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NOTICE.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,

Montreal, Saturday, 23rd Sept., 1876.

CANADA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The relations between Canada and British Columbia are, says *John Bull*, extremely unsatisfactory, and the intervention of the Home Government may become necessary if a disruption of the Canadian Confederation is to be avoided. The Canadian Government has not fulfilled the engagements on which British Columbia consented to enter the Confederation. It was agreed that a railway should be constructed in connection with the Canadian system to the shores of the Pacific. The political advantages and importance of a line of railway running through British territory, and joining the Atlantic and Pacific seas are obvious. No attempt has, however, been made to construct the Pacific Railway. The physical difficulties were said by the Canadian Government to be insuperable. The Government of British Columbia complained of the breach of faith involved in the abandonment of the undertaking; by the influence of Lord CARNARVON a compromise was arranged. Instead of the Pacific Railway a railway was to be constructed across Vancouver's Island. The Bill for this purpose, has however, been rejected by the Upper House, and British Columbia is naturally indignant. The United States will see in the blunder of the Canadian Ministry their opportunity. It will be necessary for Lord CARNARVON to convey to the Ministry of the Dominion an intimation of the necessity of duly observing solemnly contracted obligations.

The *Times* observes that Mr. MACKENZIE has been supported by the prevailing sentiment in the Eastern Provinces in the Dominion, where commercial embarrassments and financial pressure have been lately felt most painfully, and where a jealous dislike of the Pacific Settlements has grown up. Negotiations have availed nothing to abate the irritability of the British Columbians or to subdue the obstinacy of the Ottawa Cabinet. The visit of the Governor-General to the Pacific colony was looked for with some hope that he might be the bearer of acceptable offers, but the Province took care to define its position before Lord Dufferin's arrival. A declaration has been drawn up and confirmed by the vote of a popular assembly, at Victoria, which has been placed in the Governor-General's hands for transmission as an ultimatum to the Colonial Office. The British Columbians demand that "either her Majesty be requested to grant them the liberty to secede from the Union, or that Lord CARNARVON's terms be carried out in their entirety." Secession is a political impossibility, and we do not see how the Colonial Office can exercise any other than moral pressure on the Dominion Government. But we have no hesitation in saying that such ought to be firmly and energetically applied, as doubtless it has been applied already by Lord CARNARVON. The Canadians must be told that in playing

fast and loose with solemn engagements they are not only jeopardising their young credit as a nation, but are discrediting the English name, of which they profess to be so proud.

A HINT FOR QUEBEC.

The late misfortunes of the City of Quebec have arisen from a state of things which have not grown up all at once, but which, if not courageously grappled with now, may result in the loss of the chief advantages on which she prides herself. If ever city seemed entitled to the freedom of her open spaces, with all their historical associations, it was Quebec, which successfully maintained nationality and Imperial protection for Canada, when all other strongholds had given way. Her Majesty, through her honoured Representative in this country, has shown her lively sympathy with these claims. It would be a scandal to build over those grand and historic sites, which command the finest views of the St. Lawrence and its distant shores—views that have been pronounced unequalled in picturesque beauty. So long as these lands were held by the Ordnance Department in London they were safe, but since they came into those of the Government at Ottawa, the prosaic idea has been entertained of bringing them to the hammer and cutting them up into building lots. The city should at once shew its appreciation of their value by obtaining a charge over them, and by causing them to be properly watched and guarded at all times, so as to make them available for the use of citizens and visitors. Quebec in the past protected these historic grounds from outside invasion and we cannot see that she ought to be deprived of them. We trust that her finances may be at least sufficiently reinforced, through the wisdom of her Council, to secure the safety of the citizens at all hours of the day or night, and the city itself as far as possible from the ravages of fire. A certain number of mounted police have been spoken of for the outskirts, and it is beginning to be admitted by all that the question of water supply, on which the extinction of fires depends, ought not to be delayed for another hour.

The latest news from the East, as we go to press, is a despatch from Belgrade stating that an agreement to suspend hostilities for ten days has been signed. A special from Berlin adds that simultaneously with the delivery of the reply to the Powers, containing the peace conditions, the Porte issued orders on its own initiative for the immediate cessation of all hostilities, on the assumption that Servia and Montenegro would issue similar instructions. The Powers received the Porte's reply favorably, and opened negotiations immediately for further joint action. The Porte has confidentially notified the Powers of its firm determination to redress the grievances of Christians. The Vienna official paper, while expressing its satisfaction at the fact that Turkish peace proposals present the first real basis for negotiations in favor of peace, dwells upon the necessity of considerable modifications in Turkey's conditions. It especially points to the necessity of including in the negotiations guarantees—which the Porte must give—for the improvement of the condition of its Christian subjects, and the execution of its promised reforms. A despatch from St. Petersburg officially denies the existence of an alleged treaty between Russia and Germany, providing for the settlement of the Eastern question in case of war.

