

Actors, Orators and Musicians.

The Editor will be pleased to receive Canadian items of interest for this column.

Dr. STRATHY's Musical Association give a select performance in Newcombe's Hall this Friday evening, to a select audience of invited guests.

Mr. and Mrs. CHANFRAU, a notable pair of stars well known to the theatre goers of Toronto, are playing at the Royal. CHANFRAU's *Kit* takes an honorable place in the gallery of great American comedy parts. Mrs. C. is recognized as one of the cleverest members of the profession in emotional plays.

Mr. Wm. REDSTONE, a vocalist well known to our citizens, is to be the recipient of a complimentary benefit in Albert Hall, on Monday evening, 31st inst. Mr. REDSTONE was with the Holman Opera Company during their recent American tour, and judging from the comments of the Northern and Southern press, he achieved a marked success. He is the happy possessor of a tenor voice of great power and compass as well as sweetness, and is able to do the standard ballads full justice. We bespeak for him the hearty reception and crowded house he deserves.

JEFFERSON has come and gone. The daily papers have puffed him as a matter of course, though no doubt he deserved very favourable notices. In our opinion, however, his *Rip Van Winkle* is by no means so good as that of ROBERT McWADE. JEFFERSON's Dutch dialect is defective, and he is not at home in the pathetic passages. McWADE, on the contrary, is perfect in these respects, and furthermore, has a decidedly better play. And, by the way, where was *Rip's* dog *Shneider*? McWADE has that part played to perfection by a mangy cur. Business management, not genius, accounts for the difference in the popularity of these stars.

At the annual dinner of the Osgoode Literary and Legal Society on Tuesday night, Mr. N. F. DAVIS, in reply to the boast of his health, made an exceedingly brilliant and effective speech. In the course of his remarks he alluded to the elements of national greatness which Canada possesses, and inveighed against the habit of underrating the achievements of Canadian talent which prevails even amongst our own people. "In England," said he, "when a man displays marked ability, he excites the admiration of the press and public and forthwith becomes a lion, in Canada his success would be apt rather to excite jealousy and opposition." This is only too true, and the sooner we get rid of such a miserable spirit the better it will be for our country. Mr. DAVIS acts as critic at the ordinary meetings of the Society, and is immensely popular with the young limbs of the law.

On a brief visit to Walkerton last week we had the pleasure of an introduction to Mr. Fox and his three little sons, the musical prodigies. The eldest, GEORGE, is about eight years of age, the second between six and seven, and the third a child of five. All three are marvellously gifted. GEORGE sat down at the pianoforte and extemporized several brilliant pieces, including a dead march, which, if it could have been written and published, would fairly rival the celebrated composition so often heard in public. The little fellow does not play by note, and has not Blind Tom's faculty of imitation; he is purely original, and always plays just as the musical spirit moves him. He is also able to name any notes that may be struck upon the instrument while his back is turned to it. His brothers are each gifted with a wonderful "car," and perform extempore duets together, though GEORGE's genius is the most pronounced. Mr. BAYLAN, an accomplished musician well known in this city, has charge of the three little wonders at present. Mr. Fox himself is a talented man, and a fair performer on the piano and harp.



Grenville Canal, Ottawa River.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the undersigned (Secretary of Railways and Canals), and endorsed "Tender for Works, Grenville Canal," will be received at this Office until the arrival of the Eastern and Western Mails, on THURSDAY, THE 3RD DAY OF JUNE next, for the construction of two Lift Locks and other works at Greece's Point, or lower entrance of the Grenville Canal.

A map of the locality, together with plans and specification of the work to be done, can be seen at this Office, and at the resident Engineer's Office, Grenville, on and after THURSDAY, THE 20TH MAY, instant, at either of which places printed forms of Tender can be obtained.

Contractors are requested to bear in mind that tenders will not be considered unless made strictly in accordance with the printed forms—and in the case of firms—unless there are attached the actual signatures, the nature of the occupation and residence of each member of the same; and further, an acceptance bank cheque for the sum of \$2,000 must accompany the Tender, which sum shall be forfeited, if the party tendering declines entering into contract for the works at the rates and on the terms stated in the offer submitted.

The cheque thus sent in will be returned to the respective parties whose tenders are not accepted.

For the due fulfilment of the contract the party or parties whose Tender may be accepted will be required to make a deposit equal to *five per cent.* of the bulk sum of the contract within *eight days* after the date of the notification. The sum sent in with the Tender will be considered a part of the deposit.

