

The Canadian Spectator.

VOL. III.—No. 23.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1880.

\$2.00 PER ANNUM.

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NOTICE.

THE CANADIAN SPECTATOR has made, and promises well to keep, its place as a high-class journal, conducted in an able, bold and entirely impartial manner. All sides of all questions of public importance have been discussed, and the influence of its criticisms has been widely felt. But the people of this Dominion are necessarily much interested in all matters of trade and commerce, and many subscribers to the paper have often expressed a desire that the SPECTATOR should be made of more interest and help to the commercial community, discussing our actual trade and prospects as fully as it does questions of religion, politics and literature. The Editor has decided to comply with that request and so add to the value and usefulness of the paper. Some attention has already been paid to this department, for the most complete statement of Canadian railway traffic is to be found in its columns; but it is proposed to do more. A competent writer has been employed to investigate and report upon, in a series of articles, the trade and commerce of the Dominion. He is instructed to give a fair and full statement, so that we may know what is our actual condition and what our prospects. It will readily be seen that this must involve much labour and expense, and an appeal is herewith made to the friends of the journal to help it in every possible way.

THE TIMES.

The Quebec Legislature entered upon another session on Friday last with the usual burlesque. Even if we could afford this occasional trumpery display of spurs and swords and cocked hats and military salutes, it would not be worth the doing, for the thing is not amusing; but we cannot afford it. We are a poor and hard driven people, looking in a bewildered and hopeless way at the terrible crisis which we are sure is not far off, and we want in our legislators an earnest, business-like application to the work before them, and not a waste of time and money in paying homage to flunkeyism. Why should we in this practical age try to reproduce Court customs and fashions here? Dr. Robitaille is a good and excellent man, but he no more represents the Queen than he represents that antique and respectable personage known as "the man in the moon." It is bad enough—too bad altogether and sickening—to witness the efforts made to establish a Court at Ottawa, but the same thing attempted at Quebec is ridiculous. Speech from the throne!—forsooth. What has this Province or any other of our Provinces to do with thrones? Dr. Robitaille in a cocked hat seated on a THRONE, with cocked-hatted individuals on either side of it, and Dr. Robitaille reading a speech from the THRONE!! it is too ridiculous. If we must have a Lieutenant-Governor, and he must open the session with an address foreshadowing the work the Government intend to bring forward, let him go to the place like an ordinary mortal, and speak from a chair or desk like a sensible man. We are practical and very poor, and want none of this fanfaronade. If it is according to law that this has to be done, let us change the law, for why should men make fools of themselves, even legally?

The first feeling on reading M. Chapleau's "Speech from the THRONE" must have been, in most cases, one of surprise and wonder

at the skill and courage with which he and his colleagues have endeavoured to meet the difficulties before them as to finances. They have decided on a bold course, which will inevitably end in unpopularity, and, probably, their own overthrow. Now that the whole scheme for the new loan of four millions is before us, we can see that it has been carefully, even elaborately worked out, the money being borrowed on comparatively easy terms by providing a further market for the lenders—which they will necessarily have when the Quebec Government has called in its loans to the different municipalities. This is really a clever stroke of business from the Government point of view, although the towns will have to suffer by having to pay an increased rate of interest—so that it is doubtful whether we shall get much benefit from the good terms Mr. Wurtele secured. This staving off of trouble for a little!—it is bold, and deserves to succeed; but it cannot. Direct taxation will as certainly be resorted to as it is certain that the cocked hats and spurs and swords, and other tomfooleries, will appear again when the present session is closed—and the demand for direct taxation by our rulers will introduce questions of changes affecting more than the local parliament.

Another pleasing feature in the "Queen's Speech" (?) is the expression of a very evident desire on the part of the Government to be on as friendly terms as possible with the Opposition. M. Chapleau is positively pathetic in his appeal to M. Joly; he poses as the friend of peace and concord, and seems to beg the gentlemen on the other side to shake hands. Dr. Robitaille is made to say from "THE THRONE" "I am confident that the representatives in parliament in commencing their labours are animated with that spirit of good understanding and harmony which is so necessary for the proper working of our political institutions and the progress of our country." M. Joly thought in that way last session and M. Chapleau did not, but let us hail with gladness the change which has come over the spirit of M. Chapleau's dream, and not put it down to a change from Opposition to office, but to the birth of a new sentiment in his patriotic breast. The provincial Premier sees that we have fallen upon momentous times, and he wishes to have done with all mean and petty strife for place and pay, and enlist the sympathies of all the House, so as to get from the members that "zeal, wisdom, and patriotism which the country has a right to expect from them." I hope M. Joly will catch the sweet temper of charity and not be for ever proposing votes of "no confidence." We want some real work done for the indemnity this session.

Our Governor-General, finding that he cannot excel, as Lord Dufferin did, in the fine art of flattery, has made a praiseworthy endeavour to give us a National Anthem. The Marquis is a poet of no mean order, as the civilized world discovered some years ago when he gave it a rhythmical version of the Psalms of David. It is true that some hypercritical critics reviewed the work only to find fault with it, but they themselves had never tried to do such a thing, and had no idea how difficult it is to take the poetry out of those magnificent psalms and make them rhyme. Then the Marquis produced an original poem called Guido and Lita; later still a drama. If neither the poem nor the play achieved a great success, it was something, a good deal, to have written them. And now he has fitly crowned his labours by composing for us a "National Anthem." Let no one get alarmed at the word "National" and imagine that the Governor-General has yielded patriotism to poetry, for the "Anthem" is true to the "Empire's Queen," and declares over and over again that the "Union" shall be defended.

The poetic build of this "Canadian National Anthem" is after the form of the well known missionary hymn, "From Greenland's icy