THE JESTER, Friday, 14th June, 1878.



144

MONTREAL IS DOOMED TO DESTRUCTION. NOTHING CAN SAVE IT.

According to authentic newspaper reports, the fate of this fair and once flourishing city of Montreal is doomed to a speedy and terrible

once nourising ers of the communists, without doubt, for This has been connived at by the Communists, without doubt, for we are informed the ship "*City of Quebee* is unloading a consignment of 1200 barrels of ball, and 250 barrels of black cartridges right in the middle of the city and with a donkey engine working about four yards distant."

The driver of that engine is only awaiting orders from the Nihilist Chief, and in the face of the shock of the powder demonstration on the 24th May, from which our nervous citizens have scarcely recovered, we can no longer hold out any hopes for the future peace and safety of the city. Is not 1200 barrels of ball and 250 of blank cartridges, representing several millions of rounds, a most dangerons allowanco to Montreal's ten thousand able bodied men, and is it not far in excess of what is claimed under the permissive clause of the Blake Act f With these facts before us, a shivering community demand that the Police magistrate shall at once do his duty and save the lives of himself and family—and perhaps the citizens afterwards—should the opportunity offer. The driver of that engine is only awaiting orders from the Nihilist opportunity offer.

MONTREAL LAWYERS cersus THE PHONOGRAPH.

An extraordinary cancens meeting of Montreal's legal inhabitants will shortly be held in Library of the Court House. It seems these gentlemen of the long robe have lately been reading Egyptian Law will shortly be held in Library of the Court House. It seems these gentlemen of the long robe have lately been reading Egyptian Law and history backwards, and many of the charactors on Cleopatra's needle have been deciphered, and the solutions called to the Montreal Bar, while the latter see loss of dignity ahead, if the march of the "Phonograph" and modern science is not speedily checked. Imbaed with these recent discoveries the legal fraternity believe that the time has come when they must stand up for, and defend the glorious vested rights, for which the Bar has fought so bravely and their confiding clients paid so dearly—namely, the right of cross-examination. In the past, the introduction of *Telegrams* as positive evidence in Court without cross-examination was, say the lawyers, only folerated for political purposes during the Pacific unpleasantness, and subse-quently in contested elections—but such must be so no more! This step is a necessity and as a precaution against the encreach-ments of the Phonograph—which, the lawyers believe, if once allowed or recognised in the Court House, the noble profession of LAW will fall into the hands of common machine operators. Then the Halls of the Court of Queen's Bench will resound no more to poetic flights of fancy or the brilliant oratorial bursts of cloquence, with which heave orators in the past held in oraptured fancy the law loving merchant traders of the city and district of Montreal.

THE "WITNESS," SPORTS AND GAMES.

The Montreal Daily Witness, it seems, is not satisfied with the style and contents of the news-matter published in the sporting columns of its daily contemporaries and proposes remedying these short comings by a laudable opposition. This is certainly a healthy and cheering sign, and already the *Witness's* newly opened "Sports and Games" Column, bids fair to rival in interest, even the historical "fourth page." Of course, this like all other great enterprises, must be allowed time and to consolidate things generally : the sporting-politico-religious editor must be given opportunity to feel his ground—cautiously at first, but when he finds out how the land lays strike ahead—boldly and freely. So far, the "Sports and Games" editor first tried his 'prentice hand 'on the St. Helen's Island swimming question and afterwards plunged deep into the nice distinctions of what does, and does not, constitute an "amateur" in boating and Regatta sporting phraceology. The offers informatic criticisms on Largese will be fully phraseology. The editor's paternal criticisms on Lacrosse will be fully appreciated, while a little more knowledge of cricket and sweepstake matches in races—might be advisable. This new departure of the Wilness will, we are assured, be hailed with joy in these dull times and the Sports and Games Column will be welcomed by thousands of the dear little folks as one bright speck, at least, while pondering over the theological intricacies of the Children's Corner.

While we shall always be pleased to given council and advice to the new departure, still with even all our influence, it is too much to expect that in the near future, the sporting column of the Witness can pretend to take "first place" in its race against Bell's Life in London.

LOOKING AHEAD FOR BANK DIVIDENDS.

From time immemorial and ever since joint stock concerns became dignified by legal incorporation, they have had every privilege and have been prone to all sorts of eccentricities, so much so, that nothing comes amiss from them, as the following will illustrate. In a displayed official advertisement, headed " Exchange Bank of Canada" which appeared in the papers on the 8th inst. and was dated "Montreal, 28th May, 1878," it announced that a certain dividend "will be payable at the Bank and its branches, on and after Tuesday the 2nd day of May next." (The italics are our own.) Of course in these hard times most people are glad to know that even one's capital is safe; but we think that even a solemn Board of Bank Directors need not go out of their way to poach on the JESTER'S preserves and promising, sailor like, a dividend in the summer of 1879 " when the ship comes home."

Printed and Published at No. 59 St. James Street, in the city of Montreal, by Geo. E. Desbarats.