LORD DERBY's explanations appear to have been, so far as their drift could be understood, more disappointing than otherwise to the friends of progress in England. They will hardly acquiesce in the principle "that the Turks should not be checked in their excesses for fear of their committing greater excesses." We do not know that any one has seriously talked of driving them out of Europe. What the

people seem to say is "will Lord DERBY use all the power he has to stop their outrages and slaughterings?" and that is pretty nearly what we should all say if we had any available influence in the European question. The jealousies of Christian nations are working more injury to the cause than any real fear of the impossibility of controlling the Moslem.

REVIEW.

"THE ARCHITECT'S AND ARTISAN'S PRICE BOOK AND COMPENDIUM OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE," &c., &c. By F. N. Boxer, Architect. Printed by the Lovell Printing and Publishing Co. Illustrations by the Burland-Desbarats Lithographic Co.

We consider the publication of this work will supply a want long felt, not only by architects and builders, but by a large class of the community interested in building and real estate, to whom much of the information contained within its pages has been unattainable in any single work published, as it embodies that description of instruction respecting cost of materials, mechanical labour, specifications, contracts, and other matters respecting building, so very necessary to those interested, and particularly to persons residing in villages and country places where there are no libraries to which reference can be made.

Most of the works published on architecture and building are very costly, and when obtained are found to contain very little of those necessary details of construction, which are often of much importance to young mechanics, and, also, to parties building. Authors generally consider such details of too elementary a character to be noticed, whereas they are really most essential for the information of many who have not the opportunity of acquiring this knowledge, and therefore this information is just what is required by many in the Dominion who are obliged to be their own architects; to them the work before us will be very valuable and a saving often of much expense and trouble.

A new feature in this book is that whilst the approximate value of every description of building material in one place is given as a basis for calculation, blank columns are left opposite to each item in which architects and builders can fill in prices suitable to the times and the localities in which they reside. The work, also, contains all the most useful tables of reference respecting the weight, strength, &c., of building materials, method for measuring artificer's work, forms of specifications and contracts, hints on building, arithmetic, geometry, perspective drawing, machinists' receipts, and a great variety of useful scientific information. Also, extracts from the Civil Code relating to the law of building and real estate, very valuable to proprietors; and a complete glossary of philosophical, architectural and engineering terms.

The book of plates which is a supplement to the work, is of quarto size, contains 44 pages of illustrations, and is a fair sample of the proficiency to which the Burland-Desbarats Lithographic Company is arriving in this beautiful art and cheap method of illustrating books. Many of the illustrations were photo-lithographed from the author's pen and ink drawings, and are quite equal to wood cuts and at not one quarter the cost.

We have reviewed this book at length, as we consider that every creditable production of a literary character published in the Dominion should meet with every encouragement and support; and the author, who is the editor of the *Canadian Mechanics' Magazine*, deserves great credit for the efforts he is making to diffuse useful and practical information amongst the mechanics of this country.

The price of both volumes is only \$4, being about four times less than the cost of similar scientific works published in either Great Britain or the United States. It can be obtained, post paid, on a remittance being made to the Manager of the Burland-Desbarats Lithographic Co., Montreal.

THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS.

These little known Islands are situated in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The following extract from a recent correspondence to the *Halifax Church Chronicle* may be of interest. "There are about 11 islands altogether, though some of them are not properly islands, being joined to other land by sand-ridges and marshes. The North Bird Rock is the furthest point North, and South Cape, in Amherst Island, is the furthest point South; whilst the Great Bird Rock and Deadman's Isle are the extremities East and West respectively. Amherst, the most important island in the group, is 50 miles distant from East Point, P. E. I., 60 miles from Cape North in Cape Breton, 150 from Gaspé, and 120 from Cape Ray, in Newfoundland. A pamphlet written some years ago says:—'In form and appearance the greatest diversity prevails. Some are mere rocky islets rising precipitously from the sea to a height of 140 or 170 feet, with concave and convex summits. At one place the sea may be seen rushing madly against cliffs 400 feet in height, and wildly dashing far up on the face of the rocks; in other places the white crested wave rolls heavily over acres of low shelving beach, and mustering its strength heaves its ponderous mass upon the yielding but impassable sand barrier. On the one hand is seen

