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THE

MAGIC LANTERN.

Reflect each passing folly as it flies
Censure the fool and laud the truly wise.



MONTREAL:

PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETORS BY P. GENDRON, PRINTER.

24, St. Vincent Street.

MAGIC LANTERN.

VOL. I.

MONTREAL, MARCH 1st. 1848.

No. 1.

To the Courteous Reader.

We do not make much doubt but that the appearance of our MAGIC LANTERN will in some measure take the good lieges of Montreal by the ears. The atmosphere of our good city, judging from the past does not seem favorable to productions such as this; but, this in our mind is not because there is not enough of the ridiculous to laugh at, but because the publications themselves have been either scurilous, or more ridiculous than the objects of their ridicule. This is reason enough why they should have failed.

We will say very few words relative to our aims or the principles by which we shall be guided, preferring rather to let our acts tell our story. Our principal object is to cause you to smile at folly, whether in manners, customs, fashions, politics, literature, architecture, newspapers, magazines, periodicals, the mercantile world, the legislature, or elsewhere; and in so doing we pledge ourselves, that neither indecency, scurrility nor private slander, shall soil our columns. Our tone of manners shall be such as shall not exclude our paper from the refined family circle or the drawing-room. There is enough, as we have said, of the ridiculous in our city to laugh at, without descending to the scurrility which would do this.

Upon the usefulness or philosophy of ridicule, it is not necessary for us here to enlarge. Its influence in preventing people from doing foolish things, is a tale a thousand times told, and has been for ages. "Cervantes smiled Spains chivalry away" and to "laugh and grow fat" is a proverb.

Of ourselves our very proper modesty prevents us from saying more, than giving the general intimation to all whom it may concern that "we shall belong to the black hussars of literature—we shall neither give nor take quarter." Whatever comes within the disc of our Lantern will be shewn up.

It is our intention to publish the MAGIC LANTERN fortnightly. Its success, most courteous reader, will depend on thy countenance, and last, yet of most importance, (in hard times like these,) on thy THREE PENCE.

We had prepared a surprise for our fellow-citizens, but through unforeseen delays, have been ourselves surprised. We had taken means through our friends high in the Vice-Royal Councils to procure the original draft of the Governor's speech at the opening of the present session, and had intended to have published it for the public benefit before delivered. Our printer disappointed us, and were unable to do so. Judge of the wonder with which we read the form in which it was actually delivered, and found how much it had

been garbled, altered and mangled by His Excellency's weak advisers. It will be seen how much more manly and pointed our edition of this document really is. We give it below.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

I have great pleasure in meeting you at the opening of the first Session of another Parliament (aside my ministry would rather meet the devil.) In dissolving the late and summoning a new Parliament, I have been wholly actuated by a desire to know if the country really trusted in the ministry I have had around me, or if I should send them into private life. I have no doubt you will give your immediate attention to this subject, and inform me of the result.

The next most important point to be considered is the increase which our population received during the past summer, which eventually produced an alarming decrease in the number of the previous inhabitants. Intimately connected with this, are the many schemes for colonization; sending men among us ready made, with every thing necessary to live, from their priest to their pickaxes. I hope you will bestow upon this subject the consideration it deserves. I would also call your attention to the question (intimately connected with this matter) whether a duty should not be levied upon the importation into the Province of Typhus Fever. This importation (generally by individual passengers in Emigrant ships) has been during the past business season, enormous. My present anti-free-trade ministry are decidedly opposed to the admission of this new import free of duty. In the mean time, large wooden storehouses for the reception and preservation of the article, have been erected at the public expense.

The University question which has so long agitated the different parties in this Province remains unsettled. The country demands that something, right or wrong, should be done in the matter, the interests of the rising generation of the country calls aloud for the benefits of education. I hope, gentlemen, that this demand may be responded to, and that ere your labours are closed, a bill for educating everybody's children at other people's expence will be passed and that ere many months shall have elapsed there will not be a chimney sweep or cowboy in the Province who will not, while laboring in his daily vocation, be enabled to conjugate Latin verbs as a mental recreation, and spend his evenings in company with Virgil & Euclid.

The present depressed state of the mercantile world will prevent that attention to internal improvements and the development of the resources of this vast

Province, which is so much to be desired. I cannot recommend (during the present depression) any grant for the building the Railroad through Oregon to the Moon, or the other so much talked of route through Halifax to Mercury, although both of these if completed would undoubtedly facilitate and strengthen our connexion with those planets and increase materially our imports of quicksilver and green cheese. I cannot for the same reason recommend a grant by the Legislature for the opening the gold mine said to exist south from Caughnawaga.

