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

Mr. ARTHUR W. MOORE has been appointed Agent for the "NEWS" in Kingston and vicinity.

NOTICE.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE

Canadian Illustrated News.

THE ONLY ENGLISH

Illustrated Paper and the sole purely Literary Weekly Published in the Dominion.

With the commencement of the New Year we call upon our friends throughout the country to renew their subscriptions and procure additional subscribers, promising them that, on our part, we shall leave nothing undone to give them a good paper, both in its artistic and literary features. We beg also to urge upon them the propriety of remitting as early as possible. The subscription for one year, when paid promptly in advance, is only four dollars, but when there is delay, we are obliged to charge four and a-half, and it is necessary that we should adhere to this rule.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, February 3rd, 1877.

NATIONAL DEFENCE.

The very idea of the new nationality which we are striving to form in British America suggests as a corollary the necessity of defence. The respect due to our distinctive flag, to the rights of our citizens, requires a certain concentration and organization of force to maintain that respect in any and every case where it would be jeopardized. Nay more, our commerce, our industry must circulate freely without danger of being interfered with by anybody. It will not do to say that there are no fears of our being attacked or troubled by our neighbors. That may very well be. We hope and pray that our present relations with them may always endure. But, for whoso knows the world, prudence requires adequate preparation against every contingency. If we wish to be a nation, we must take all the consequences, and no government is fully organized without its military department.

The idea current among some people that defensive works for Montreal, Toronto, Kingston, and other large centres are impossible, is simply a fallacy at which any military man will laugh. Of course, we all know that after the modern improvements in rifled-artillery, no defensive works, no matter how favored by natural sites, can be deemed impregnable. The Malakoff was stormed, Magdala was carried, and so can Gibraltar and Quebec be bombarded to atoms. But because no works are impregnable, it does not follow that they may not be useful in war. They can retard the enemy, protract the campaign and render the Fabian policy more successful than a Napoleonic onslaught. Richmond had not many more natural advantages than Montreal, certainly fewer than Quebec, and yet we all know the heroic resistance it offered to the overwhelming numbers of the Fe-

derals. The same may be said of Humaita, during the late Paraguayan war. Lopez, with a comparatively small army, heroically defended it for months against the combined allied army and fleet. With a regular chain of forts properly laid out, at strategic points, our frontier can be satisfactorily defended.

It is not accurate to state that the expenses of our militia are disproportioned to the interests at stake or to the finances of the country. We have English authority to show that in this respect our Government have managed exceedingly well. This will be the more evident when we reflect that our present militia is to form the nucleus of the army of the whole confederation. If this continent be destined to split into numerous independent powers, as that of Europe, then our army will have nothing to fear from its neighbors and all the money expended for its maintenance will be amply refunded by the security which it will afford to individual life and property.

THE DEPLETION OF THE COUNTRY.

The repatriation of Frenchmen now going on with the sanction and support of the Government forces us to revert to a reflection which we have often made that sufficient attention is not paid by our authorities to the serious, the vital losses which the country sustains from the continuous emigration to the United States of the flower of our youth and manhood. We are aware that this deplorable emigration is almost confined to the Province of Quebec, and that consequently the treatment of the subject belongs more especially to the Local Legislature, but inasmuch as the losses of one Province react on the others and affect the whole body of the Confederacy, we see no reason why the Dominion Parliament should not bestow some attention on the matter, were it only to suggest its willingness to help Quebec in any effort it might make to stem the disastrous current. One thing is very certain, and that is that we cannot close our eyes much longer to the emigration of our countrymen, if we are in earnest to build up a new nation in this northern climate. We cannot build out of nothing. We cannot construct a nationality out of stocks and trees and rivers and mountains. We must have men—men with stout hearts and strong arms—to cleave the furrow, to clear the forest, to drive the engine on land and water, to work the mine, to give energy, strength, vitality to the whole scheme of our new policy. Our population is already scant enough, in proportion to the immense area of the country. Instead of losing what we have got, we must get an increase of hands to subdue the Laurentian wilds, to cultivate the Eastern tracts, to set in motion the giant manufacturing interests which are bound to spring up along our water courses. We must not allow Canada to be depleted. A leakage in a vessel must be stopped at once, else the vessel founders in the high seas. It is only the reservoir that can afford to lose its superfluous waters. Our country is no reservoir, as yet; its fountains are not yet full, by any means, and we need all the tributaries that flow into our central, national stream.

It is quite possible that our public men do not realize the extent of this emigration to which we refer. Seated in their warm, carpeted offices at Ottawa or Quebec, they may not be aware how many of their unfortunate countrymen are hurrying off from what they fancy the bleakness of poverty to a more genial climate. Our ministers and representatives may read statistics of this exodus, but they are not impressed as they would be if they saw what we often witness with the fleshly eye. If they did, they would probably be up and doing something worthy of statesmen and patriots.

We have heard it stated by unpractical men that there is no effectual way of stopping this emigration; that it is a

kind of mania which has to run its time, and which will then cease of itself. There is poor statesmanship in such views. There is no evil without a cause. That can and should be found out. There are few maladies without a cure. This one can be cured and the remedy must be applied. For the fair fame of the Dominion abroad, for its prosperity and advancement at home, we should be able not only to encourage foreign emigration to our shores, but also to prevent our own people from leaving us.

FESTIVALS ON THE ICE.

