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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Oct. 30rd, 1875.

THE CANNON OF ST. HELEN'S.

On last Saturday morning, a salute of seventeen guns was fired from the battery of St. Helen's Island, opposite this city, in honor of the return from England of our popular Governor-General. As the cannon thundered forth in the still morning hour, vibrating over the broad waters, and reverberating from the flanks of the Royal Mountain, hundreds stopped, on the streets, and the door steps, to listen, being strongly impressed by the majesty of the sound. And no wonder. There is a significance in the voice of artillery. It tells of national power, and inculcates the grand lesson of loyalty. The sound of the cannon of St. Helen's, on Saturday morning, was like an echo of the old land, and a pathetic reminder of the fact that we are fast drifting from its secular tutelage. The writer of these lines came to Canada in the last year of military occupation. Then the roar of artillery on the island, the rattle of musketry on Champ de Mars, the presence of soldiers in the thoroughfares, or on their sentry beats, were familiar sights and sounds, inspiring confidence in the citizens and impressing the stranger with the conviction that this was indeed a thorough British Colony. Now all is changed. We have always been of the opinion that the removal of the troops must be set down as, after Confederation, the most important event in the modern history of Canada, and the one whose results were the most radical. The military were a tangible link of union with the Mother Country. They associated with the historic glories of Britain, and kept perpetually alive the memory of the manner in which England became possessed of Canada. They stimulated the volunteer or militia movement which, it is a remarkable fact, has languished since their departure. We have now no visible bond of connection with Great Britain except the Governor-General, and it will probably not be long before the abolition of his office will also be agitated. Thrown almost entirely upon ourselves, ours is a sort of cold, commercial magistracy with no insignia of any kind and nothing to rouse the enthusiasm of the masses. Our mode of Government is more colorless than even that of the United States, where, since the war, the military have risen into favor, and are always brought into requisition to heighten the glory and impressiveness of civic occasions.

We are, of course, aware of the absurdity of political sentimentality, and we are quite disposed to accept the altered condition of Canadian autonomy if such is its "manifest destiny," as so many of our prophets declare. But there is, all the same, such a thing as poetry in government, and there is no reason, that we know of, why the healthy aesthetic feeling should be eliminated from our Canadian institutions. Sir FRANCIS HINCKS, with that insight which is characteristic of the statesman, has stated that, at present, there can be only two parties in Canada—the one in favor of British connection, and the other in sympathy with Democratic inde-

pendence. The force of events—geographical, commercial and social—may ultimately require the complete severance of Canada from Britain, but that is necessarily a question of time, and parties will precisely be divided as to the prolongation or acceleration of that time. Loyalty will then assume a twofold meaning—either attachment to Canada first, independently of or even against Great Britain, and fealty to the Mother Land first and foremost as the best exercise of patriotism towards Canada herself. The evolution of this double feeling is just now insensibly progressing, and no words of our scribes, or of any body else, can prevent it, but this much we may be allowed to hope—that for many years to come, as occasion demands, the cannon of St. Helen's shall thunder a salutation to a British Governor-General of British North America.

NEWSPAPER REPORTING.

We have not the presumption to set ourselves up as a censor of the press. Canadian journalism, as a rule, is quite up to the height of its mission, and spite of the sneers of certain American correspondents, is as respectable in tone and as talented in management, as the average number of newspapers in the United States. But, occasionally, in the heat of electoral agitation, there is one department of our press which lays itself open to criticism. We refer to the reports of particular meetings. Without alluding to particular and recent instances, it may be said in general that it is well nigh impossible to obtain from rival daily papers a correct account of electoral assemblies. The hostile paper minimizes the attendance, burlesques the feeling and misinterprets, either by exaggeration or suppression, the speeches which are delivered. The friendly paper trebles the numbers present, emphasizes the sentiment, and, by clever amplification, heightens the bearing of the speeches. It was only a few mornings ago that we read the glowing accounts of a meeting, garnished with double headings and sounding epithets, which, from our personal knowledge, was a lamentable failure, the attendance being sparse, and the speeches listened to in ominous silence. Another meeting was described as a miscarriage which we know to have been large, and so enthusiastic that all the speeches were cheered to the echo. It is an insult to the electors thus to travesty their proceedings, and a very unworthy way of influencing electoral issues. But, furthermore, it is an act of dishonesty and injustice to the mass of readers who look to their paper for the simple truth. We can understand, of course, that where a meeting has told in favor of one political party, the organ of the other party should not much care to injure its cause by giving a full account of it in its columns, but, in that case, it has the alternative of abridgment or total silence, either of which is preferable to downright lying.

