. The Grand Duke Nicholas, with 100,000 men, will advance by way of Sofia; the Czarowitch, with 100,000 more, will cross the Balkans through the Shipka Pass; the Servians will harass the frontier; the Roumanians will guard the fortresses in the rear, and thus, one way or another, 300,000 men will be in full march for the Golden Horn before the end of January. The Turks have not 150,000 to confront this host. Adrianople will offer no serious resistance, not being a natural fortress, and, unless intervention takes place, the double eagles will soon flap their wings over the dome of St. Sofia. The intervention may come from England. Indeed, unless Britain acts vigorously, she will disgrace herself before the eyes of the world, and lose her prestige in Europe. After the emphatic declaration of Lord DERBY that England would not allow the Russian occupation of Constantinople, she must either fight out her words or bear the disastrous consequences.

Another event of which we may be tolerably sure is the International Exposition to be held at Paris, from May to November. Now that the political crisis is over, through the admirable moderation of the Republicans, and the patriotic concessions of Marshal MACMAHON—an example of a peaceful solution highly creditable to France—it has been officially announced by the Director-General of the Exposition, M. KRANTZ, that the great palace of the Trocadero will be opened on the day and at the precise hour indicated. The war will, doubtless, somewhat interfere with the show, unless peace should be declared very early in the spring, an event which is not improbable.

In Canada, what we have most anxiously to look for, is a revival of trade and a return to a normal financial standard. Will this result be attained at the opening

of navigation, or at any time during the year? The balance of probabilities is in favour of this contingency, but we need not entertain too sanguine hopes. For ourselves, we have always held that the present crisis is largely due to the decline of our manufactures, and our opinion is that no true prosperity can be expected until these are restored. Fortunately—and this will be the chief event of the year for Canadians—we are to have a general election. That election will hinge almost entirely on our National Policy. We trust and believe, quite apart from party lines, that they will endorse this policy by a large majority. If they do not, and we continue much longer in our present condition, we had better make up our minds to annexation.

### A BURNING QUESTION.

There is always some point of theological controversy on the carpet, creating a stir in the religious world. The one at present attracting an eager and anxious attention is that of the endlessness of future punishment. It is known that a commission of eminent divines and scholars have been sitting for several years in the Abbey of Westminster, engaged in the responsible task of revising the translation of the Sacred Volume. Their labours are by no means terminated, and the definite result cannot, of course, be determined; but enough is known to warrant the conclusion that several important and even startling emendations will be introduced in the venerable text. But, of a verity, none will likely prove more startling than that of Canon FARRAR, a prebendary of Westminster. This clergyman has of late risen to a distinguished rank among the spiritual masters of the Church of England. His sermons in the pulpit of the old historical temple have spread his fame far and wide. His "Life of Christ" is a volume not only of deep erudition, but stamped with a fine spirit of appreciative piety, and especially commendable for its rigid orthodoxy. Hence, any amendment in the phraseology of the Bible suggested by such a man is sure to command attention. In two sermons lately delivered, the Canon argued that the words "damnation" and "eternal," as applied to future punishment, should be expunged from the Scriptures. He bolstered his argument by a wealth of illustration, chiefly philological, which we cannot reproduce here, but the marrow of his proposition was such as we have just stated. As was to be expected, the sensation produced by these sermons was immense, and, *more Anglico*, correspondence in regard to them rained upon the papers. These rather disturbed Canon FARRAR, and he wrote what has been aptly termed a "heating" letter in reply. Later, however, he entered into a correspondence with the Archbishop of Canterbury, wherein he reaffirmed his position, and finally, being summoned to define his exact meaning before an ecclesiastical tribunal, he did so by declaring that he could not belie his character and reputation as a scholar to the extent of allowing that the words *aiōnion* in the Septuagint and *eternum* in the Vulgate conveyed the idea of "endless" when applied to future punishment. This is simple and categorical, and all the better therefore. There the matter rests for the present, but, of course, we must expect that it will lead to further controversy and to ampler results. It were rashness in a layman to enter this arena, but we may be allowed to hint at two obvious points which would inevitably result from the adoption of Canon FARRAR's interpretation. In the first place, it would sap the foundation of Biblical credibility as a rule of faith for ever, if this cardinal doctrinal change were admitted at this late day. In the next place, this excision would eliminate from all literature, both Pagan and Christian, an element of poetry which has always had the charm of grandeur and sublimity. The idea of hell and its unquenchable flames is deeply engrafted in our moral and intellectual life, and its annihilation would leave a void which may be well termed chaotic.

