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All remittances and business communications to be addressed to "The General Manager, The Burland-Desbarats Company, Montreal."

All correspondence of the Papers, literary contributions, and sketches to be addressed to "The Editor, The Burland-Desbarats Company, Montreal."

When an answer is required stamps for return postage must be enclosed.

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City subscribers are requested to post at once to this office, either personally or by postal card, any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

In the next number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS we shall publish a double-page composition, representing the

### New Fire Stations of Montreal,

and containing the portraits of the Chairman of the Fire Committee, Chief Engineer BERTRAM, and Captain McROBIE, of the Salvage Corps. In the same connection, we shall publish the portrait of Mr. ALFRED PERRY, so long identified with the Fire Department and Insurance business of Montreal. There will also appear a sketch of the

### Royal Yacht Club Ball,

recently given at the Grand Opera House, TORONTO. The paper will further contain the usual variety of illustrations, fashions, and interesting letter press.

#### THE NEW STORY.

In this issue we give a further liberal instalment of WILKIE COLLINS' new story,

#### THE LAW AND THE LADY.

This story, considered the best yet written by Mr. Collins, was begun in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS of Nov. 7, (Number 19).

Back numbers can be had on application.

We beg to call the attention of News Dealers throughout the country to the fact that we have secured the sole right for Canada of publishing "The Law and the Lady" in serial form.

#### FIRST-CLASS AGENTS WANTED

for the advertising and subscription departments of this paper. Good percentage, large and exclusive territory, given to each canvasser, who will be expected, on the other hand, to furnish security. Also for the sale of Johnson's new MAP OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

Apply to THE GENERAL MANAGER, The Burland-Desbarats Company, Montreal.

#### TO THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

Permit us to call your attention to the advantages of publicity offered by the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS to Advertisers, especially Merchants, Manufacturers, Hotel-Keepers, Railway and Steamship Companies, Professional men, and others, desirous of reaching the best classes of the community in every part of the Dominion. It has other points to recommend it besides its large and wide-spread circulation. In the first place, it is a family paper, taken home, read from beginning to end, and kept on the parlor table throughout the week, and then put by, and finally bound; not, as befalls the daily paper, torn up, after a rapid perusal of telegraphic news. The children can over the pictures, read the stories and the funny column, and finally meander among the advertisements and call their parent's attention to those that suit them. The ladies peruse it from end to end, dwelling especially on the fashions and the ladies' column, then naturally turn to the advertising pages to know where to buy the materials for that dress, or the ingredients for that *Poudingue à la Czarevitch*. The men read the leading articles, the stories, the paragraphs, study the cartoons and other pictures, night after night, and while sipping their *hot stuff*, or enjoying their Havana, pore over the advertisements, and make up their mind to go next day and buy that fur coat, that hall-stove, or that superexcellent sherry. Then again the limited space reserved to advertisements being less than one-fifth of the paper, secures to each advertisement greater attention, whilst most papers devote one-half or two-thirds of their available space to advertisements, which are mostly doomed to oblivion in the great mass. Also, the very low price charged, being much less than several weekly newspapers in Canada, and far lower than any illustrated Paper in the United States, where the prices are from ten to forty times higher than ours, without an equivalent difference in value. And finally, remember that, while serving your own interest in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, you contribute to the support and improvement of this national enterprise, and consequently to the work of progress and education effected by the spread of art and literature.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Dec. 5th, 1874.

### REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES.

The circumstances of public feeling and of newspaper discussion in the Province of Ontario are such that we cannot afford to ignore the introduction of this important civic right into our legislation. The question is simple enough when properly understood, but because it is not generally understood, it is the duty of every journalist who aims at a share of influence over popular opinion, to explain it according to his views. Universal manhood suffrage does not enter into our constitution, but we have perhaps a better substitute for it, the cardinal feature of which is to give every voter a voice in our legislation, and thus make him part and parcel of the government. This principle, beautiful in theory, would be equally beautiful in practice, were there no party divisions among the people. In that case, the men who would be elected to the Parliament, the men who would be returned to the Legislature, without a contest, would be the representatives, the concretions, as it were, of the whole people. Every individual might truly claim his personal share in every executive act of the Prime Minister; in every judicial decision of the Chief Justice appointed by that Prime Minister; in every legislative enactment of Parliament. But unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, there are divisions of party with us, as with other nations; one fraction of the people demands one government, another fraction, another government. To meet this necessary case a second principle had to be introduced into the constitution—viz, that the *majority must rule*. The question then arose—What majority? An absolute or a relative majority? The answer was—a relative majority. How far relative? One-half, two-thirds? No, the majority of even *one*, should it so happen. That is, a mere plurality. So that the grand principle of equality is reduced to this—the *plurality must rule*. Thus if, on one side, one hundred thousand votes are cast, and, on the other, one hundred thousand and one, that unit rules, and may sway the majority as it likes. This is no ideal statement of the case. There are many examples of such slender pluralities. Take, for instance, Lincoln's second election, in 1864. On that occasion, 4,000,000 votes were polled in round numbers. The majority had 2,200,000; the minority 1,800,000. A plurality of only one-tenth.

The working of this plurality principle would be quite fair if the representation in Congress or Parliament were in direct ratio of the popular vote; that is, if the minority had the same relative strength there as it had at the polls. But such is not the case. If the rights of minorities were enforced, then, in our Municipal Councils, in our Provincial Legislatures, in our Federal Parliament, the number of representatives composing both parties would exactly correspond to the division of the popular vote. Thus if, at the polls, the majority stood to the minority in the relation of 2 to 1 or 4 to 1, in our representative halls the very same ratio would exist. Otherwise, it is evident that the popular vote cannot be correctly represented. This anomaly was strikingly illustrated in the Thirty-Ninth Congress—that which followed the Presidential election just referred to. The people stood at the elections as 10 to 9—that is, in a majority of only one-tenth—and yet, in Congress, their representatives stood 3 to 1, or a majority of two-thirds. It is to this fact for a whole decade, revealed, perhaps, more than anything else, the defects of the American electoral system.

England may be said to have taken the lead in this important matter. Its first champions were Mr. HARE and Mr. JOHN STUART MILL. The latter wrote upon it largely and introduced it into Parliament,

where it was further elucidated by such men as Lord CAIRNS, Mr. LOWE, and Mr. SHAW-LEFEBVRE. In the Reform Bill of 1867, there was a clause providing that in three-cornered constituencies—that is, constituencies in which there are three candidates—each elector shall have two votes only, instead of three, as was formerly the case, thus giving a minority, whenever it is over two-fifths of the whole electors, the chance of choosing a representative of their own. There were at that time eight such three-cornered constituencies, though in reality only five, in which the two-fifths minority enjoyed their privilege, for we believe that in the three counties of Berkshire, Bucks and Oxfordshire, the three representatives were of the same political opinion. In the five other counties, where parties were divided, two representatives being Conservatives, for instance, and one Liberal, the majority could return its two members, and the minority also elect its candidate. Thus the great principle of Minority Representation was embodied in the Electoral Reform scheme of Britain, and though its practical working is, for the time being, restricted to the comparatively small area of eight constituencies, because it was thought better to test it on a limited scale, before introducing it throughout the electoral system, yet a great point was gained, and there is no doubt its extension will soon be favoured by all parties. Singularly enough, however, it was opposed at the time by Mr. BRIGHT. In Illinois, and, if we mistake not, in one or two of the Western States, the project was attempted, with a certain measure of success, while in New York, a few years ago, a body calling itself "the Personal Representation Society" was formed by DAVID DUDLEY FIELD, to discuss the measure in all its bearings, and come to some practical arrangement about it. At the establishment of Confederation, Canada took a step or two in this direction, the traces of which are still visible. In certain mixed communities, Minority candidates were put forward and elected. In Montreal, for example, where the population is more than one-half French and about two-thirds Roman Catholic, it was agreed that, besides the French and Irish members, an English Protestant should be returned both to Parliament and the Provincial Legislature, whose function it should be to represent the important minority of the metropolis. In this arrangement all classes acquiesce to this day, and the result has been harmonious action and good will for the whole constituent body.

