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16th MAY, 1891.



The Royal Society.

The coming meeting of the Royal Society in Montreal will be an event of no little importance in the literary life of the city. While the most prominent and influential scientific societies of Great Britain, the United States and of our own country have on different occasions honoured Montreal by their official presence, and have given its people an opportunity of seeing and hearing the leading exponents of the scientific skill of the English-speaking world, no large literary gathering of a similar nature has yet visited us; and, although the body so soon to meet is purely a Canadian one, the fact that the papers to be read and the topics to be discussed bear almost entirely on Canadian subjects will give a strong national turn to the proceedings, and should not detract from the general interest of the meeting. It is unnecessary to enlarge on the fact that only the grossly ignorant deny the existence of a distinctive Canadian literature. At no prior time in our history has such a general desire been shown by people of all classes throughout the Dominion to attempt original literary work; and the successful among them have produced results which compare not unfavourably with the works of writers in much larger countries. Unfortunately for us, the high degree of excellence attained by the American monthlies, and the enormous circulation they enjoy, render the establishment of a high-class cosmopolitan magazine in Canada a doubtful financial investment; and Canadian efforts, instead of being thus concentrated, are scattered through a number of foreign periodicals, thereby losing prominence and collective weight. To this fact is largely due the regrettable ignorance which exists, even in Canada, as regards our national writers and their works. The annual meetings of the Royal Society afford, perhaps the only opportunity for the coming together of our *literati* and the reading and publication of a series of valuable papers on points of special interest in our history and literature. The list of those to be submitted at the meeting to open here on the 27th inst. is an unusually attractive one—not excelled, we think, by that of any previous meeting of the society. In the French literary section there will be articles such as "Notes sur le General Montgomery, et sur l'Expedition de 1775," by MR. FAUCHER DE ST. MAURICE; "Nos Trois Heroines," by MR. J. M. LEMOINE; "Le Siege de Quebec en 1759," by REV. ABBÉ CASGRAIN, besides others of equal interest; while in the English section we will have "Governor Murray and the First Ten Years of British Rule in Canada," by MR. JOHN READE; "Cape Breton and its Memorials of the French Régime," by DR. BOUKINOT; "Ticonderoga and its Memories," by DR. WITHROW, with several more of a similar nature. This literary bill-of-fare, in ad-

dition to an unusually good one of purely scientific subjects, should render the session an extremely attractive one to all who are or wish to be partial to such subjects; and we feel confident that a keen interest will be shown in the proceedings. The local historical and literary societies, at present in a languishing state, will, we trust, receive an impetus that will give favourable results next winter. It is also to be hoped that the proceedings of the coming session will be afterwards made available to the public in printed form at a moderate price; the present charge is far too great, and makes the work practically inaccessible to the general public. This is an anomaly, and must be righted. If anything should be easily obtained it ought to be the proceedings of our only national literary and scientific society, one under the very wing of the Dominion Government.

The Vancouver Trade Banquet.

The brilliant speeches at the recent banquet of the Vancouver Board of Trade and the general success of the entertainment is a notable event in the history of our most enterprising Western city. The remarks of the HON. EDWARD BLAKE were especially *apropos* to Vancouver and the line which had brought that city into existence, the Canadian Pacific Railway; and the summary of the early history of the road and of the prominence given it since 1872 in the deliberations of the successive governments, emphasized on his hearers the early importance of British Columbia and the North-West in the eyes of the Eastern members, and the then general recognition of the absolute necessity for the construction of a trans-continental road. Such a survey as given by the speaker shows how markedly the national spirit was developed by Confederation; how, from a series of isolated colonies, they were merged into one compact, centrally-governed community, whose ambition and aim was to bring all British North America into one great power, and to that end would spare no trouble or expense. With one exception that result has been attained, and events now point towards a probability of even the pugnacious island in the Gulf coming into the fold. The whole tenor of the speeches was bright and patriotic, breathing a spirit of pride in the resources of the Province and confidence in the future of the Dominion.

The Late Archbishop of York.

The death last week of the ARCHBISHOP OF YORK closes the career of one of the most distinguished of the English clergy. His sudden demise has evoked special comment from the extreme brevity of his tenure of office, he having been consecrated only on 17th March last. Although always considered a prominent ecclesiastic, it was not until 1868 that he was advanced to a bishopric, being appointed to the See of Peterborough, in which capacity he sat in the House of



Lords until his recent promotion. He was especially noted for his oratorical powers, his speech in the Lords against the disestablishment of the Irish Church being pronounced to be one of the finest ever delivered in that chamber. A more useful step, however, was the prominent part he took against the iniquitous system of infant assurance which had grown to such proportions throughout England, and which had in many instances resulted in the slow starvation to death of helpless children by brutal parents. The active measures taken by DR. MAGEE against this evil did much towards its abatement, and for this his memory deserves the most honourable mention. He had attained the allotted age, but his death has been universally deplored.

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891.

QUESTIONS.

FOURTH SERIES.

- 19.—Give particulars of a new railway mentioned as likely to be undertaken by the Russian Government?
- 20.—What comparison is made with a noted encounter mentioned in one of Captain Marryatt's novels?
- 21.—What feature of Canadian life is said to be specially noted by strangers?
- 22.—Where is mention made of the famous struggle between Char-nisay and La Tour?
- 23.—Give name of a blind lady who has recently passed with high honours through a university and mention one of her chief accomplishments.
- 24.—Who was the author of "Quebec Vindicata" and give a brief sketch of his life.

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 147 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January, February, March and April.