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NOTICE.

PRESCOTT (ONT.) ILLUSTRATED.

We publish to-day another series of sketches in Prescott. According as our Special Commissioner progresses, his enterprise is being more readily and widely understood, and the encouragement we receive is such as to insure the success of this great undertaking—the illustration of all the towns and villages of the Dominion, with a view to their resources and industrial development. Those of our friends who are pleased with the scheme, and with our efforts to carry it out, should help in obtaining subscribers for the NEWS, which will contain these illustrations for a long time to come.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, May 18th, 1878.

THE QUEBEC ELECTIONS.

THE general result of the late elections in the Province of Quebec is satisfactory in this—that it indicates the intelligence and activity of the electorate. With the exception of a few enthusiasts on both sides, the opinion of the shrewdest politicians was that the issue of May the 1st would be to leave the contending parties pretty much as they were before. It was argued that ignorance, on the one hand, and indifference on the other, would let the vital question of the sanction or condemnation of Lieutenant-Governor LETELLIER go by default, and that the old party lines would in no wise be disturbed. Had such been the case, the standing reproach of the backwardness of Lower Canada would have been revived with potent justification. We are glad to record that such was by no means the case. The election returns show that the Province was deeply stirred from centre to circumference, and that public opinion manifested itself in the most striking fashion. Out of a total of 65 constituencies, sixteen changed sides, on the one hand, and five on the other. This is a very remarkable work of alteration. The Liberals, who were in a helpless minority during the last Legislature, stand now with a majority almost within their grasp. The Conservatives, who formerly carried everything before them, with two-thirds of the Assembly at their back, cannot now muster strength enough to “run” a Government by themselves.

After calmly surveying the field, there appears a sufficient expression of the popular feeling to warrant the statement that the Province, as a whole, approved the dismissal of the DEBOUCHERVILLE Administration by the Lieutenant-Governor, and that virtually the JOLY Government is sustained. It may turn out on the 4th June, when the Legislature meets, as it certainly looks to-day from the face of the returns, that M. JOLY will lack two or three or four of securing a legislative majority, but we do not think that this quasi-physical obstacle should be allowed to stand in his way, in face of the undoubted revolution which has carried him so far. We have, of course, no advice to give the Conservative party, but we are decidedly of opinion that they ought to cast no obstruction in the path of M. JOLY. They should, on the contrary, offer him every facility to organize his Government, elect his Speaker, secure his supplies and enunciate his policy. It may be that it was M. DEBOUCHERVILLE, and not the Conservative party, *quantum* party, that the country wanted to set aside, but at the

same time there is a general feeling that the people have a curiosity to hear more from M. JOLY and see him really at work outside of the shadowy land of pledges and promises. We think the Conservatives ought to allow this curiosity to be gratified. They can do it with the more grace, and a certain patriotic sacrifice which will be remembered in good time, from the fact that they are still numerically very strong and in splendid equipment for either armed observation or defensive battle.

These are our views a week after the elections. What may happen between this and the opening of the Legislature, a month hence, to modify the situation, we cannot, of course, divine. The Ministerialists are perhaps a trifle too jubilant, which leads certain indiscreet men and writers among them to speak of “buying” over independent support. We confess, also, that at St. Hyacinthe the other day, M. JOLY made rather a wild speech, as we read it in the public prints, but if things remain in their normal condition we repeat our belief that M. JOLY ought to be allowed a fair chance to carry out his policy, even should he find himself in a numerical minority of two or three.

THE PROTECTION OF MONTREAL.

