

---

# CURRENT COMMENT.

---

A NEW  
VOLUME.

WITH the present number of MASSEY'S MAGAZINE begins the second volume of this publication, and the moment is an opportune one to review briefly the course of the periodical for the past six months.

When MASSEY'S MAGAZINE was first launched, there were those whose trepidity led them to express the belief that it could not live six months, while some were to be found whose prophecy of evil was to have been realized in half that time. It was stated then that a ten-cent popular magazine could not be made to compete with American monthlies possessing the advantages of a field fourteen times greater than that to be found in Canada; moreover, it was stated that we had neither the literary nor artistic talent in this country necessary to cope with American and English periodicals, whereas the matter of procuring high-class engravings, and printing of the first quality—without which the best engravings avail nothing—was entirely out of the question. The history of MASSEY'S MAGAZINE for the past six months has been, we think, a direct refutation of these assumptions. Not only has the periodical flourished as regards advertising patronage, but the thousands of subscriptions placed on the books during that time testify to the belief of many Canadians that a ten-cent popular magazine can be made go in Canada. In the initial number we intimated that it would be our endeavor to make each successive number better than its predecessor; whether we have accomplished this or whether we have failed is not for us to say, but of one thing we are certain, and that is, that we have conscientiously endeavored to fulfil the obligations assumed then; and further, that we shall still continue to strive to improve the publication from month to month to the best of our abilities.

The editors feel that a word is due the publishers for the free hand that has been

accorded them in the operation of the periodical. Whatever shortcomings are to be found within its pages—and we know there are a considerable number—the publishers are in no way responsible for. They hesitated at no reasonable expense, and accepted every moderate suggestion. If, on the other hand, there should be any whose judgment would lead them to believe that MASSEY'S MAGAZINE is a credit to Canadian art and literature, let them bear in mind the fact that to the publishers, more than to anyone else, is due whatever merit there may be found in the publication.

With the same hearty co-operation of the public and the publishers during the six months already begun, the editors trust that the number for January, 1897, will find us as far ahead of June, 1896, as the issue for that month is in advance—according to the generous testimony of our *confrères*, the daily press—of that for January, 1896.

\* \* \* \* \*

AFTER THE  
STRUGGLE.

THE general result of the elections on the 23rd ult. was not altogether an unexpected happening, although it was, doubtless, a surprise even to Mr. Laurier's most ardent followers to behold the large majority that was piled up in Quebec against the government of the day. After all the sacrifices that the Conservative party had made for the sake of the Lower Province, it seemed heartless indeed, to receive the cold treatment which Quebec meted out to it last week.

There is one thing to be learnt by the Protestants of Ontario from the result in Quebec, however, and that is, that the much-vaunted supremacy of the Church in politics in the Lower Province is a gigantic myth. It will, therefore, in future, become the people of Ontario to be more tolerant of their countrymen in Quebec.

From all accounts the campaign that has just ended has been one of the most bitter in the history of Canada. The