

Written for the Canadian Illustrated News.

THE LAKE.

(TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF LAMARTINE.)

I.

For ever drifting towards shores unknown,
In endless night, returnless, borne away,
We never, in Time's sea our anchor thrown,
Pause for a single day!

II.

O Lake, I come alone to sit by thee,
Upon the spot where thou didst see her rest,
Hardly a year ago it seems when she
Looked on thy wavy breast!

III.

Thus didst thou threaten to those stooping rocks,
Thus on their wave-worn sides thou then didst boat,
Thus did thy foam, aroused by windy shocks,
Play round my darling's feet!

IV.

One evening as we floated on the calm,
And not a sound was heard afar or near,
Save oary music mingling in and clear,
With thy soft-rippling psalm,—

V.

Then, all at once sweet tones, too sweet for earth,
Awoke the sleeping echoes into bliss;
The waves grew hushed, the voice I loved gave birth
To such a strain as this:—

1.

O Time, suspend thy flight, and happy hours,
Linger upon your ways!
O let us know the fleeting joy that's ours,
These brightest of our days!

2.

For the unhappy ones who thee implore,
Flow swiftly as thou canst,
With all their cares; but leave us, pass us o'er,
In happiness entranced!

3.

Alas! in vain I ask some moments more,
For time escapes and flies;
I ask this night to linger: lo, the power
Of darkness quickly dies!

4.

But let us love, and, while we may, be blest,
Before our chance is gone!
Nor Time, nor man has any point of rest,
It flows, and we float on!"

VI.

O jealous Time, those moments of delight,
When love pours bliss in streams upon the heart,
Must they fly from us with as swift a flight
As days of ill depart?

VII.

Alas! can we not even mark the track?
Forever lost, like all that went before!
And Time that gave them and then took them back,
Shall give them back no more!

VIII.

O Lake, mute rocks, and caves, and forest shade,
Whose beauty Time is powerless to blight;—
Dear Nature, suffer not the thought to fade
Of that sweet, happy night!

IX.

Still let it live in all thy scene, fair lake,
In calm and storm, and make thy smiles more bright;
And every tree and rock new meaning take
From that sweet, happy night!

X.

Let it be heard in every passing breeze,
And in the sound of shore to shore replying;
Let it be seen in every star that sees
Its image in thee lying!

XI.

And let the moaning wind and sighing reed,
And the light perfume of the balmy air,
All that is heard, or seen, or felt, declare,
"They loved—they loved indeed!"

JOHN READE.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1870.

We heartily wish our readers, one and all, a HAPPY NEW YEAR! Eighteen hundred and sixty-nine is numbered among the dead years, and its place is taken by eighteen hundred and seventy. How many thousands of pens have danced lightly across the clean page, and left there the traces of thoughts, either good, bad or indifferent, in which as many thousands of writers have indulged, while recording their parting say about the old year? It is the fashion to sum up the great, and even the small, events, the successes and the failures, which attend the march of the human family in its annual rounds; and enthusiastic writers are ever fain to make that one which is the special subject of their discussion, the *annus mirabilis* of their age, if not of their century. It will be hard for them, however, to lift 1869, head and shoulders above its fellows. True, it has had its distinctions. Some dreams have become realities; many anticipations have been ruthlessly blasted; buried hopes, and it may be, broken promises, lie as thickly strewn along its path, as on that of any of its predecessors. But, upon the whole, 1869 has been rather a tame year; the flavour of its accomplished events was spoiled by their anticipation; and, save an earthquake or two, and some other incidents of minor importance, it has brought but few surprises. It has left the map of the world a little better known, but otherwise comparatively unchanged. The expectations of annexations and revolutions which marked its beginning, are mainly unfulfilled at its close. Cuba has not yet become a new star on Uncle Sam's banner; Mexico gets along under its state of chronic semi-anarchy just about as usual; there are nearly as many wars among the South American Republics as at any former period; and China and Japan are gradually becoming more sensible to the advantages of commerce and com-