At a very late hour, although better late than not at all, the authorities have awakened to a sense of the real danger which threatens this city from a culmination of party violence and religious fanaticism. A bill, originally introduced by Hon. Mr. BLAKE, has passed through both Houses of Parliament, enacting most stringent measures for the arrest and punishment of persons unlawfully carrying fire-arms. The Corporation of Montreal have approved this bill, and facilitated its enforcement by an appropriation for a large increase of the police and detective forces, and regulations for the better lighting of the city at night. All this is well. They are preventive measures which the whole population most heartily approve as steps in the direction of security. But they are not sufficient. It is felt that a third power must be called upon to step in and supply what neither the Federal nor Municipal bodies could legislate. Alderman STEPHENS calls upon the Quebec Assembly to pass an enactment forbidding Party Processions, meaning by such processions all those in which no clergymen take part *ex officio*. The editor of the *True Witness* not only takes up the suggestion, but defines what is meant by Party Processions—those of the Orange Societies and of the Catholic Union. The Legislature fortunately meets early in June and will have ample time to attend to this matter. Mr. JOLY has already declared his views in the premises, and, if he remains in power, there is no doubt that he will effect the abolition of Party Processions. Should this course be taken, much of the danger which we anticipate on the 12th of the forthcoming July may be eliminated, but we must, unfortunately, express our doubts whether even such legislation will be sufficient to prevent a demonstration on that day. Hence, in addition to all the precautionary measures already taken, it is our bounden duty to prepare for an outbreak on the 12th, as its probability presents itself to us at this time. As we write, it is certain that the Orangemen of Montreal are resolved on marching. It is equally certain that thousands of their brethren from different parts of the country will come to the city to take part in the procession. It is no less sure that a large portion of the Irish Catholics of the city will do all in their power to prevent the marching or to break it up. If the latter contingency actually takes place, we must look out for a bloody riot. Then comes the question—how is this riot to be put down? We shall have, first, the whole new force of police, nearly three hundred strong, who ought to be effective, if fully armed and properly drilled. It is Chief PENTON'S sternest duty to see that they are properly drilled. Next, we shall have about 1,000 volunteers. It is a great pity

that volunteers should be called upon to do duty that is done elsewhere only by the militia or by the regulars, but this is an extreme case, and there is no help for it. *Salus populi suprema lex*. Such a force as this, officered by brave men, and under the supreme direction of a cool, intrepid and iron-willed commander, ought to suffice abundantly to quell any disturbance. For further security, all points of vantage should be commanded by artillery, to sweep the streets in a moment of extreme, uncontrollable peril. If these measures are fearlessly carried out, the impending terror of the next 12th July will be averted, or reduced to small proportions.

VERA ZASOULITSCH.

A romantic event has recently occurred in Russia which derives interest far beyond the bounds of that country, not only on account of the persons involved, but also because of the information which it imparts of political reform and social regeneration in the Empire of the Czar. A young woman, of the name of VERA ZASOULITSCH, recently fired upon and dangerously wounded General TREPPOFF, the Prefect of Police of St. Petersburg. She was arrested on the spot, as the assault was made quite in public, and the reasons of her act were detailed by herself without any fear or hesitation. She had intended to avenge the wrongs of BOGOLUBOFF, a prisoner condemned to penal servitude for conspiracy against the Government, who had lately received twenty-four strokes with a birchen rod for disrespect and insubordination to General TREPPOFF. This was the whole ostensible case, which would, of course, pass unnoticed but for the antecedents of the girl herself, and the subsequent issue of her trial. VERA ZASOULITSCH belongs to the sect of Nihilists, whose doctrines embody all forms of sweeping changes, social, religious and political. She was at one time a clerk in the office of a judge at Moscow. Later she worked at the bookbinding trade, and prepared herself for the functions of a teacher. At the age of eighteen, in May, 1868, she was arrested on a charge of receiving letters from a Nihilist conspirator and confined in prison till March, 1871. Being set at liberty, she was shortly afterwards arrested for circulating forbidden books, and put under the supervision of the police until 1875. She then removed to St. Petersburg, where she resided when the case of BOGOLUBOFF brought her into still greater notoriety. With this man she seems to have had no relation, although we have seen somewhere that he passed for her lover. This plea, however, was never urged by herself. She maintained that her deliberate object was to attack the iniquitous system of arbitrary punishment by the rod, and on that count alone was she tried. This trial and its result are the most significant circumstances of the whole incident. A few years ago her punishment would have been private and summary, without much process outside of military law, but it is indicative of the political advance which Russia has very recently made that this new CHARLOTTE CORDAY was allowed the broadest opportunities of defence. Her case was heard before a jury composed of representative citizens; the judges gave her and her witnesses every encouragement; her counsel was permitted every license in her favour, and when, in the face of the evidence, a verdict of acquittal was pronounced, the crowd manifested their enthusiasm by driving away the police and carrying her off in triumph. Her subsequent fate, however, has become a mystery. VERA has disappeared. It was feared at first that the police had again spirited her away, but a letter since published over her signature shows that she is in the hands of her friends, although her exact whereabouts are unknown. Our readers will remember that late despatches have made mention of her alleged escape from Russian soil, but, whether this is true or not, VERA has raised herself to the position of a revolutionary heroine. All these facts

