

DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENTS.

Speaking of the various documents and manuscripts employed in the conduct of diplomatic relations in Europe, a writer in *Blackwood's* says:—

It is possible that we all may know (though, frankly, it is scarcely likely) the exact signification of Bull, Brief, and Protocol, of Capitulations, Cartels, and Conclusums, of Exequaturs and Concordats; but how many of us can explain off-hand the nature of all the implements, and shapes and shades of action which have been or still are employed by nations towards each other? How many are there of us who can define, for instance, the exact difference between a Rescript and a Pragmatic Sanction; between the Golden Bull and a Placetum Regium? or who can tell, without looking at a dictionary, what are the diplomatic meanings of *sub spe rati*, *pro memoria* or *in petto*; what is a Verbal Note, a *mémotre*, or a *réversale*; what is a Firman and what a Hatti Sherif; or what is the precise distinction between Federates and Confederates, and between a Nation and a State?

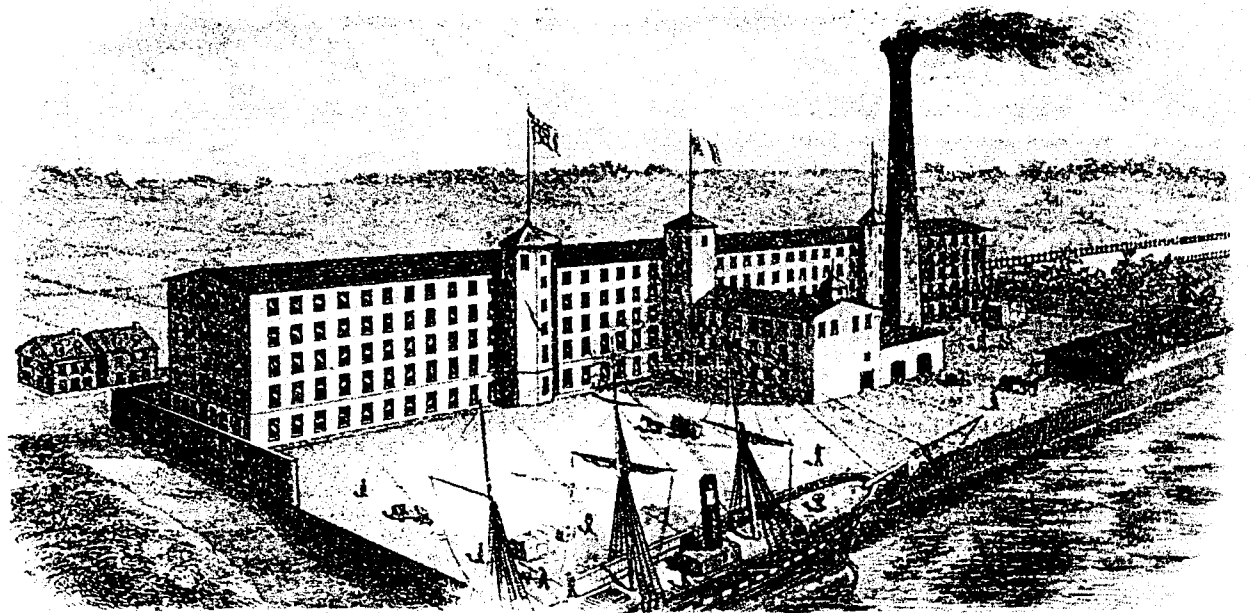
Presuming, and very justly so, that his readers are not acquainted with these technicalities of diplomatic usage, he proceeds to give the following definitions:—

A Protocol is, in its first meaning, a document by which a fact is described with all its attendant circumstances, or by which an authentic and exact account of a conference or a deliberation is given. The reporters of the "Daily Telegraph" do not always suspect that when they write soul-enrallling histories of a cricket-match at Lord's, or of a meeting of the Shareholders of the Patent Submarine Respiration Company (Limited), they are, in fact, composing protocols. The word has, of late years, acquired a second signification on the Continent; it is now often taken to indicate a convention which is not subject to the formalities of ratification. Subsidiarily, protocol means also the science of the shape of official letters.

A Conclusum is a *résumé* of the demands presented by a Government. It may be discussed and therein lies its difference with an ultimatum, which must be accepted or rejected as it stands. The *menu* of a diner is a conclusum in a friendly form; it is, essentially, a *résumé* open to discussion.

A Mémoire or Memorandum is a summary of the state of a question or a justification of a decision adopted. Life is full of examples of it, particularly in conversations between wives and husbands.

A Lettre Réversale is a counter engagement on a question, and is given usually in reply to a letter claiming that engagement: it is used to signify, particularly, a written declaration by which one Court recognized that a special concession granted to it by another Court in no way affected the anterior prerogatives of either. Réversales were also used to guarantee the maintenance of rights which were momentarily suspended; thus, when Emperors of Germany, who were bound by the Golden Bull to go to Aix-la-Chapelle to be crowned, decided to perform the ceremony elsewhere, they always sent a Réversale to Aix declaring that the change of place in no way affected the privileges of that city, and was to create no precedent for the future.



