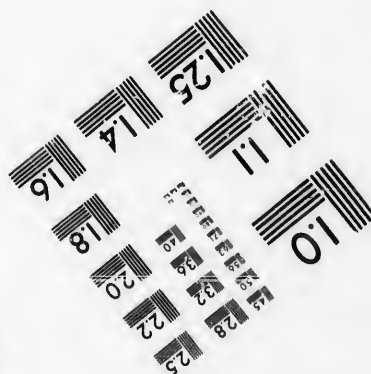
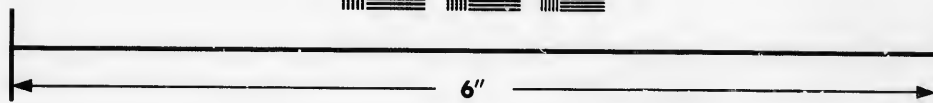
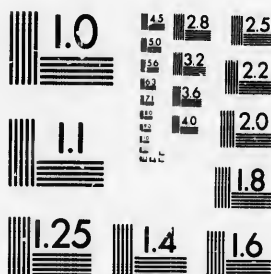


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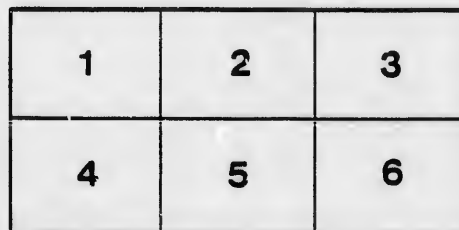
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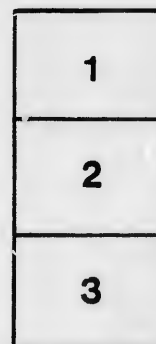
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THOUGHTS
ON THE
LAST ELECTION,
AND
Matters Connected Therewith,
BY
AN OLD CITIZEN.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY J. C. BECKET, GREAT ST. JAMES STREET.

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A FEW REMARKS ON THE LATE ELECTION.

In the few following observations, I beg to be permitted to state, that I disclaim all intention of giving any one-sided view of the questions before the public, or the slightest offence to any of my fellow citizens, individually or collectively, but to briefly discuss some of the questions which engage public attention, on the broad principles of universal justice and impartiality, and with a sincerity of purpose to promote the best interest of mankind. In the first place, I verily believe that the Gentlemen who allowed themselves to stand for the suffrages of the electors were all good men, such as would faithfully fulfil the duties of their position, according to the best of their abilities, and with the strictest fidelity. With respect to matters of speculative political opinion, I have not much to say, seeing that the diversified faculties of the human mind, together with the force of early education, compel men irresistibly to come to opposite conclusions, and render it a very difficult matter for the impartial enquirer to arrive at abstract truth, and surely there is no man at the present day, in the middle of the nineteenth century, with the improvement of mind, the refinement of feeling, the expansion of heart, and all the enlightenment and learning, and exalting influences by which he is surrounded, surely none would have the hardihood and fanaticism to exclaim "Gentlemen, I am the Sir Oracle of the Age," Gentlemen, you are every one of you wrong, and only myself and my party are right; there is no man in his senses, who will give this

subject the calm consideration of a moment but what would see at a glance how perfectly ridiculous and contemptible would be the position of such a man, with all his self-sufficiency and consummate assurance, and how thoroughly lost he must be to all the high, holy, liberal, generous, and noble feelings of humanity. Such a man might be justly compared to a refractory soldier, at the siege of Troy, described by Homer in the following lines :

Thersites only clamoured in the throng,
Loquacious, loud, and turbulent of tongue,
Awed by no shame, by no respect controlled,
In scandal busy, in reproaches bold.

God has made man to differ on a variety of subjects, and it is the duty of man to mix up with, and meet all those conflicting elements with the spirit of a Christian, and with a kind and gentlemanly demeanour, never forgetting that he is himself a fallible being liable to err, and standing on one common platform of human weakness, and imperfections, remembering also that God has given to every man the sacred right of thinking, judging, and speaking for himself; but unfortunately there is a foolish and wicked antagonistic spirit abroad in the world, which knows no bounds, sees all actions of an opponent through a false and distorted medium, and anxiously waits and watches for an opportunity to blazon to the world his every real or imaginary failing, and through a powerfully magnifying lens, presents to the unwary and superficial observer, the petty mole heap swollen to the ponderous mountain, which the dim, dark, and murky vision of party prejudice receives as a true and natural object, and the deluded man chuckles and rejoices, and flatters himself that he has got possession of an additional weapon which will place him on vantage ground, and pave the way for a final triumph, and a glorious victory over his opponent. It is no uncommon thing to see political antagonists anxiously waiting for an opportunity to pick