munication with the outside world. The great Indian Empire of Britain is developing its railway system, and in the midst of straitened finances pursues a course of solid commercial and social progress. Russian influence, though extending eastward, breeds no more fear of ultimate danger to the interests of other European States in that direction, than it did ten years ago. The same influence is supposed to be making fresh trouble for Austria; but Francis Joseph who has, of late years, become a constitutional monarch, seems very earnest and determined in the pursuit of his policy, and the dear-bought wisdom derived from his wars with Prussia and Italy, promises to pay him for its cost, in the future peace and prosperity of his States. Italian affairs are as nearly as possible where they were a twelvemonth ago; high taxes and an exhausted exchequer; a spirit of reaction on the one hand, and of revolution on the other, are the disagreeable foes against which the ever changing Ministries at Florence have had to contend, and are still contending; and matters are by no means improved by the assurance that Mazzini, wearied with inaction, has at last resolved to strike a blow for the Republic. As for Garibaldi, he is said to be engaged on the harmless task of writing a book! Spain has had several mild attacks of revolution within the revolution, but it has held its head erect with Castilian dignity, and seems to be a Republic, though unable to find a king; it is, as near as may be, a constitutional monarchy with a vacant throne; in the midst of internal troubles it has been able to maintain the Spanish sovereignty over the "Queen of the Antilles;" and the Cuban uprising is now so far got under that only the embers of the revolutionary fires have to be extinguished. Spain has, during the year, set the example of incorporating colonial possessions with the mother country, and giving them representation in the national Legislature. France has largely enjoyed the delicious excitement of standing close upon the brink of revolution, without tumbling in. The Emperor having, with great courage, applied the constitutional reforms proclaimed in July last, France now enjoys nearly all the forms and much of the substance of unfettered parliamentary government. And this step is already bringing its reward; as the Empire advances towards liberty, the ablest men of the Republican party draw back from the programme of the extremists, and profess their preference for the liberty of the Empire over that of the guillotine. As the personal element still mingles largely, if it does not predominate, in the Government of France, that nation may fairly be congratulated on the Emperor's restoration to health. Like the King of Italy, he was for a time in a very precarious condition; and like him happily, he has overcome his malady. Had these two monarchs of the Revolution, or either of them, been carried away by death, who would have ridden the storm of which they now hold the whirlwind in their hands? Of Prussia, it need only be remarked that the strong position in which it found itself after the sharp and decisive war of 1866, is still vigorously maintained. One's mind might indeed be at ease upon the whole range of German politics, were it not for an intimation recently, and we believe, maliciously, made, that the Schleswig question was again to be revived! This mysterious question may probably have been somewhat simplified by the detachment of Holstein from it a few years ago, but we still doubt whether there are more than "two men in Europe," or anywhere else, who would understand it.

So far as this rapid and imperfect glance at the world's affairs goes, it exhibits a wonderful tameness on the part of 1869 as compared with many previous years. Even the laying of the submarine cable between France and America, which four years ago would have excited universal wonder and admiration, occurred as a matter of course, the world's astonishment at such a feat having been exhausted three and a half years since, when the second cable from Valencia to Heart's Content was successfully laid, and the first one as successfully restored. Yet 1869 has one great achievement of which to boast, though even in this case, anticipation nearly robbed it of its excitement. The opening of the Suez Canal to the ships of all nations is an event of great significance; and of itself raises the history of the year above the level of common dullness. The magnificent opening ceremonies, six weeks ago; the capabilities, and extent of the Canal, and the probable commercial and political consequences of its being opened to trade, have all been so fully described and discussed that we need here only mention the completion of this gigantic enterprise as the great event of the year in the march of material progress.

The meeting of the Ecumenical Council at Rome—the first Council of the Vatican—on the 8th December, will give an exceptional *éclat* to the year 1869, though the association goes no further than the opening ceremonies, and the preliminary arrangements for the transaction of the business of the Council. His Holiness summoned the Council in June 1868, and since that time preparations have been steadily

going on for the meeting, which, as remarked, took place on the 8th of December, and was then adjourned till the 6th inst. The deliberations of this august assembly, already the subject of so much speculation and comment, will, therefore, properly belong to the history of 1870.

