

exact fac-similes of the old editions. Among the works thus republished are these: *La Vie du Père Chaumonot*, and *La Relation du Père Dablon*. The latter is not to be found in the *Relations* published by order of the Government of Canada. Mr. Shea is Editor of the *New York Historical Magazine*, and well known by his works and publications, among which are, the *History of the Discovery of the Mississippi*, the *History of the Catholic Missionaries among the Indians of the United States*; the *History of the United States for the use of schools, &c., &c.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS INTELLIGENCE.

—The telegram of the news of the *Canada* in our last impression contained the announcement of the death of the Earl of Aberdeen, K.G., K.T., P.C., F.R.S. We have not yet received any particulars of this event by mail, but possibly we may do so to-day. The passing away from this mortal scene of a statesman so old and so eminent as he that has gone, calls for some notice from a public journalist even in this distant dependency—for the recalling of a few brief facts concerning him which have long been of public record. He was born in London on January 28th, 1784, and was consequently nearly 77 years old when he died. Great political events, the greatest in the modern history of Europe, took place within these 77 years, in which the deceased statesman was something more than an interested spectator. From any of the hand-books or companions to the House of Lords we may learn, that the Right Hon. George Hamilton Gordon, the 4th Earl of Aberdeen, was the oldest of six sons of the late George Lord Harlow. He received his early education at Harrow, where he was a schoolboy with Lord Palmerston, the Earl of Ripon, Sir Robert Peel and Lord Byron. In 1802 he succeeded to the Scottish peerage, on the death of his grandfather the third Earl. He graduated as M.A. at Cambridge in 1804. After spending a couple of years in a tour in France, Italy and Germany, going as far as the Levant, he was elected one of the Representative peers for Scotland in 1806. He was re-elected in 1807, and again in 1812. In 1813 he was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Vienna. He soon after joined the Allied armies and accompanied Francis II. throughout the campaign which led to the treaty of Paris in 1814, of which as Plenipotentiary he was one of the signers. In the same year he was created a British Peer being gazetted Viscount Gordon of Aberdeen. He was twice married; first to the daughter of Abercorn; second to the daughter of the Hon. John Douglass. He was the author of a work on Grecian architecture, which he published in 1822. He was also one of the original contributors to the *Edinburgh Review*, to whom Byron applied the line,

"The travelled Thane, Athenian Aberdeen."

In 1828 he became a member of the Administration of the Duke of Wellington, as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and in a few months afterwards became Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which office he held until the breaking up of the Ministry in 1830. "In the course of his first administration of the foreign affairs of the country," remarks a writer, "he had an opportunity of putting to the test his principal of non intervention,—the frank and unreserved recognition of the *de facto* sovereign of each country, without reference to his abstract right and title." Thus Lord Aberdeen was the foremost of those who induced the British Government to recognize the newly chosen "King of the French." He gave a frank and cordial support to the repeal of the Test and Corporation acts; also to the act for Catholic Emancipation. A writer holds that his opinion on this measure modified the sentiments of the Duke of Wellington. After the fall of the Wellington Administration Lord Aberdeen was succeeded at the Foreign Office by Lord Palmerston. In opposition the retired Minister bitterly assailed the policy of foreign intervention of his successor. In 1834 Lord Aberdeen became Colonial Secretary in the Tory Government formed by Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington taking the Foreign Department. From this time to his death he became a steady Peelite, and as such he is at the present day, popularly the best known. The fidelity with which a little knot of able politicians attached themselves to their leader Peel through all fortunes, is a fact which is worthy of particular notice in the history of political parties in Britain. In 1835 the Peel ministry broke up and Lord Aberdeen was again in opposition to Lord Palmerston in the Foreign Office, whose policy of intervention he assailed on precisely the same grounds as before. In 1841 Sir Robert Peel again came into power, and gave Lord Aberdeen the Foreign Office, which he held till the fall of the ministry in 1846, after the passing of the Corn Law measure, which killed the Ministry, broke up the Conservative party, which so deeply affected the fortunes of the country, and the end of the consequences of which on the destinies of the empire we have not seen. Again in opposition, Lord Aberdeen resumed his old hostility to Lord Palmerston, and in 1850 took very strong ground on the Greek question, which created much agitation, and at one time seemed to threaten war. After the untimely death of his old leader, Peel, Lord Aberdeen became the acknowledged head of the Peelite party—perhaps party is too strong a term—apply to this little band of men of brilliant abilities. Lord Aberdeen remained in opposition to the Russell and Derby Administrations which succeeded that of Peel. In 1852 the Queen sent for him, and he succeeded in forming a Ministry which lasted till 1855. Thus during these three years, for the first and last time in his long political career, he became Premier of Great Bri-