#### CANADA AND THE WEST INDIES.

We are glad to notice that the Government of the Dominion have advertised for tenders for a fortnightly steam-line to carry the mails between Canada and St. Thomas and Guiana; and also for another between Canada and the Island of Cuba. In our opinion, it is impossible to over-estimate the importance of the proposed services; and the Government deserve the most hearty support of the whole country in their attempt to establish it. There must, in the very nature of things, be a very large trade between Canada and the West Indies, whether it is done directly, or by the means of intermediate merchants in the United States. The broad fact is, that Canada does require, and does consume annually, a large amount of West India productions, while the West Indians, on their part, require and consume a large amount of our northern products in the shape of woods, fish, and other articles. The Maritime Provinces have in fact, for some years past, been somewhat largely engaged in this trade, and some individual merchants in the other Provinces have also, to some extent, carried it on. The total volume of the trade, however, has not been relatively large. In 1872, the total amount did not quite reach seven millions of dollars; and, in 1873, it was only a little over six. These figures show only a small fraction of what our trade with the West Indies ought to be, and what we believe it will be, in the almost immediate future. Trade will follow fa-

cilities, and the first step in opening them out is the establishment of regular and direct steam postal service. It is not very many years ago since that now gigantic enterprise, the Allan steam-line, was a struggling and, at one time, almost a doubtful fortnightly service. Perhaps the development of trade between Canada and the West Indies may not be so great, but when we remember some of the facts which were elicited by the Commission that was sent to the West Indies a few years ago by the late Government, and look at the magnitude of the mutual wants which exist between the two countries, it is impossible not to predict a very large trade.

#### POLITICAL CAPITAL.

It would be amusing, if it not were disappointing, to see the tricks that political parties use to get into place and power. The negotiations and the bargainings, the sacrifices of principle, the reticences, the wild rush, in defiance of all past pledges, at the bright goal of success, are something startling, and they point to a state of public morality which is far from flattering to Canadians. The people at large have no idea of the machinery that works up popular elections. They read the names printed on the party ticket and think that it is all right. But if they knew the amount of wire-pulling, the mean chicanery, the downright dishonesty, the double dealing that presided at its confection, their native sense of honor would probably lead them to spurn it. They would hear and read of that peculiar American institution called the caucus? But do they really know what it means? Have they found out that it is has, in great measure, been introduced amongst us? Are they aware that it consists of a handful of self-constituted political managers, with no authority but their own audacity, and talent for scheming, who take upon themselves to canvass the relative fitness of candidates for office, and put through such as please them, without consulting hardly any other qualification? Then come mass meetings and ratification meetings. Do the people suspect how these are got up? The orators who speak on such occasions are all named in advance, and generally supplied with an outline of harangue. The resolutions or "platform" are all cut and dried before hand, worded in careful technicalities by some cunning lawyer, and submitted to a crowd which is so large that not one in a hundred can hear them read. The meeting over, the papers begin their work. How many are independent, unselfish supporters of this or that measure? How few have any settled policy to which they adhere through good and evil report? Do the people who read their favorite paper, and change right and left, according as it changes, know the influences that make it uphold one principle or man to day, and denounce both to morrow? Can they penetrate the mystery of the tergiversations of responsible editors who pretend to be conscientious guides of the public conscience? Do they see through the calumnies that are bruited against this public functionary, or through the thin film of adulation which covers that aspirant to office, as with a halo?

The more we see of this tomfoolery, the more we are disgusted, and the more we wish the people themselves could understand it. The people are led by the nose in the wake of a few tricksters who call themselves managers. These men praise the sovereign people, exalt their wisdom and their sagacity, and yet they treat the people with the most cavalier unconcern. If the whole truth were known, the people would perceive that, in the matter of elections, they are no purer, no more independent, than the inhabitants of other countries whose enthrallment is a frequent source of derision among us. The work of the election courts, sketched in a cartoon on our front page, teaches a rude lesson which ought to make Canadians open their eyes very wide. It points to wholesale bribery and intrigue such as must be pronounced a positive disgrace to any civilized community, and an evil on