

**AN OLD REBEL.**

A writer in the *Brockville Recorder* writes the following interesting particulars: "Yesterday we had a visit from a gentleman whose name was at one time well known in the country, in connection with the rebellion of 1837. We allude to Benjamin Wait, once of Canada, now of Bay City, Michigan. This gentleman took an active part in the rebellion. He commanded a band of Patriots, as they were called, at Point au Pélée, and was afterwards taken prisoner at Short Hills.

Being thus taken, he was tried as a traitor to his country, found guilty, and received a traitor's doom. He was sentenced to be hanged by the neck till he was dead. But this fate was not to be his. He had a noble wife, and by her exertions not only his life, but the lives of others in the same predicament, were spared. This noble woman travelled to Quebec and prayed for a commutation of sentence, which was granted, but the document had to be countersigned by Sir George Arthur. This gentleman Mrs. Wait met at Brockville on her way to Toronto. To him she applied for his signature, which, at first, he refused, till he reached the seat of Government, well knowing that if his signature was withheld till then, the death penalty would be carried out before the document could reach Toronto. Afterwards, Sir George did subscribe his name, but so late that no one expected the respite would reach the ill-fated men in time to save them from death. Here, again, Mrs. Wait showed her tact. She applied for the use of Sir George's steamer, but did not get an answer till another gentleman had made interest with another owner of a vessel, and seeing this noble lady was likely to carry her point in reaching Toronto and fearing what might be said of his conduct, he gave the vessel; and, although every exertion was made to make the voyage as short as possible, Mrs. Wait only reached Toronto half an hour before the time appointed for the execution of her husband, but happily in time to stop the execution. The sentence was then commuted to banishment for life to Van Dieman's Land.

"Having succeeded so well, Mrs. Wait then turned her attention to England, which country she visited, and laying her petition at the foot of the throne, Mr. Wait and the other patriots who had been sent with him, had further favours granted, by receiving "tickets of leave" in two years, in place of the usual number, eight. Mr. Wait then set himself to work to earn a little money, and in six months had earned one hundred pounds. This amount was laid out in the purchase of a small boat, in which, after stocking with some provisions, he left the country and put to sea, in the hope of being picked up by some vessel. After being exposed to the dangers of the sea in a frail boat for twenty days, he was at last taken on board of an American whale ship. This vessel was afterwards wrecked, and Mr. Wait being saved, spent about eighteen months on the banks of the Amazon River. He afterwards reached the United States, where he remained without visiting Canada. A general act of amnesty was passed, which brought back Mr. Lyon McKenzie as well as Mr. Wait. Mr. Wait is now engaged as associate editor on the *Lumberman's Gazette*, in Bay City, Michigan.

"He has been visiting the Ottawa region and other lumbering localities, for the purpose of collecting statistics of the trade, in order to show how the lumber trade of the States will be effected by the passing of the proposed Reciprocity Treaty.

"He says he is still heart and soul a Canadian, and will ever rejoice at the prosperity of this, his native country. He appears still hale and hearty, and would no doubt be glad to pass the remainder of his days in the Dominion, and lay his body in the soil of his loved and native land."

**DICKENS'S EXPERIENCE.**

A writer says in *Old and New*: "Have you read carefully this melancholy life of Dickens, by which his friend, Mr. Forster, has unconsciously so nearly destroyed his fame? Sad as the book is, in all its sadness it teaches essential lessons. The first of those lessons is that, young as Dickens was when he began to write, he had begun to learn much younger, and that what he wrote he had learned, not in the school of books, but in the school of men. His bitterness could never find sufficient expression for the rage which he felt because he was bound as a little boy to the business of corking blacking bottles and marking them with their labels. But the reader of the book sees what the subject never saw, nor, I think, the author—that it was then and there that he learned the great lesson of his life—a lesson which might be written in letters of gold in this or any other university: 'Do nothing unless you do it to the very best of your ability, with every power of your being.' He corked the blacking bottles so quickly, he pasted on the labels so spryly and deftly, that crowds assembled in the street to see him toss them to his companion, Fagin, one by one as they were done. Afterwards he pilloried poor Fagin because he is so ashamed of the blacking. He makes his own father and his own mother ridiculous to the world because they sent him to the blacking shop. But it was then and there, it was in such and such places and duties, that he was gaining the power to pillory the one and make the other ridiculous. It was in the habit of perfect work, and the absolute keenness and quickness of observation and the pitiless memory of every detail, that h