a hole in each others coats, and when they have got so far, out comes the antagonistic pruning knife ground to an edge, and sharpened by all the powerful friction of party prejudice, until so many deep incisions are made in the garment, that the poor man is left coatless, and then to complete the matter, by a little twisting and twining, they reverse the Christian doctrine, and walk off with his cloak also. Of this tone and character I am sorry to say, are most of the political writings of the day. Some parties declaim against the late government in no measured terms, accuse them of breaking their promise to their constituents and the public, and treating with contempt and indifference the established laws of the land, others talk of deep-rooted corruption, nay of the want of common honesty, and of taking a course that will lead to the ruin and destruction of this rising colony. But I suppose that nearly all grounds of opposition to the government of every country arises from diversity of opinion. The Government here are accused of keeping the settlement of the Clergy Reserves, the Self-Tenure and other Bills, connected with the settlement of matters of vast importance to the country. If the Government were of opinion that those questions, surrounded as they are with diversified and conflicting interests, should be allowed to work their way by cool, calm, and deliberate consideration, and should not be hurried through the house, are they to blame for delaying them and not coming at once to a final decision? The Government are charged with breaking the laws of the land in proroguing the parliament. But after a vote of censure had been passed, the Government may be supposed to have said, "Gentlemen, we are fully convinced that the course we have followed is the one which is best calculated to promote the general interest and welfare of the country; the foundation stone has been laid for its future prosperity, loans have been advantageously negotiated with the mother country,

Railroads and Telegraphs are threading the land in every direction, free trade principles have been matured until they have received or are about to receive legislative sanction; in short the whole machinery for raising the country to the highest pitch of eminence as a commercial nation has been put in active operation, producing a bright and cheering era, which bids defiance to the page of Canadian history to produce a parallel; but you, Gentlemen, are of a different opinion; we have as much right to claim the truth on our side as you have on yours, therefore before we proceed to the final settlement of the important matters before us, we prefer carrying our cause before a higher tribunal,—we will bring it to the test of public opinion."

The only legitimate and rational channel by which we can arrive at truth is through the shady avenues of cool, calm, and dispassionate investigation, contemplating with rigid but at the same time impartial scrutiny, even to the very outposts, all the windings of diversified opinion, and then drawing from the whole a middle line of inferential conviction. One of our Editors brings out to public view a long list of accusations against the Hon. John Young. But they were satisfactorily answered in the Pilot. There may have been errors in the course of that gentlemen's public life for

"The best laid schemes o' mice an' men
Gang aft a-gley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain
For promised joy."

but if there have been errors committed, I believe that there is no one who has been acquainted with that gentleman for a number of years past, but will readily admit that they were errors of the head and not of the heart. One of the speakers who was addressing the people at the hustings in favor of Mr. Young, was interrupted by a person calling out, "What have you got to say about the Tug Boats?" but no answer was

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given. Perhaps there was a mistake in the Hon. Mr. Young's public career, in that particular, but the motive which should be the touchstone to try every action of our lives might be in this case pure. The Hon. Gentleman no doubt thought, that by taking off the government Tug Line and throwing the business into the competition of private companies, the public would be cheaper, and more efficiently served. It is a well known fact, that the Hon. Mr. Young is now, and has been for some years past, highly distinguished for his honor and energy of character, both in public and private life. L. H. Holton, Esq., after his address to the people from the hustings, was rather cavalierly called upon to answer some questions relative to his tampering with the late ministry at Quebec, to which questions, Mr. Holton firmly and positively denied, the style and manner of the interrogatories put to Mr. Holton, were altogether out of keeping with that gentleman's well known urban and benevolent deportment. Another Editor told us that Mr. Badgley is a very good man, but objected to him for several reasons, which I suppose from a dash of delicacy of feeling, the reasons were not given. I have known the Hon. Mr. Badgley for upwards of thirty years, and during that time, that gentleman has always stood high in public estimation. The same Editor in his remarks on Wm. Bristow, Esq., (who seems to have come in for his share of censure through the public press) says that any person who has read his articles for the last ten years, cannot for a moment suppose that he is a man of sound principles, intimating that he has Jumpt Jim Crow on the Clergy Reserves question; but what mortal has any right to step in between the avowed convictions of a man's mind and the public, and address him in the following language, Sir, because you believed that so and so was the true position of a certain case at one time, you ought as a matter of course to believe the same