So closely does the Canadian reader follow the march of events at the seat of Empire, that little need be said of British politics. 1869 has so far fulfilled the promises of 1868 towards Ireland, that at the late session of the Imperial parliament the then promised bill for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Irish Church became law; and the ministry have put on record another solemn engagement to adjust the relations between landlord and tenant during the coming session. But disaffection and Fenianism are as rampant as ever in Ireland, though "scotched," if not "killed" on this side the Atlantic. The Imperial parliament elected under Mr. D'Israeli's Reform bill did not prove a very Radical assemblage, though it has manifested its intention to turn the wheels of progress a little faster. After a retirement, more or less secluded, of about eighteen years, Her Majesty the Queen delighted the hearts of her Metropolitan subjects by appearing in State amongst them in November last, to open the new Blackfriars Bridge, and the Holborn Valley Viaduct.

The relation of the Colonies to the Mother Country has been the theme of much discussion, and the controversy is not yet closed; but it is already sufficiently developed to reassure all save the most timid, that there is no present intention to knock the Empire into fragments. The spread of pauperism in the midst of plenty, in England, has given a fresh impetus to the emigration movement, in the benefits of which, Canada will no doubt share in common with the other British Colonies.

Our near neighbours across the line had the satisfaction of seeing their beloved General elevated to the Presidential chair on the 4th of March last; and he appears thus far to have approved himself a very fair average President. Under his sway we are told that the gigantic system of revenue swindling has been partially checked; certainly the public revenue has been well sustained, and the progress made in the reduction of the debt rapid beyond precedent. Our neighbours have also completed their great project of connecting the Pacific and Atlantic coasts by railway—a task which Canada must assuredly some day essay—and they have set themselves to thinking seriously about returning to specie payments. Though they still seem disposed to be somewhat churlish in their commercial relations with us, we wish them none the less success in all their legitimate enterprises for the advancement of their country's prosperity; and, in the face of possible contingencies, we sincerely hope they may as jealously respect international obligations as did Canada by them in their hour of trouble.

The progress of Canada during 1869 has been steady and substantial. The legislative measures of the past session of Parliament, with but a single exception, have borne good fruit. That exception is the bill for the acquisition of the North-West Territory, which as yet is virtually a dead letter, in consequence of the unexpected resistance of a portion of the Red River settlers. Let us hope that 1870 will enable us to overcome this difficulty. In other respects, the country may well rejoice at the political quiet, social harmony, and general prosperity which prevail. A plentiful harvest and fair commercial activity have given abundant occasion for thankfulness, and Canada has good reason to welcome the new year with a smiling face and with high hopes of continuing prosperity, and even greater progress, in the future.

The Dominion Parliament is summoned for the despatch of business on Tuesday, the 15th of February.

The *Ontario Farmer* is henceforth to be published by the enterprising firm of Messrs. T. and R. White, of Hamilton. The Rev. Mr. Clarke will continue to be the Editor.

The Hon. Mr. Campbell, Postmaster-General, and Hon. John Ross, Senator, have returned to Canada from England.

Lady Young held a reception at Rideau Hall, Ottawa, on Monday, Dec. 7, and will hold another on Monday, the 3rd instant, at three o'clock, p. m.

Mr. Stanton, U. S. Secretary of War during the rebellion, who was lately appointed by President Grant a Judge of the Supreme Court, died suddenly the other day of asthma.

La Minerve advocates the construction in Montreal of a St. Jean Baptiste Hall, to equal that of the St. Patrick's, which it characterises as a monument to the patriotism and liberality of the Irish.

An Ottawa despatch states that the Government have received a telegram from the Hon. Mr. McDougall, stating that he expected to reach St. Pauls yesterday; but whether he would return to Canada is not stated.