tain. His Ministry was necessarily a coalition one. Parties had become so broken up by the course which Sir Robert Peel had thought it right to pursue in the passage of the Corn Law Act, that no other kind of Ministry was possible. The Aberdeen coalition Ministry was yet bitterly assailed, because of the diverse elements which were united in it, particularly by the master of sarcasm, Mr. D'Israeli. "England has not loved coalitions," he bitterly told the author of the motion which killed the Government of which he was a member, and he always preached afterwards with particular delectation from that text. Lord Aberdeen's Ministry fell in consequence of the passing of Mr. Roebuck's motion in the House of Commons, for a committee to inquire into the state of the British army before Sebastopol. The resolution was not directly one of want of confidence; but indirectly it was very strongly so. The Government opposed it as such, so nothing else was left for them but to resign. The nation felt that they had very badly conducted that war; that they had in fact compromised, by their carelessness, the honor of the British name. Lord Aberdeen, who was now an old man of more than three score years and ten, must have felt keenly the mortification of the situation, although we believe there never was any personal blame attached to him. After the fall of his Ministry he did not take much part in politics until the day of his death. He was ever regarded as the particular friend of France, and probably did more than any other man to promote a good understanding and alliance between France and Britain.—*Montreal Gazette*.

—His Royal Highness Prince Alfred has left the *Euryalus* 50, to enable him to obtain experience in the navigation of a larger ship, and he joins the *St. George* 90, in January, when, having visited Africa in the frigate he will have an opportunity of seeing the western continent, his new trip being to the West Indies and North America. Some of the other midshipmen of the *Euryalus* will be transferred with His Royal Highness to the *St. George*.

—A machine, constructed by a Quebec mechanic, says the *Canadian*, is now used in the Post-Office of that city, by means of which a great number of letters can be stamped in any given time. He intends taking a patent for his invention.

—The Order of the Garter was conferred on the Duke of Newcastle by Her Majesty the Queen, at Windsor Castle, December 17.

—The press employed in printing this *Journal* and the *Journal de l'Instruction Publique* is now, and has been for some time, worked by means of an Ericson Engine. We translate from our French *Journal* for December, just issued, the following extract:—

"We already noticed, in our last number, the Ericson Engine used in Mr. Eusébe Sénécal's establishment. Our readers will forgive us if we again speak of it. But it seems to us that this engine, so simple and so ingenious, is destined to work a complete revolution in mechanical science by its safety, the saving effected and the ease with which it can be managed. Mr. Sénécal tells us that the heating of this machine, with a cylinder of 18 inch diameter, will require 70 lbs. of coal per diem, costing about 25 cents. This is a great saving, when we compare the quantity of fuel consumed by a steam engine. It is of about three horse-power, but some are made of greater strength. However, it appears that where a very high power is required, these engines cannot be employed advantageously; still perhaps with the improvements constantly introduced, they may ultimately replace steam-motors.

"Ericson devoted thirty years of his life to the realization of the idea he had conceived. In making his experiments he built engines of all sizes, with cylinders from 6 inches to 60 and even 70 inches in diameter. The cost of the Ericson engine is doubtless great, but the increasing demand will tend to lower this. We are pleased that a Canadian has introduced this new motor in Montreal. Certainly this is progress."—*D'Ordre*.

The terms of subscription to the "*Journal de l'Instruction Publique*," edited by the Superintendent of Education and M. Jos. Lenoir, will be FIVE SHILLINGS per annum, and to the "*Lower Canada Journal of Education*," edited by the Superintendent of Education and Mr. J. J. Phelan, also FIVE SHILLINGS per annum.

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