a succession of conical sand hillocks, heaped up by the whirling blasts, and, on the other hand, the low and treacherous morass, or the wide-spread but shallow lagoon. Here you may walk over lofty heights of sedimentary rock, and a mile hence you may circumambulate the base of the crater of an extinct volcano. One island rears its dark irregular summit densely covered with wood, another presents its bare conical peaks at a height of three, four, or five hundred feet above the sea. You land at the spot, and you can place your foot on nothing but the small angular rocks of crumbling trap; you beach your boat at another place and the cliff before you presents its sandstone strata with no less than eight different colours,—grey, pink, yellow, red, blue, orange, brown, and variegated, and so soft as to crumble beneath the pressure of the fingers."

Of our three sketches the largest gives a view of the village of Amherst, the capital of the islands, with Entry Island in the distance, and shows one of the curious sand-ridges peculiar to the group. Another one gives an idea of the country, being taken about two miles from Amherst on the road to the next village; there is a curious sand-hill to the right. The third taken from the highest point in the islands shows Amherst Island in the distance, with the full extent of one of the sand-ridges belonging to it.

LOST.

You marvelled just now, my friend, to see that strong and well-poised man bowed in such an agony of grief beside that little coffin. You have known him as the courteous gentleman, and dignified master of a stately home and broad domains; the wise statesman and popular leader of parties; and you could not see how a loss that seemed small to you could so utterly unman him.

You beheld only a small casket, with a silver plate upon the lid bearing the simple name of "Willie." Within a little waxen figure with closed eyes, and brown curls brushed smoothly back, the dimpled hands crossed upon the breast. "Surely," you say, "in two short years the little one cannot have made itself necessary to his life." He has not lost the child you saw; but shall I tell you what he has lost?

A bright-faced lad, with fearless, truthful eyes, lithe form, and ringing laughter, who has sat by his hearthstone and wandered by his side this many a day. One who needed no admonition to keep him in the straight path, but who chose it instinctively. A perfect child—the light of the house, and the sunshine of his father's heart.

Lost, too, a son, in whose dawning manhood all possibilities of good that life affords were gathered; possessed of every grace and charm that refinement and cultivation can give, with all sterling worth and powers of mind that the most royal gifts of nature can bestow. A loving and dutiful son—the support of his mother, the companion of his father; a steadfast friend, a kind and just master.

And then he has brought a fair young bride to the daughterless house, and she, too, has been a priceless possession, most perfect among women. And fair children have come to them, filling the old home with the music of merry voices. And peace has brooded above it, and happiness has filled its walls.

So the years have gone on, and on, and gradually the cares, the responsibilities, and the honours have dropped from the hands of the elder man upon the stalwart shoulders of the younger; and he in his noble manhood bears them worthily. Step by step he has risen in the councils of his countrymen, and now he stands among the leaders of the nation, with clear hands and spotless name.

And the years gather under the feet of the father, but they are filled with restful content. No cause for haste or anxiety, because all that he leaves unfinished, these younger hands will bring to perfection. And when, at last, he lays the sceptre down, he can trust family dependants, the honoured name he has cherished, with all interests of state and country, to these strong and steadfast hands so securely able to hold and guard them well.

These—the boy, the youth, the man— he has lost. They have vanished "without sound of wing or footfall."

But the baby boy you saw him bending above he has not lost. In quiet hours, in fire-side dreams, he will come to him; and he will feel again the nute caress of small hands wandering over his face; roseleaf cheeks will be pressed to his; soft arms creep themselves about him; brown curls nestle against his breast; and the cooing voice and baby laughter will fill his ears.

No; these will go with him all his life long, even down to his last hour, and the child will be his—his little one, always. More vitally living—more satisfying—more entirely his, than to the world he is lost.

The image is photographed in his heart, and the ways imprinted on the brain of that strong-minded, stern disciplinarian, who has a kindly place in his nature, hidden in the deep recesses of powerful feeling from the gaze of the world, which only knows him for his unbending rectitude of purpose and want of sympathy with evil doers and backsliders.

This manifestation of human weakness is only a phase of the law of compensation which pervades all nature, and is especially observable in the love of the living or the dead.