thing now. The reasonable reply might be, how far my professions are in accordance with my convictions are not for you to judge, that matter rests between myself and my Maker only. Why if a man never changed his opinions, where would be the use of any research after truth? and of what use would be all the books which have ever been written on a variety of subjects, if men were determined to stick to the same class of ideas which occupied their minds in early life, until the end thereof? what would be the consequence? Why, if they were wrong when they set out of course they never could be right. If ignorance, darkness and error enveloped their minds in early life, the same melancholy delusion must accompany them to their graves. The wisest men have changed their opinions, and changed them on rational grounds too, from reading, conversation, and reflection, and there have been some modification of thought and feeling for some time past on that sadly vexed question the Clergy Reserves. I have for many years thought it would be a perfectly just act, to turn the whole amount of the government grant into another channel, and apply it to the purposes of general education, but on more mature reflection, I feel impressed with the belief, that this almost sacred right of church property, which has been so long enjoyed by the church, is a vested right, received by legal endowment, and should not be wrested from the church with a ruthless hand, but should at present be handled with a delicacy of touch and feeling towards a highly respectable body of Christians, and matters relating thereto, should be changed only so far as would give general satisfaction to the diversified sections of the Protestant Church. The great error rests in the home government in this matter, in not extending the grant to the whole protestant community, and not in the people in receiving and holding the grant as a legal right. And this has been the cause of almost all the troubles and heart burn-

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ings which have been so rife in the Province for years past, and will continue to be so till the end of the chapter, unless a fair and equal division of the grant as far as circumstances will admit, be made, according to the number of members of churches throughout the protestant population; then I humbly conceive that it is the imperative duty of our legislators to bring about with as little delay as possible so desirable a consummation, for it is not only the amount of money which each church may be said to lose by not sharing in the grant, but it is the species of contempt and neglect by which they are treated that carries with it the sting, for the Government are virtually saying to all those religious bodies who are excluded from the grant, "Your religion, gentlemen, is inferior to the favored few, it is not worth our protection and aid, it is a mass of error and delusion, and ours is the only true and orthodox faith." Now this is a direct insult to the human understanding, and there is no species of despotism which is more galling to the mind of man than that which is directed against religious opinion. State endowments for the encouragement and promotion of religion in the dark ages were requisite, but in the present enlightened state of society, common sense and common justice cry aloud that every church should stand on its own foundation. But I am no advocate for tearing up root and branch old settled laws and long standing customs. But the customs and laws of every country must as a matter of course, keep pace with the human mind, and the errors of the present and the past must of necessity give way to the rising reforms of the present and the future; I am ready to admit that the secularization of the Clergy Reserves, would be a just act, in an abstract point of view, yet on the ground of expediency, it would I think be somewhat premature, the province not being sufficiently ripe for its adoption, and that moderate measures, with regard to this question would be more condu-

cive to the peace, prosperity, and happiness of the people, and would infuse a general spirit of contentment and satisfaction, which a more rigid measure would fail to produce. The thing itself would I humbly conceive work its own cure, the rising sense of justice and liberality, in the minds of the gentlemen who are most deeply interested in the question, will I am convinced induce them to take such steps as will gradually bring about a satisfactory reform, by allowing the rectories to die with the deaths of the incumbents, and by sanctioning such other measures as will in time bring about this much desired change.