are worthy of record, as revealing a new state of things in Russia. The knout had been abolished, but was replaced by the birchen rod. Even the rod, however, must now disappear as a factor in political correction and punishment. The spirit of personal liberty and of even-handed justice is destined to prevail in Russia before many more years elapse, notwithstanding that efforts are now being made, in consequence of this very case, to have jury trials for grave political offences abolished.

THE American papers have, *more suo*, invented many sensational stories connected with the European war, but the material presence of the *Cimbria* at Southwest Harbour, Maine, is a fact that lies beyond invention. This mysterious vessel has a regularly organized ship's company of sixty officers and six hundred seamen of the Russian Imperial navy, under command of Count Grifenberg. On her arrival a long despatch in cipher was sent to Admiral Lessorsky at St. Petersburg, and the officers seem to be waiting for a reply. The steamer has a large amount of stores on board, including coal for ten days' steaming. No arms or ammunition are visible, and the officers of the steamship deny that there are any such on board. Beyond these facts nothing has been learned either by the indefatigable newspaper reporter or the no less inquisitive British agents. The *Cimbria* may not be classed among the legendary phantom ships, but her appearance in American waters decidedly partakes of the romantic.

A CERTAIN Col. MULLIGAN is travelling through portions of the United States ascertaining the condition of the Fenian organization. He says that in case of war the Fenians propose to invade Canada from Ogdensburg and Fort Erie. A prominent citizen of Cleveland has contributed \$25,000 towards the purchase of arms. “The feeling in favour of a Canada raid is so strong that one will probably be made, war or no war.” Here we have again this periodical Fenian craze. Of course, we attach no faith whatever to the story, and, after the ludicrous experience of Pigeon Hill, we fancy that the Fenians will not suffer themselves to be deluded into any attempt upon our borders. The only point where a raid could be made with such success as is implied in abundant plunder and a panic of a defenceless population would be Manitoba, but, even there, the material results of the campaign would not compensate for the outlay, while the danger of terrible retribution, in individual cases of capture, would be extreme.

THE fruit crop for the United States of 1877 amounted in value to \$140,000,000, or about one-half of the outcome from cereals. Fruit of every species and climate is now raised in that country, the vines prospering finely and the oranges of Florida and California surpassing those of Italy and Spain. Herein lies a very important lesson for Canada. Ontario has already led the way by her fruit exhibition at Philadelphia, which was second to none, but the other Provinces are still very backward. Quebec possesses exceptional advantages for the culture of certain kinds of fruit, and we are pleased to know that, through the exertions of a few energetic men, the Province is about entering upon a new era in this respect. Through the encouragement of the Local Government, the Montreal Horticultural Society has been widened into the Fruit-Growers' Association of Quebec, while still retaining its title, and we look forward with much interest to the first report of this body, which is on the eve of publication.

THE slowness of negotiations is entailing an extraordinary expenditure on both England and Russia, which ought to count for something in the ultimate solution of the problem. England suffers really less, for, although she has gone through the