The odious barrier to good feeling, and unity of purpose, raised by the distinction of races, it will be for the individual interest of each of you, and for that of your common country to break down. I promise you my hearty cooperation in any measure which may tend to this desirable end. Extremes, however, should be (even in this) avoided and under present circumstances I do not think it advisable to pass any act declaring every French Canadian to be an Englishman or vice versa. I have already endeavored, by mixing the alkali of good dinners and good wine with the water, and by using my most strenuous efforts to keep the oil under, to effect a combination of these naturally repugnant elements in our political world. I cannot as yet boast of any great measure of success, as the water from its natural heaviness will go to the bottom, unless some stronger alkali than I have yet made use of be applied: perhaps some fat offices might prove more effectual, in attracting them to the top.

Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,

I must call your attention to the lamentable fact that these are hard times, and the Province and myself have been affected by them. Our monetary system is in a most sickly state. One of my advisers skilled in the treatment of diseases of this nature, having been consulted, applied his stethoscope to the chest of the Province and has declared that there is an astonishing want of fullness in that region, and that the circulation is in an unhealthy state. Copious bleeding has been resorted to with no good effect. It remains for you to determine some means by which these alarming symptoms may be allayed and the chest again put into healthy action. A generous diet, or some strengthening tonics have been recommended, and estimates of the necessary expenditure will be laid before you.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly,

To your charge are committed the interests of the Province, (aside) I know you will consult your own. You are called upon to legislate for and advance those interests. You will, I hope, discuss every subject brought under your consideration with that fairness, impartiality and candour which, under the blessing of Providence, will most materially tend to the advancement of this vast Province, the brightest ornament in the crown of my Royal Mistress. (aside) I know you will do no such thing in this frozen region. May your deliberations lead to the prosperity of your country.

We understand that Mr. Christie does not intend bringing in more than fifteen bills this session. We pity his constituency. Alas, poor Gaspé!

A Scene from the Play of Placegetting.

SCENE—ANCIENT RIALTO.

Dramatis Personæ.—THE HONBLES MM. S. & B.,
A MESSENGER.

S. Well B. you are a lucky dog, and I an unlucky one. Curse the fate that placed me west of St. Régis. No promotion for a Western man, except that dodger D— who got precedence of me by his blarney and brass.

B. Well, we Eastern Law Officers are rather lucky, S—h and myself get the three cornered hat pretty cheap.

S. Cheap! Yes. He's quite a good enough Judge for such a scurvy Radical set. But what did he ever do for the country?

B. You are responsible and should know that best yourself. He made a road to M— and discovered the written constitution; do you call that nothing? For my part, if I have done nothing for the country, I have made nothing out of it. My two elections have cost me every farthing of my salary. Yet I still feel as if my country needed my efforts, and that I ought to work for its good, especially for that of my kind friends in M—.

S. Pshaw B. don't make an ass of yourself by reciting your blarney to me. (Enter a messenger with letter.)

B. (Reading) Hem, this is a nice affair, a pretty kettle of fish—(Walks the room in an excited manner.)

S. My dear fellow, what's the matter?

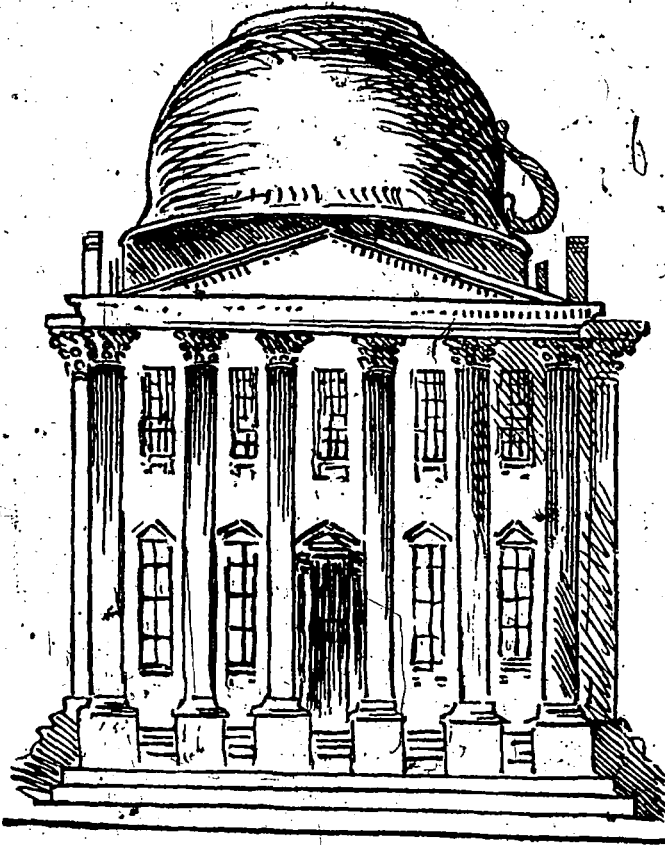
B. (In an agitated voice) Read that! Curse the fool that won't take a pension when he can get it.