Ninety per cent. only of the progress estimates will be paid until the completion of the work.

This Department does not, however, bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,

F. BRAUN,

Secretary.

DEPT. OF RAILWAYS AND CANALS,
Ottawa, 13th May, 1880.

NV-1-21



WELLAND CANAL.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

THE construction of Lock Gates advertised to be let on the 3RD OF JUNE next, is unavoidably postponed to the following dates:

Tenders will be received until

Tuesday, the 22nd day of June next.

Plans, specifications, &c., will be ready for examination on and after

Tuesday, the 8th day of June.

By order,

F. BRAUN,

Secretary.

Dept. of Railways and Canals,
Ottawa, 13th May, 1880.

St. 13-5.

Too Bad.

The news come from Ottawa that owing to the Princess LOUISE having held no Drawing Room this season several very estimable ladies are in despair. The genius of snobbishness has prevailed, and the upper crust has had no opportunity of displaying its knowledge of millinery. What a catastrophe! Who can fail to sympathize and echo Amen to the melancholy "nunc dimittis" which Mrs. GRUNDY is singing? Never since Ottawa had a vice-regal court has there been such a strange fatality. It has been a social duncial, a sacrifice to the divinity of dulness. What is society without ladies' toilettes, and who will don a bran new fashionable toilette if it cannot be seen? Surely all right minded people must sympathize with the disappointed ladies who have spent dollars in preparation and after-all cannot make any display. That Her Royal Highness met with an accident, serious enough as it was, but which might have been worse, has nothing to do with the question. The Canadian Mrs. LANGRIS have been disappointed, and that is all there is to be said.

Authors, Artists & Journalists.

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FARRAR's "Life of Christ" has been translated into Russian.

The death of BLACKWOOD leaves WILLIAM CHAMBERS the last survivor of the old Edinburgh book-sellers. He still writes for his magazine.

Mr. J. C. FORBES, the well known artist, is at present engaged at Ottawa in painting the portraits of several members of the Dominion Government. Some of his work recently finished, is spoken very highly of.

A new Liberal daily journal is projected in London with a capital of \$1,500,000, which shall "combine the business energy and special excellencies of the *Daily News* with the intellectual vigor and robust social and ecclesiastical liberalism of the *Pall Mall Gazette*."

TENNYSON eats mutton chops and kidney and drinks stout out of a pewter mug, like common mortals, at "The Cock," London. A late private letter from a New Yorker says that the poet is not handsome by any means, but "looks tough and muscular, aged and worn, bent in the back, and with a hollow chest."

The rumor that Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE is to become connected in an editorial capacity with the *Globe* is again revived. Whether it is actually true or not we cannot at present say. Many prominent Reformers think it would be a decided advantage to the party if such an arrangement could be carried out.

Mr. J. GORDON BROWN succeeds his lamented brother as Managing Director of the *Globe* Printing Company. Though less known to the general public than the late Senator, Mr. GORDON BROWN is a man of scholarly attainments and considerable literary ability. He possesses, likewise, a good share of the energy and administrative ability so characteristic of the family, and under his direction there is not likely to be any falling off in the prosperity of the great journal.

Grip is steadily advancing in public favor, and its prosperity is based on solid merit. It is not only a credit to Canada; it would be a credit to any country. Some of its cartoons are more than clever; they are the productions of the highest order of a very high order of genius. Although firmly established we presume the circulation is not so great as its merits deserve, but this is a matter that will mend in time. No one pretending to culture will be found without it in a short time.—*Orillia Times*. Thanks, brother, but oh, spare our blushes.

An interesting exhibition will be held by the Ladies' Aid Society of the Methodist church, Aylmer, on the 22nd and 24th inst. The exhibition will consist of relics, comprising curious and antique works of art, paintings, specimens of minerals, wearing apparel, books, &c., from China, Japan, Italy, Africa, England, California and other countries, together with an almost endless variety of curiosities, rare manuscripts, coins, &c.

CHARLES READE writes ultimately for fame; immediately for a project or for a practical purpose; generally for both. His gains must have been considerable; for a story in the *Cornhill* he was paid at the rate of three guineas a page, with absolute right of reproduction. Of the effect of his works in promoting social reforms it is difficult to judge with accuracy. Possibly his chief merit is to have interested the public at large in such sad themes as are furnished by prisons and madhouses. "Put Yourself in His Place," procured him the honor of threatening letters from various trade-unions. Mr. READE is a perfect French scholar, having even accomplished the notable feat of writing a comedy in that language.

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