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7th MARCH, 1891.



Our Position.

We have been accused, by an anonymous correspondent in a Montreal paper, of political partisanship. This charge is a false one. Our columns show no party bias; we have nothing to gain or lose by a change of government. But we do intend to show a national spirit; to uphold with whatever power we have a Canadian nationality and loyalty to Great Britain; to stimulate to as great a degree as possible the feeling of pride in the Dominion and in the Empire. We are totally opposed to any form of alliance which might involve the surrender of the slightest measure of our rights to foreign domination, and to any form of discrimination against Great Britain or sister colonies. While allied to no party, we shall not refrain from freely expressing our opinions on any subject of national importance, even if form part of the programmes of either political party. We intend losing no opportunity to further these ends by every means in our power, and to criticise public speakers and writers whose views appear to us to be detrimental to the growth and development of Canadian national life.

The Leicestershire Regiment.

It is refreshing to note the prompt and satisfactory rejoinder given by LIEUT.-COL. ROLPH, commanding the 1st Leicestershire Regiment, to the scurrilous attack made in several American and Canadian newspapers on that corps, in endeavouring to make out that its conduct in Bermuda had been riotous in the extreme. Not only does he deny in toto the charges made—some of which were of the most absurdly sensational type—but he produces *en evidence* the report of a local society, which speaks in the most complimentary terms of the conduct of the Leicestershires while on that station. The Mayor of St. George's, Bermuda, writes to the Mayor of Halifax emphasizing still more strongly his high opinion of the conduct of the corps,—“conduct which has been characterized by sobriety, civility and good feeling towards the inhabitants.” As the regiment in question has just arrived at Halifax, and is the sole representative body of the Imperial army in British North America, it is but just to give the widest publicity to these corrections, and at the same time to denounce the calumniators of so gallant a corps as the old 17th.

It is painful to see with what readiness a certain section of the Canadian press take hold of any stories which place the army and navy in an unfavorable light. Tommy Atkins is by no means an angel—wings would be decidedly in the way of his knapsack; but, as a class, the rank and file of the army are orderly and well-behaved—far more so than men of a similiar social status in civil occupations. That the lower class of American journals and English radical sheets should sneer at and ridicule them is not to be wondered at; but it is surprising that any Canadian papers should

take up the cry. Few regiments could be sent here with a higher record for distinguished gallantry on the field and good behaviour at home than the “Royal Tigers.”

The Empress Frederick in Paris.

The attitude generally assumed by the Parisians during the recent visit to their city by the Empress Frederick is unworthy of a great and powerful nation. France to-day is in every respect one of the great nations of the world. Her army is in the highest state of efficiency and second in numbers only to that of Russia. Her navy is unusually powerful for a continental nation, and ranks next to our own. In art, in literature, in science, and in all the higher lines of civilization that tend to make life pleasant, she is in the first rank. And yet the people of her capital choose to act the part of a petty province, and hasten to show insult and hatred to the widow of a German Emperor, a man whose sterling worth had been admired throughout the civilized world. No loss of national prestige would have followed the exhibition of ordinary courtesy towards the lady, especially to one who had so recently experienced so much sorrow; the whole world would have thought more of France and of the French nation. Germany is naturally annoyed, and strikes back at once; and the good feeling between the two nations—which had been growing of late years—is gone. Worse than that, neutral nations condemn her people for their rash acts. Let us hope that a prompt and honest reparation will follow, and a degree of friendliness restored between these two great powers who hold so much of the peace of Europe in their yea or nay.

The United Empire Loyalists.

The literature devoted to one of the greatest events of the American continent—the migration of the United Empire Loyalists to Canada—has been comparatively small. Only one work, that by DR. RYERSON, has been devoted solely to the history of that (to us) all-important movement; MR. SABINE'S admirable compilation being more of a biographical dictionary than a history, while the scope of DR. CANNIFF'S book necessarily involves other than U. E. L. settlement. No concise summary of their history, drawn from the most trustworthy sources, has as yet been given to the public. It is with special pleasure, therefore, that we note COL. DENISON'S eloquent lecture on “Our Canadian Forefathers,” given in Toronto on the 27th of last month. In these days of violent political harangues it is pleasant to turn to a calm yet forcible presentation of the history of those men and women who honoured and remained true to their Sovereign during a great rebellion, and who, after all was lost, chose homes in the wilds of Canada and spent the remaining years of their life in battle against poverty and hardship, rather than surrender their birthright as British subjects, and, in the act, surrender their honour. Some people now-a-days sneer at sentiment; the Almighty Dollar is all in all. Such was not the creed of our forefathers. Too much stress cannot be laid on the advantage of such addresses in extending and strengthening the national life of our people.

The Springhill Relief Fund.

The sad disaster at Springhill has evoked much practical sympathy throughout the Dominion. A pleasing feature has been the prompt response from the smaller towns in the Maritime Provinces and the comparatively large sums they have subscribed. Official grants from the large cities have been disappointingly small, a paltry \$5,000 being Montreal's contribution, in the face of twice that sum voted to the sufferers by the St. Sauveur fire, where there were no widows and helpless children to provide for. In this case—with some 60 families suddenly bereft of the breadwinner—\$10,000 would have been little enough. As for Toronto's contribution—the less said about it the better. Why cannot the clergy of every denomination throughout the country be asked to have a special collection taken up in their churches, on a specified Sunday, in aid of this most pressing and deserving call for help?

The Dominion Illustrated Prize Competition, 1891. QUESTIONS.

SECOND SERIES.

- 7.—Quote mention of a shipwreck on Lake Ontario; give date and particulars.
- 8.—Where is narrated the escape of a prisoner destined to be burnt?
- 9.—Quote the paragraph mentioning a suicide occurring on the stage of a theatre.
- 10.—Give details of the instance cited of a frontier being kept neutral in war?
- 11.—Where is mention made of a new literary organization in a city in the West of England?
- 12.—Quote the expression or expressions relative to the low standard of morality in Buenos Ayres?

NOTE.—All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 139 of the “Dominion Illustrated,” being the weekly issues for January and February.

The third series of Questions will be given in our issue of 28th March.