S. (Reading) "Mr. Justice G— has the honor of informing Her Majesty's Provincial Government that considering the peculiar circumstances under which an offer of a retiring pension is made him, he must respectfully decline to accept it." Ah, well B. you can now labour for the good of your country, and afford your confiding friends in M— the benefit of your counsel and assistance.

B. (Enraged, stamping violently) The country may go to the d—l and M— along with it. He shall come to reason and take the pension or—(Exit muttering.)

S. Ha, ha. He'll crow no more at my disappointment. His own comb is cut, and he may content himself without the hat for this time. I'll go and get jolly over his chagrin, and some mulled port. (Exit.)

Can you tell me whether I have Erysipelas said a red faced son of Bacchus the other day to Dr. Q.— No replied the Doctor with his accustomed naivete, I take your desease to be—Ere-swipe—alas!



ARCHITECTURAL BLUNDER.

The new Montreal Bank would assuredly be the most handsome piece of architecture we possess, were it not for that Roman dome, which brings to our mind domestic associations and which is well known to be inadmissible in Buildings of the Grecian school. Our artist has, we think happily handled the subject.

IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

We are informed that the editor of the *Medical Journal* has, in the course of a series of complicated and interesting experiments, discovered a new chemical compound, which he calls the "*Ferefeumackleon Faramabra*". It possesses peculiar properties and is said to resemble the "*Ruguna manseferontida*" in its physiological effects.

Since writing the above we understand that the learned Lecturer on Surgery in the school of Medicine has tested its powers in the treatment of several obstinate cutaneous affections and pronounces it to be particularly efficacious in the discussion of chronic Corns.

Medical Intelligence.

STARTLING IF TRUE--at a recent meeting of the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical society, it was unblushingly stated by the majority of its members present (in support of their own views of the proper treatment of the recent epidemic) that they had not lost a single case of fever during the past summer. From this we naturally infer, that the deceased were all married persons or died in pairs or triplets. We hope this will be explained.

It is confidently stated by some members of the faculty, that the River sustained such severe injuries by its late fall, that it is not likely that it will be able to rise again for some weeks. Applications of ice have been ordered to its face.

Public Soirées.

We rejoice to see these reunions of all classes. No member of the community is too highly educated or too refined, or on the other hand too low or vulgar, not to derive both pleasure and benefit from such soirées. Much positive amusement must be produced for the many thousands who are passing their lives in culinary employments, and out of door's labour. What can be more pleasant for the pretty housemaid who has been studying the polka for some weeks previous, in the kitchen, than to dance that polka with the Hon. A. D. C. Is not her heart ready to burst with satisfaction that her time has not been altogether lost. And how happy is the little grisette to be whirled through the mazes of the waltz on the arm of a rising barrister, who has for the nonce laid aside his red-tape and starched business look, and is making most tremendous efforts at condescension. How happy is the singer to be beaud around the room by a captain of cavalry with a terrific moustache. How happy also, are the apprentices at the sight and touch of the good things spread out before them! It would be useless to endeavour to enumerate all the different species of happiness. How are our eyes feasted with all the varieties of fashions and dances that have been prevalent for the last thirty years, and if we can dance the first set of quadrilles in a plate, what ample opportunity of displaying our skill before a circle of admiring friends.

Then the "electrical machine," what pinches it gave those innocent juveniles and pretty girls, who were squeezing each others hands in the magic circle. We allude particularly to the late Mechanic's Festival. In the exhibition room we noticed a beautiful bust of the frill which George IV wore, with his head above it, and have been informed that a patent wooden andiron, and a daguerreotype portrait of Junius were to be seen, but we really did not see them therefore cannot criticise. We also tried the effect of two telescopes upon the walls, and noticed their powerful effect in bedimning our optics. We did not see one *Magic Lantern!* This shocking want of taste needs no comment.

We have heard, of but one draw back to the pleasure of the evening; it was that several persons went there in disguise. We ourselves noticed several gentlemen

some what disguised with tippie, and our good friends Tom, Jack and Harry totally innocent and unconscious of anything approaching to gentility disguised in the garb of gentlemen. We hope this will not occur again!