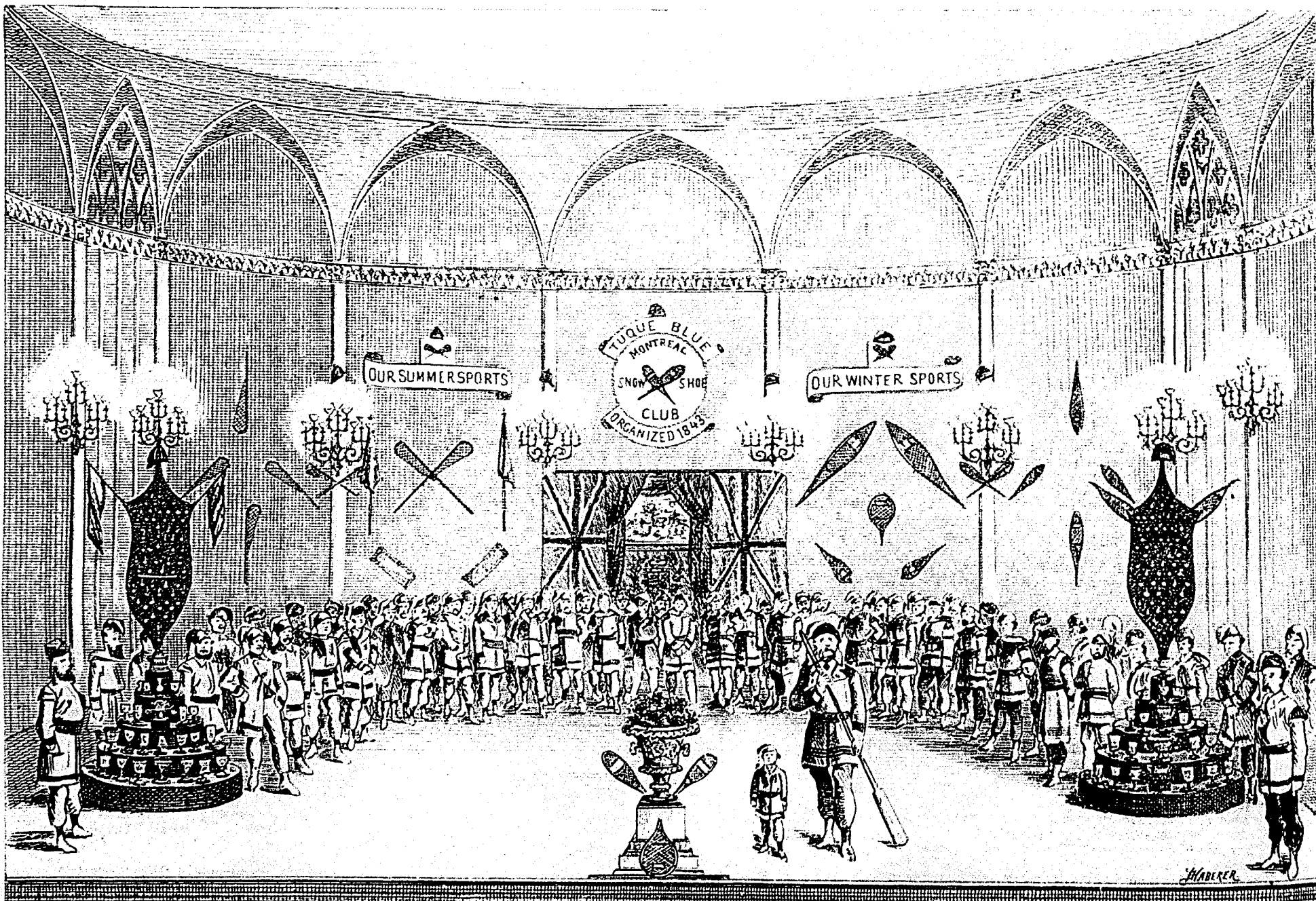
MONTREAL.—THE VICTOR HUDON COTTON FACTORY.

A Proposal is taken by an ambassador *ad referendum* when it lies outside his instructions or his powers; when he expresses no opinion on it, and simply refers it to his Government; but if he thinks it of a nature to suit the views of his employers—if he wishes to prove, by his own action, how desirous he is of seeing it adopted—then he provisionally accepts it *sub spe rati*, "in hope of ratification," and writes home for permission to definitely say yes.

A Cardinal is named *in petto* when the publication of his nomination is deferred in consequence of the advisability of temporarily maintaining him in a diplomatic post which, according to etiquette, he could no longer hold if he had actually received the Hat. All nominations *in petto* are contained in a sealed letter, which the Sovereign Pontiff produces in consistory, and then deposits in his archives; and if a

Pope should die before giving force to a promotion thus effected, his successor is bound to open the sealed letter and to carry out the nomination. The last example of an appointment under these conditions was that of Cardinal di Pietro, nuncio at Lisbon, who was named *in petto* in 1853, and did not receive his Hat till 1856.

Bull was originally the name of the ball-shaped leaden seal annexed to letters from the Emperor or the Pope; it is now applied exclusively to documents issued in the name of the Holy See. The seal bears the image of St. Peter and St. Paul on one side, and on the other the name of the reigning Pope: the writing is in Gothic letters, and is inscribed on the rough side of the parchment. Bulls of grace are fastened with silk cords, and bulls of justice with hempen strings; while bulls of which the effect is intended to be permanent begin with



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