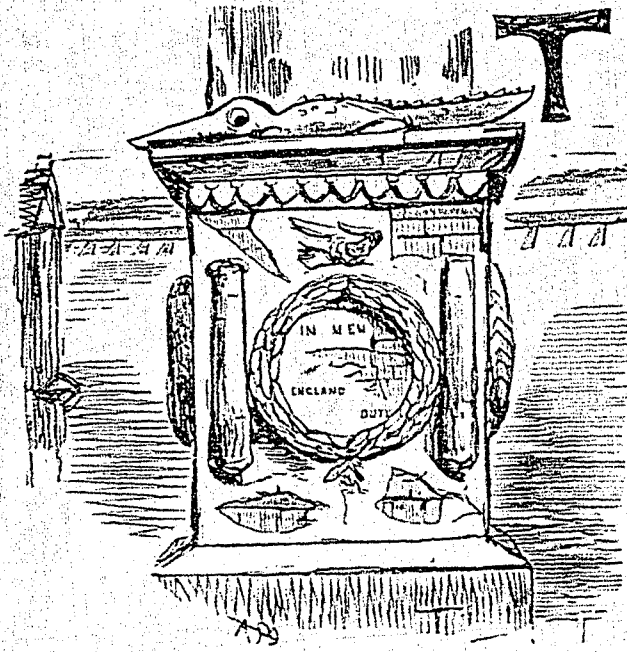


## HANDBOOK for STRANGERS VISITING MONTREAL.

No. III.

## THE NELSON COLUMN.



HIS noble structure is justly celebrated on this continent for its beauty and appropriateness. It is, with excellent judgment, placed in Jacques Cartier Square. Lord Nelson, as is well known, was a lineal descendant of the gallant French mariner. Horatio, as every school boy is aware, is English for Jacques. Nelson's name is intimately connected with the history of Canada. The great battle of Trafalgar was, DIOGENES need hardly say, fought near the mouth of the St. Lawrence. The column is of the Plethoric order of architecture. Its base is surrounded with a wreath of lotus leaves—the lotus being a plant indigenous to Canada.

What remains of the *bassi rilievi* on the pedestal is a precious study for artists. The portions facing Notre Dame Street are much obliterated, but good eyes will distinguish two smooth-bore guns at a remarkable angle of elevation. In Nelson's time, vertical fire was the only fire allowed in the British navy.

On one of the other faces may be observed a vessel with apparently seven decks, struggling in some stucco waves. This massive gunboat came up the river in the year 1805, before an idea so preposterous as the deepening of Lake St. Peter had been conceived.

The Nelson column in London has at the base of its pedestal the famous Lions of Sir Edwin Landseer. Montreal is more fortunate. In a similar situation, it has four live tigers, in the form of carters, who are among the most ferocious animals in the city. Should a young lady or an elderly gentleman pass them, *without* wanting a sleigh, the consequences might be fearful. These beasts are

determined foes to peaceful Abyssinian newspaper-sellers; and the Recorder has taken them into his special keeping. They will soon tame down.

Out of compliment to the Hero, the Nicholson pavement has been laid down in his immediate neighbourhood. Nicholson, as well known, is an abbreviation of Nelson. This pavement has succeeded better than any other in the city, which is, probably, the reason why the Corporation has never tried it again.

DIOGENES cannot see the statue by the light of his lantern; but, having borrowed a telescope, he proceeds with his description.

The figure is appropriately placed at the mast head,—a post of honor always occupied by British Admirals during a naval engagement.—For the same reason, his Lordship turns his back to the water, and his face to the Court House,—Nelson having been a distinguished lawyer in early life.—If you will examine him well, you will observe that he squints. He has a roguish twinkle of the left eye in the direction of the Officers' Mess, and an anxious one of the right toward the Recorder's Court.

So important a monument as this, is, of course, properly fortified. It is defended in the rear by two Russian guns plugged at the muzzle, and by an empty sentry-box with the face turned *toward* his Lordship. This is a wise precaution, intended not to defend the monument against the people, but the people against the monument. DIOGENES may be mistaken. Perhaps this was done in order to protect the Admiral's orderly against rain and snow.

Recently, some misguided citizens have suggested that this beautiful monument should be removed, and a statue of Her Majesty erected in its place. To what revolutionary excesses Reform may lead us, is more than DIOGENES can decide.

## A CERTAIN SUCCESS.

In an article on the City Railways, the *Herald* says: "The labour of the horses is so severe that they are rendered useless for the business in a very short time. One estimate sets down the time of a horse on the street cars at only four months." The writer continues: "Various plans have been tried to get rid of horseflesh, &c., but hitherto without success." DIOGENES can hardly believe this last assertion, on account of his fully believing the first. The "severe labour" system seems admirably adapted for getting rid of horseflesh, and, if steadily persevered in, must ultimately be crowned with success. The severer the labour of the horses, the speedier the success of the system. The thing is quite simple.

A DOUBTFUL COMPLIMENT.—The *Daily News* of the 19th instant, in noticing the first snow-shoe tramp of the season by "The Veteran Montreal Snow-Shoe Club," states that the members, after passing a pleasant time at Duclos', returned home *quite fresh*. DIOGENES sincerely hopes they did not.

## THE CHURCH DIFFICULTY.

(NOT BY GOLDSMITH.)

Ill fares the Church, 't intestine feuds a prey,  
Where Self rides rampant and where Clerks betray;  
Canons may sap and Bishops enfilade,  
While calm observers deem it but their trade;  
But a firm laity,—too sorely tried,—  
When once resolved, will never be denied.

## LITERAL TRANSLATIONS.

DIOGENES knows a youthful student who imagined that *Côte des Neiges* is the French term for a winter great coat. The same interesting novice translated the verb *rattrafer* as meaning "to set a rat-trap;" while *billet-doux*, by too literal a process, became in English, "Sweet-William." DIOGENES once heard of a person who rendered "a chest of drawers" by "*une poitrine de caleçons*." That story, however, is too good to be true.