We present our readers, on another page, with a sketch of the first Fancy Dress Entertainment of the season, which took place at the Victoria Rink, of this city, in the course of last week. The picture will prove a pleasant reminder to those who were present, either as participants in the festival, or as simple spectators, while to outsiders it will afford some idea of the beauty and magnificence of this species of amusement. Indeed, it may be said that these recreations on the ice are singular of their kind, being almost unknown except in Canada and Russia. Nowhere else does the climate, with all its peculiar accessories, adapt itself to such a form of agreeable and healthful recreation.

If, however, we call attention to this subject to-day, it is not so much to describe its attractions, as to throw out some hints whereby these attractions may be greatly enhanced. We did something of the kind a couple of years ago, and we have had no reason to change our mind since.

In the first place, we think that steps should be taken to relieve the partial monotony of the scene. However brilliant the costumes and skillful the skating, it is nearly always the same round and round which fatigues the eye and enfeebles the aesthetic feeling. Nothing is easier than to introduce variety into the performances, and variety is the chief secret of artistic enjoyment. A programme might be drawn up somewhat in this wise. First—A grand turn out of all the masqueraders pell-mell, to give a general view of all the costumes. This might last twenty minutes or half an hour. Secondly—A walk round in couples or threes so as to give an opportunity to inspect the costumes minutely. For this purpose every spectator should be furnished with a printed programme indicating the costumes, with or without the names of the wearers. Thirdly—A straight race or game of some sort, first for gentlemen, next for ladies. Fourthly—A grand promenade of combined costumes; as for instance, King with Queen, Night with Morning, Winter with Summer, Faust with Marguerite, the Corsair with Medora, Punch with Judy, and so on. This would be drawing harmony out of confusion and presenting a most agreeable spectacle. Fifthly—A grand waltz or quadrille than which nothing is more beautiful on the ice. Sixthly—A general pantomime, all the maskers acting their parts with their legitimate partners. We merely indicate the programme. Other and better elements might be introduced by the Directors.

A word about the costumes. The inexorable rule is that they must be in keeping. If historical, they must be true to history; if ideal, they must be poetic; if simply fantastic, they must be cleverly pointed. A programme of these should be drawn up by the Committee. The choice should not be left to individual tastes. Otherwise, there will be a mixture, as is always the case, with too much of one thing, and not enough of another. Another remark is that the costumes should not be too common and cheap. Spangles of paper, pasteboard adornments, calicoes and flimsy muslins should be the exception and not the rule. In Europe, such deception would not be tolerated.

A distinction should also be made between a Fancy Dress Entertainment and

a Masquerade. A mingling of the two, as is done with us, is against all the traditions. One or the other. Never both together. A Fancy Dress Entertainment is more stately, more aristocratic and very beautiful. A Masquerade is jollier, more democratic and very pretty. One Carnival of each might be given in the same winter, but the exclusion of masks and *louis* at the former should be rigorous.

Finally the comfort of the spectators should be attended to. Some mode of seating them ought to be provided. Walking around the narrow passage, from eight to eleven or twelve o'clock, is no way of enjoying the festival. The men have a hard time of it; the women are squeezed out of breath and almost out of their dresses. The Directors and the Committee of the Victoria Rink have always displayed much zeal and taste in the management of the ice entertainments, and to them we confidently commend the preceding suggestions as, in our judgment, the best means of increasing their success and the general enjoyment.

The process invented by Auel in Cologne, by which photographs can in a few hours be converted into an etched plate suitable for the printing press, and which was kept a secret for a long time, has now been published, and is as follows: A photograph negative in silver is taken on a thick glass plate, and the coating of silver is increased by galvano-plastic disposition; an operation requiring two hours. The plate is then exposed to the action of the fumes of hydro-fluoric acid. These vapors attack the glass in places not covered by silver, and the picture is etched in ready for printing. The proof cannot give deep tones on shading, but is only applicable to lines and plane surfaces. It is said to be more rapid than the celebrated method of Albert.

A PAPER of the 24th December says:—"Experiments with the 80-ton gun were continued on Wednesday, the firing being directed against the 'Shannon' target. The Boxer fuse shell burst between decks with excellent results. In the first round the shell exploded after penetrating the nearer plate and completely doubled up the distant one. The desired object of piercing a ship's side and ensuring a burst between decks has thus been attained. The second round, bursting equally well, confirmed the success of the first." The inventor of this fuse is General F. M. BOXER, R.A., son of the late Admiral Sir EDWARD BOXER, K.C.B., who was for many years Captain of the Port of Quebec.

The Servian Cabinet has decided to accept MUBRAT PASHA's proposal for peace. Immediate steps will be taken to open regular negotiations with the Porte. Should there be no outside influence, peace will be finally concluded. The basis of peace proposed by Turkey to Montenegro and Servia is moderate and very conciliatory. Turkey seems disposed to treat the Roumanian difficulties amicably, and it is tolerably certain that the Roumanian Government considers the questions regarding the effect of the new Turkish constitution as settled.

A German professor, Dr. G. A. FISCHER, of Barmen, is about to undertake an exploring expedition into the interior of Eastern Africa, and will make the experiment which he will be the first of African travellers to adopt, of taking carrier pigeons along to convey messages and reports of his progress to Germany. The station for sending the birds on their homeward flight is located at Zauzibar. The pigeons are of the finest quality, and have been tested in flying matches.

The English specimens of Fine Art have just arrived from Philadelphia "in safety," as one London paper states, but in certain quarters sad and manifold complaints respecting their condition are heard. The fault that is found with their