But not only to the public is this system of misreporting unfair. It is detrimental to the newspaper profession, as well. The majority of the journalists who report such meetings are young men—some of them very young. They earn their living by the work, and that work is often precarious. One year they may be on a Conservative paper; another year, on a Liberal paper. By injudicious partisanship, on one side, or the other, they may often ruin their prospects of preferment. It is well known that reporters, as a rule, have no political leanings, being mostly strangers in the country, and this fact alone should guarantee their strict neutrality in reporting. The Bohemianism which can do them no more good than the social or pecuniary phases. The coloring of a political meeting belongs to the proprietor or editor of a paper, and he alone is responsible for the same. The reporting of a meeting, on the other hand, is a mere matter of arithmetic and short-hand, and the reporter should be responsible only for his figures and his pot-hooks. He certainly owes it to his own sense of dignity

that, to please an employer, or to win the dubious favor of a candidate, he shall not prostitute his pen, become the scavenger of political offal, and the Jack Sheppard of public reputations. The staff of reporters are the mainstay of a newspaper. It is they who fill its columns and provide, by their activity of search, their instinct of the novel, their rapidity of work and their graces of composition, almost all the intelligence which establishes the reputation of a journal. They have, therefore, the right to expect from their employers, and the public have a right to expect from them, that they shall be as veracious and honorable as they are talented and industrious.

GRASSHOPPERS.

Until lately the scourge of grasshoppers in our North West Territories had occurred only at wide intervals of years, and from present indications it is confidently believed that the country will be free from them during the season of 1876.

There is a problem connected with this question that we should like to see receiving attention, and that is, whether there is not a territory to the north of the province of Manitoba and about half its size, already so moated round as entirely to close out the marauding hosts in their advance from the south and west. The district we refer to is that bounded by Lake Winnipeg, Cedar Lake, Lake Winnipegosis and the St. Martin's Lake and their affluents, and which our readers will have no difficulty in tracing on the map; and with regard also to the territory of about the same size to the south of that, having the capital of Manitoba, (which should have been name *Saskatchewan*, we think), at its extremity, the question is, whether an additional water communication of less than a score of miles would not form it also into an island and afford the same protection. It is a sort of Victoria Nyanza question on our own ground, and well worth determining. It would, of course, necessitate the enquiry at the outset whether those pests of new settlements are accustomed to cross rivers and streams in their progress—a point as important to settle as others that recent enquiries have brought to light. That they could not cross the lakes is evident. The Icelanders who are to form the nucleus of their future colony have already taken up their abode on a portion of the districts we have referred to, and they have expressed the greatest satisfaction with the promise the country holds out in its salubrity and access to wood and water, its agriculture and fisheries, and the free institutions that add to the value of all the others. By the end of next season we are told to look for the completion of the railway sections between Lake Superior and Manitoba. When that era arrives a great lumbering interest for the supply of the Prairie country should spring up on the shore of the Lake of the Woods.

In Quebec, a short time since, through the explosion of the boiler of a small moveable engine used in unloading a ship at the wharves, the boatswain of the vessel was instantly killed and several of the crew more or less injured by the steam and boiling water. The fires had got suddenly hot, and so frightened the bystanders—there being no efficient superintendence of the engine. A young man called out to those nearest to throw water into the furnace, which was done. Instantly, the explosion took place, as might naturally have been expected, when iron was subjected to a sudden change of temperature of the kind described. The sudden contraction, of course, caused it to crack. It is very well to say the young man was a lunatic. He was only ignorant; and the blame really rests with those who had so little conception of what was due to the safety of their workpeople in a proper organization of labor. We trust soon to have it recognized that all boilers, whether on shore or afloat, shall be periodically inspected, and the men in charge of them duly examined for certificate.