was becoming the artist of a pencil so true and of precision so perfect that we take each character whom he really cared for into our own homes and among the people we have most nearly known. It is the Micawber, the Nicholas Nickleby, or Mrs. Nickleby, the Sam Weller, the Mr. Turveydrop, the brothers Cheeryble, whom with his own eyes he has seen, whom he had heard with his own ears—it is these who come into the life of this generation as living beings. As his own life goes on, often he searches in vain among his memory for any one who has not been pushed forward upon his stage, as a boy pushes his paper puppets forward with a wire; you see him painfully hunting, to-day, for that which he shall describe to-morrow. He goes down to see poor wretches smoking opium, that he may write out the miseries of 'Edwin Drood.' He is but a few weeks or months behind the printer; and the contrast between this goaded work of a man in arrears with fortune and that fresh outpouring of spontaneous recklessness tells the whole story. But, even at the worst, Dickens is so true that he will not tell anything but the things that he has seen and heard."

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

IS HEREBY GIVEN that the SELECT COMMITTEE of the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY appointed to inquire into the facts connected with the Exchange of Government Property at the Tanneries will continue their Sittings at the Committee Room, No. 63 ST. GABRIEL STREET, Montreal, on MONDAY, the 28th day of DECEMBER instant, at 10 o'clock A.M., and thereafter from day to day. All persons who have any Evidence or Information to give relating to the Subject Matters of the Enquiry are requested to communicate with the Chairman or any member of the Committee; or with Mr. Ritchie, Q. C.; or Mr. Loranger, Advocate, or with the undersigned.

By order of the Committee,  
CHS. P. LINDSAY  
Clerk to Committee.  
Montreal, 23rd December, 1874. 11-1-14-78

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G. J. HUBBARD,

299 NOTRE DAME STREET.

N. B.—Every article suitable for CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR'S Presents can be found here.  
Montreal, December 15, 1874. 10-23-13-52

**Merchants' Bank of Canada.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND of

**FIVE PER CENT.**

upon the Capital Stock of this Institution for the current half-year has been this day declared, and that the same will be due and payable at the Bank and its Branches and Agencies on and after SATURDAY, the SECOND day of JANUARY next.

The Transfer Book will be closed from the 15th to the 31st December next, both days inclusive.

By order of the Board,  
JACKSON RAE,

General Manager.

Montreal, 25th November, 1874. 10-23-5-53.

**HUTCHISON & STEELE, ARCHITECTS,** valuers of Real Estate, Buildings, &c., 245 St. James St. A. C. HUTCHISON. A. D. STEELE. 10-26-52-71

**J. V. MORGAN, 75 ST. JAMES STREET.** Agent for the SILICATED CARBON FILTER COMPANY, also the PATENT PLUMBAGO CRUCIBLE COMPANY, BATHERSEA, LONDON. 10-25-52-65

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**PARLOR BOOT & SHOE STORE,** 375 Notre-Dame Street, One door East of John Aitken & Co.

Have always on hand a choice selection of LADIES WHITE GOODS, in Satin, Kid and Jean. 10-25-52-61 E. & A. PERRY.

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It is used for raising all kinds of Bread, Rolls, Pancakes, Griddle Cakes, &c., &c., and a small quantity used in Pie Crust, Puddings, &c., will save half the usual shortening, and make the food more digestible.

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For sale by storekeepers throughout the Dominion, and wholesale by the manufacturer, W. D. MCLAREN, Union Mills, 10-14-30-5. 55 College Street.

**THE FAIRBANKS' PLATFORM SCALE**

Stands side by side with the mower, the reaper, and the cotton gin, as tributary to the material progress of the world. 10-25-52-68

**DOMINION TELEGRAPH INSTITUTE**

Was re-opened for the Winter on 12th inst. with Day and Night Classes. Ladies and Gentlemen wishing to qualify themselves as Telegraph Operators will please apply personally or by letter, to 75 St. James Street, Montreal. In consequence of so many New Lines of Railway being opened there will be a large demand for Operators in the Spring. 10 21 8-34.

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OR

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NOTICE.—Seats can be secured at Prince's Music Store 10-20-26-33

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Writing Cases, Writing Desks, Portfolios, &c., &c., in Morocco, Russia and Calf Leathers.  
Gold Pen and Pencil Cases. Penholders, Gold Pens, &c., &c.  
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The Special Classes for Children and Young Ladies will re-commence on

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Principal.

10-26-2-72

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