We heard one most striking remark fall from the lips of a strange bear present, at whose side we happened to be at the time it was uttered. He said "It is rather a fine affair, but it is positively horrid, that there are so many rough mechanics here with their wives and daughters." We took it down as an original idea.

Literary Societies.

"A child's among you taking notes"
"And faith he'll prent it."

SHAKESPEARE CLUB. "The shadow of a mighty name." We fear the shadow cast upon this club has little to do with the mighty name invoked. A vulgar yet emphatic phrase comes to our mind as applicable to their condition, "they can't come it." Their members don't seem disposed to work. Yet who can blame the lack of energy displayed by its members. There is something low in the sound of the word work, and these very refined and aristocratic gentlemen are much above it. It is a great bore for the members to exert their faculties at the club, and somewhat hard to attend it, but it is very pleasant to hear other people speak, and to laugh at those who attempt that which they dare not. To some the club gives standing, to others amusement, and they all find it wonderfully easier to sit still and laugh than to get on their legs to speak. They feel that they have all the talent and wit with much of the aristocracy of the city, and they think it would be not only infra dig: but highly dangerous to exert them; as he says, whose mighty name casts no shadow on them, it would be cruel to use their giant strength like giants. Their wisdom might deluge their audience, and drive them mad with too much learning. In commiseration of the enfeebled state of our intellect they have spared us this catastrophe, and for some time past have not debated any subject in public. On the last occasion on which we were present at this abode of literature, their kindness and consideration in this respect were particularly evinced. At the conclusion of the essay, a member rose and moved that the debate should be adjourned, as he believed the club was not prepared to debate the question proposed for their consideration, although he had himself come quite ready to do so. Here he produced a large folio in proof of his assertion. The President said he had feared there would be no debate and laid the blame on the Questions committee. A gent in the gallery here broke in with a loud bow! wow! wow! followed by a peculiar laugh denoting that delectable state learnedly termed "Plenus Bacchi." Another Member rose and called the attention of the President to the interruption in the gallery, saying that the proceedings of the club were not to be ruled by the public; if the audience were dissatisfied the door was open. We feel sure that all this was done in order to suit our peculiar taste for the ludi-

crôus, for no jester, in the olden time, with his cap bells and bauble ever produced a greater degree of mirthfulness in his audience than did the worthies of the club on this occasion.

The decorations of the club room are hardly in keeping with the modesty of their demeanor. Did we not fear that remarks upon trifling details in any thing so splendid, might appear invidious, we would suggest that a few shillings would buy red flannel enough to cover the edges of the rough boards which appear at one side of the dais, and which though undoubtedly picturesque, appear to our untutored eye somewhat incongruous with the other ornaments of the room. We may mention too that the pieces of paper so beautifully designed and cut, which are pasted above the dais, are in some places sadly askew. The stucco images, would be advantageously increased in size, without much drain upon the funds of the society as the material is not very dear. The bust of Metcalfe reminds us of those lines of Boileau, in which he accounts for the scowl which appears upon his face in a bad portrait by saying: "C'est de se voir si mal gravé." When at school we are taught that whatever we should do, to do it well. The Shakespeare club has enlightened us, its example teaches to attempt what is great, though we do it poorly, and make ourselves ridiculous. As we intend shortly to publish an essay on taste we will send our artist to sketch their club room for an illustration.

Want of space prevents us from noting, the rising philosophers and moral reformers of the Athenæum Club, and the promising Jacobins of the Institut Canadien. We hope that our silence will not be construed into disrespect, or forgetfulness, we assure them they are not forgotten, and will endeavour to make amends for our present silence, in our next issue.

Magazines and Periodicals.

BRITISH AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

We have not as yet been furnished with a copy of this amusing periodical but we had the perusal of the last number through the kindness of a friend, and remarked that the principal topics discussed in it were medical reform and Chlo—roform.

Literary Garland.

We observe that the usual number of romantic young ladies have expended their sentimentality upon the public through the columns of this monthly. The engraving did not seem so much worn as usual, and the name of the journal for which it was originally engraved was erased with more than customary neatness.

The Odd-Fellow's Magazine.

Friendship, love and truth avowedly preside over the columns of this Magazine. We remarked much

talk about them in the last issue, mixed with some old philosophy, and a careful eschewing of original common sense.

Nuts to Crack.

1. Given the *Herald* newspaper, to find on what side of the fence it will be, for three consecutive mornings.
2. Given the *Courier*, to discover the sense published in it.
3. Given the *Gazette* and *Pilot*, to discover their truth or moderation.
4. Given the *Transcript*, to ascertain its political principles.
5. Given the *Revue Canadienne* and *L'Aurore* to discover their standing and influence.
6. Given *La Minerve* to discover its loyalty and toleration.
7. Given the *Witness* to discover its dignity.
8. Given the whole press of Montreal to find all these necessary qualities of a good newspaper in any one journal.
9. Given the *Magic Lantern*, to find anything dull in it.