### THE PROPER STUDY OF GREEK.

A few weeks ago we took occasion to animadvert on the present cumbrous mode of studying the Classics in our colleges and academies. We referred particularly to the Greek which is so put before the learner as to cause him an unnecessary amount of labour, attended with a great loss of time, and finally resulting in no knowledge of the language whatever. There is no use attempting to deny that Greek and Latin are literally dead languages in our schools, inasmuch as scholars not only do not acquire them sufficiently to write and speak them, but are utterly incapable of even reading them intelligently, *ad aperturam libri*. We suggested, as a facile remedy, that Greek, for instance, should be studied as a living language, precisely the same as French and German. We find that this method is attaining popularity in more quarters than one, and is counselled by such high authorities as may lead to a practical overhauling of our present defective system. Dr. SCHLIEMANN, the renowned linguist and antiquarian, is among those who have lately given their experience in the matter. He says that, at the age of thirty-four, and while burdened with a large commercial business, he set himself, under a competent tutor, to acquire Modern Greek or Romainic, through the simple translation, word for word, of the famous French story, "Paul et Virginie." By going over the book twice very carefully, with due annotations and corrections, he affirms that he found himself master of the language within six weeks. His facility for languages is, of course, exceptional, but he expressed his conviction that any child, of ordinary comprehension and application, can reach the same result in six months. Thus equipped with a knowledge of the modern language, he took up Plato, Xenophon, and other ancient authors, and to his surprise and delight, discovered that he could read them currently. He suggests that children should begin with Greek, and that having acquired that, they will be able to learn Latin "in no time." The writer's experience is not so wide as that of Dr. SCHLIEMANN, but quite sufficient to enable him to say that the method here proposed, being founded on nature, is the true one, and that, if adopted, as he thinks it will soon be, in our leading institutions, it will effect a revolution in the study of Classics. Not only will time and labour be saved, but substantial results will be attained. Greek and Latin instead of being the drudgery of seven or eight years, in the best part of life, and a mockery of disappointment for the remainder, will become delectable exercises, opening out, like so many flowers, the transcendent beauties of those two great languages, which are the foundation of modern literature, and without a knowledge of which, say what we will, no man can be accounted a scholar. Indeed, without them, no man can be deemed to understand the full structure of his own language. We earnestly commend this matter to our teachers and professors, confident that the theory is a sensible one, and that it must lead to satisfactory results.

### OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE FALLS OF MONTMORENCY.—This scene will be found fully described in another column. The originals are from photographs by Notman.

SHUMLA.—This great fortress is the principal stronghold of the Turkish quadrilateral in Bulgaria—the other three being Varna, Silistria, and Rustchuk. From its natural position, and by engineering skill, it is deemed impregnable. Though frequently assaulted, it has never been taken, and thus bears the proud title of Ghazi, or the Victorious.

CHARITY.—This beautiful statue is published to-day as appropriate to the season. Charity is the great universal mother which succors every want, ministers to every misfortune, and whose swelling fountains of milk are the nourishment of the orphan babe which she holds in her arms and shields from the storms of fate.

THE LACHINE CANAL STRIKE.—This important strike will be understood by the numbers represented in our sketch. The movement lasted for nearly a fortnight, but it has been amicably arranged, partly through the good sense of the men, and partly through the spirit of concili-