

SCIENTIFIC CANADIAN

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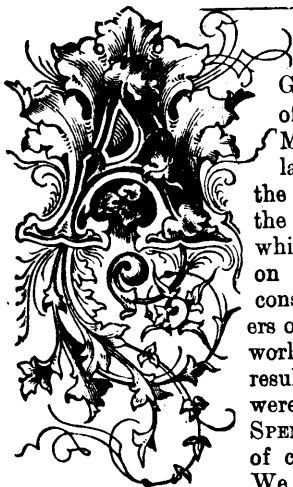
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NOTE AND COMMENT.



GREAT deal of interest has of course been excited in Montreal circles since our last issue over the visit of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which opened its session here on the 23rd of August. A considerable number of foreigners of eminence in the scientific world were expected, and, as the result proved, disappointments were few, though HERBERT SPENCER'S non-appearance was of course one of the greatest.

We give on another page a full account of the proceedings of the Association, and portraits of the principal members who honored us with their company. On the whole, though no very remarkable results were announced, the meeting passed off most successfully. Nearly a thousand strangers were in town during the session of the Association, and all were delighted with the entertainments and excursions provided for their benefit. The meeting was made the occasion, of course, of much social display, and various receptions and garden parties were tendered to the strangers, while that held by Dr. DAWSON, the new president, in the Redpath Museum was utilized for the formal presentation of the building to the College authorities by Mr. PETER REDPATH the founder.

ONE result of the meeting of last month has been the bringing into definite shape of the scheme for the union of the British and American Societies which seems now not unlikely to be formulated at the forthcoming meeting of the British Association in 1884. The meeting for this year has, after much discussion, and in spite of, considerable opposition, been fixed to take place in our city, and it is generally understood,

that occasion will be taken to enunciate the scheme which has met with so much favor on this side of the water, and not a little in England itself. It is a little unfortunate that, in the face of this amicable feeling on both sides, the English press, or rather two of the leading English papers should have done their best to destroy the *entente cordiale* for no apparent reason other than the poor opinion which the learned gentlemen who preside over their respective destinies have conceived of the capabilities of Canada and the Canadians. Perhaps after the recent strictures passed upon the Canadian Address, to which the Hon. L. S. HUNTINGDON so fully replied, we might have expected the opposition which the *Times* has shewn to the selection of the Dominion, but the *Saturday Review* has gone beyond its mentor, and lavishes upon us that acridity and bilious hypercriticism which in old days earned for it the *sobriquet* of the "Saturday Reviler." There are many reasons which might be alleged in answer to the objections of these gentlemen, why Canada is in some respects unusually suited for the experiment about to be tried. The country in which the *savants* of Europe will find themselves is new and both geologically and ethnologically remarkably interesting, while if we do not possess, as our English friends will have it, many names of world wide scientific repute, we have at least amongst us many worthy workers in the cause of Science, whose recorded observations upon their own country at least possess a merit which, but for ignorance pure and simple, even the *Times* would probably not be prepared to deny them. But apart from this the very existence of a desire to receive our distinguished visitors, and to treat them as no one who knows Montreal can doubt they will be treated, at least deserves more courteous treatment than it has received, while the additional reasons afforded by the amalgamation scheme probably never occurred to either of the papers in question, whose distinguished writers have probably never even heard of the American Association, or, if they have, class its work on a par with our own benighted Colonial ignorance. Such is at least one explanation of the articles in question, and probably the most charitable.