We will give a medal of the best soleleather with the usual inscription for good children to any person solving the above problems and sending the solution to our publisher.

General Intelligence.

—We hear that those worthy scions of the Tapc and Goose Messrs. Moss & Brothers are about to apply for a new description of over garment, the wearing of which will permit any politician to turn his coat, without his coat being turned—which obviates a hitherto unconquerable difficulty. As a new ministry is being formed it is expected that the above new article of apparel will be extensively patronized by the elect conservative M. P. Ps. The everlasting Dominick will appear Da(i)ly in this habiliment.

Moustaches.

We are surprised at the total absence of all comment upon this native product of our soil in the *Agricultural Journal*, and in the last report of the Horticultural society. It has been somewhat extensively cultivated in the rural districts, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Garrison Towns, while the hotbeds of our city are yielding abundant crops. We have ourselves seen some attempts at their cultivation by young amateurs which have proved abortive, but we believe, with the aid which chemistry now affords Agriculturists and Horticulturists, the crop may be made a pretty certain one. We have been informed that like beans they grow best upon a light and somewhat sterile soil. We are sorry to hear that although some of our brokers have lent their countenance to the growing this crop, they have refused to effect transfers of the article, showing an unwillingness to shave in this line quite unusual to them.

Court Intelligence.

Expected not to arrive in Montreal shortly Her Majesty the Queen, His Grace the Duke of Wellington and their respective suites.

As we were not invited to the Ball at Monklands last night, we came to the determination not to go, and what is still more strange, didn't go.

We understand that Col. De Salaberry is making extensive preparations to hold an inquest on the present expiring ministry. Several old offenders are now under the special *surveillance* of the police. We shall at present refrain from giving all the names. We understand however that one suspicious individual named Toby has been arrested, and held to bail. It appears that he takes a savage delight in prowling about Coroner's Courts, and in torturing "dooks" calves, and other naturals.

We have to apologise to our readers for not presenting them with some specimens of our muse. We purchased a machine expressly to manufacture it, but in consequence of the negligence of the workmen employed to put it in operation the crank was broken. We promise in our next issue to give our Readers some good specimens of its style.

Duelling Extraordinary.

—We learn that the Editor of the *Witness* has been challenged by Shakspeare's shadow and the challenge has been accepted. The time and place of meeting have not, as yet transpired.

THEATRE ROYAL—Montreal assurance, was shown by the playing of London Assurance a few weeks since by amateurs, and unrivalled impudence was announced in placards and shown on the stage in the form of an attempt to play the "Rivals" We feel sure this failure is without a Rival. Like Sir Lucius o' Triggers quarrel, "*Explanation would spoil it.*"

Miscellany.

At a party a friend of ours was asked if he coincided with the opinion held by some philosophers that men were once monkeys. He replied: From the specimens of the former race I sometimes see I am strongly inclined to do so.

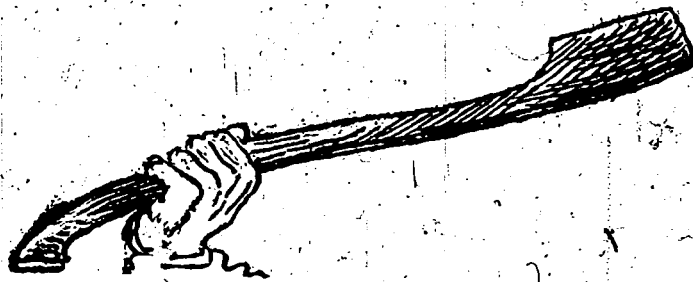
TO PRESERVE FURS FROM THE MOTH.—An officer bought a suit of furs and to preserve them from the moth, ordered his servant to put them in a stove during the summer. On a cold damp day in the fall the officer ordered a fire in the stove, the servant forgetting it precious deposit lit it and fumigated the room with the furs. We need not add that the moths never after injured them.

LOST—A Judgeship. The finder will be handsomely rewarded by leaving it at the office of the Attorney General East.

WANTED—At the office of the *Evening Courier* a few smart ideas to circulate that paper.

WANTED—At this office an accident maker. A person skilled in this manufacture will receive constant employment and no salary. Highest references will be required.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION—Being a candidate for the mayoralty we feel a deep interest in the approaching contest. We hope that our friends and supporters will be on the alert our enemies are so and will we fear make use of



A FORCIBLE POLITICAL ARGUMENT.