The London *Court Journal* has the following:—"There is little or no chance of Major-General SELBY SMYTH, Inspector-General of Militia, in Canada, being allowed to carry out his very sensible idea of a complete staff of competent military officers for the Canadian Militia, notwithstanding that the general maintains that the efficiency of the service over which he has been placed is seriously jeopardised by the present plan. The old and foolish story, the Dominion Government fears the expense." Is this so?

MR. STANLEY, the African explorer, had his entire party vaccinated before starting from the coast on his journey into the interior. The consequence was that no lives were lost from small pox, which decimates the natives. A deplorable number, however, succumbed to the ague and intermittent fevers of the lower lands. He almost says that had things been taken more leisurely, less life would have been wasted. He lost two out of four Europeans.

There are those, we are led to believe, who advocate the abolition of the offices and duties of District Magistrates in this Province. As the higher judiciary cannot undertake the charge of summary proceedings and of the public peace, we should look upon such a change, in the present circumstances of our commonwealth, as in the highest degree prejudicial to the rational liberties and security of the subjects of the Queen.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

OPENING OF KNOX COLLEGE, TORONTO.

Some time ago, we gave a view of the outside of the buildings then in course of erection for Knox College, Toronto. It affords us much pleasure to be able to say that they have been finished without injury to any engaged in the works, and are now used for the purpose for which they were designed. In the afternoon of Wednesday, October 6th, they were formally taken possession of, by the opening of the Session for 1875-76. The exercises took place in the Convocation Hall, which was filled to overflowing. Dr. Cook, Moderator of the General Assembly, occupied the chair. Addresses were delivered by Dr. Proudfoot and Principal Cavan, of Knox College, Rev. Dr. Snodgrass, of Queen's College, Kingston, Rev. Mr. Scrimger, of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, and Rev. Dr. McCaul, of University College, Toronto. In the evening, a social meeting was held in the same place. Notwithstanding the extreme wetness of the weather, the attendance was larger than it was on the former occasion. Of course, it did good to the cabinmen. The Rev. Principal Cavan presided on the occasion. After a few short addresses had been delivered, the train of proceedings stopped fifteen minutes for refreshments in the Dining-Room, which was open for that purpose during the greater part of the evening. The train then moved on again. After a few more addresses, the meeting closed. The proceedings on both occasions were very pleasantly varied by music from a choir.

Knox College Buildings are most creditable to the Presbyterians of Ontario, and an ornament to Toronto. On this happy occasion in the history of the institution, we take the opportunity of expressing our best wishes for it.

In this number we give a picture of the opening exercises, which we have no doubt will be interesting to those readers of the NEWS who are among the friends of the College. Immediately to the left of the Chairman, sat Dr. McCaul, who in addressing the meeting, proved that the Rev. gentleman is still "the old man eloquent." In the course of his remarks, he spoke in the most complimentary terms of the Knoxians who have studied at University College.

Our illustration is from a sketch by the Rev. T. Fenwick, formerly a student of Knox College.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, ATHLETIC SPORTS TORONTO.

The annual athletic sports of the students of University College were held Saturday last and Tuesday afternoon. The weather was all that could be desired, the grounds were in excellent condition, and everything passed off successfully. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was the grounds the greater part of the afternoon, and watched the sports with great apparent interest. Among others who attended were Rev. Principal McCaul, Mrs. McCaul, Miss McCaul, Prof. Ramsay Wright, Prof. Vandersmissen, Prof. Loudon, Prof. Perret, Prof. Croft, Prof. Chapman, Prof. Maitland, of Upper Canada College, Mr. Thos. Kirkland, of the Normal School, Mr. Blain, M.P., Mrs. Howland, Miss Howland, His Worship the Mayor, and many other invited friends of the professors and students, including a large number of ladies. The band of the Queen's Own Rifles was present and played at intervals during the afternoon. The games were all very interesting, and the most of them were