Mr. Bristow is in favor of giving to the Catholics separate schools, but I am fully persuaded that amalgamation should be the watchword of the Senate, the Pulpit and the Press, particularly where there is a mixed population; and all who sway the sceptre over the public mind, should persuade, invite, encourage, and endeavor to draw together men of every country and creed, men of every shade of sectarian and political dogma, should be invited to converse freely and familiarly, upon all the passing topics of the day. If this practice could be carried into full operation, the world in a very few years, would be peopled with a more exalted class of beings than it now is; then would liberality of sentiment and feeling, fall from every lip, and flow from every heart, the selfishness of human nature would be in some measure subdued, and a reciprocity of kindly bearing and Christian love, would supplant that asperity of feeling, and that foolish and wicked antagonism, which is too prevalent in the world; but bring children together in the same school by all possible means; let them sit side by side, on the same form, instructed and corrected by the same kind and gentle hand, Catholic and Protestant on the most perfect equality, free from the most distant shadow of sectarian domination. Do this, and you will plant the seeds of

Christian love on infant soil, do this, and you will be cementing the ties and bonds of friendship in early life, which will be felt, with all its happy influences from the cradle to the grave. Nevertheless, if the Catholics so strongly desire separate schools, and cannot be happy without them, I would say, let them have them, for it should be the object of the rulers of the land, in all countries to promote as far as they consistently can, the prosperity and happiness of every section of the people. Mr. Bristow is a person of kind and gentlemanly bearing, and has for many years conducted an important paper in this city, with tact and ability, and his writings have been kept free from all scurrilous and vituperative personal abuse, and I am proud to see a countryman and a brother Protestant, standing out in bold relief amid the petty jarrings of sectarian and national feeling, and coming forward to advocate in the Halls of Legislation, the equal rights of Protestants and Catholics, without distinction of country or creed; and I firmly hope that this event will lay the foundation stone, in this city and the surrounding country, of a better order of things, when petty political and sectarian jealousies and strife will be buried in the dust, and when every Protestant will cheerfully take his brother Catholic by the hand with a warmth of heart and a flow of soul. One of our Editors, a gentleman of no mean talents, boasts of being a Reformer of the first water. What a blessing it would be for mankind, if every editor, legislator, and minister of the gospel could boast of being a Reformer, with the first water; I mean the clear, pure, cold water of heaven, that trickles down the mountain side, and through the dale with sparkling beauty, and tipped by the glowing beams of the virgin sun, courses its winding way with golden spangles to the rippling brook, a just emblem of heaven-born purity, peace and love. O, what a blessing to society it would be if a share of that talent which

goes to swell the troubled sea of political strife, and inflates the minds of angry opponents with the worst passions of our nature, were employed in calming down the raging ocean of intoxicating drinks, and in cutting off by Legislative enactments the cause of that mighty mass of evil by which poor humanity is afflicted, a mass of evil of which the unthinking man has not the least conception. For what is all the slaughter of a Bonaparte, an Alexander or a Nicholas, or all the wars which have ever cursed the human family, compared to the wholesale butchery which the monster Alcohol inflicts on the body of man. But his ravages stop not here, for he seizes on the soul also, and carries with it its withering, blighting, soul-destroying influence beyond the confines of time, into the boundless regions of a never-ending eternity, floods the world with misery, destitution and crime, with the orphan's cry and the widow's tear. O, that our newborn senator may have something in his speeches high above the angry disputations of party politics not selfishly intended to pander to the prejudices of the few, but nobly directed to the promotion of the present and eternal welfare of the human race, then will that gentleman have ample cause to boast, that he is, indeed, in the most emphatic sense of the word, a Reformer of the first water. The introduction of a prohibitory Liquor Law will infuse new life and vigor into society, both in a physical, moral, and religious point of view, it will crush in a measure the hydra-headed monster Alcohol, with his thousand fangs, that fell destroyer of the peace, virtue and happiness of mankind; it will make better husbands and fathers, better wives, mothers and children, better subjects of the government, and in the fullest sense of the word better members of society, in all the social relations of life. It will give security to property and life, it will change the drunkard's home from a hell to a heaven, it will nearly close the doors of the poor-house, the luna-

tic asylum, the hospital and the jail, and throw open the doors of the school-house, the church, and the gates of heaven. The loss of revenue, on account of the abolition of alcoholic drinks, will be more than counterbalanced by the reduction of those expensive establishments, poor-houses, lunatic asylums, hospitals and jails. To those who are engaged in getting up petitions for this good and noble purpose, there is a pleasing feature in the general tone of society, wherever the measure is presented; nay, I can safely say, that nine-tenths of the persons applied to have cheerfully given their assent, some with a warmth of enthusiasm much to be admired, some with a spark of Christian charity glistening in the eye, and the throbs of Christian philanthropy beating at the heart, even the poor down hill drunkard, hails with delight the most faint and distant glimpse of a hope of salvation from a drunkard's grave, and the dreadful sentence of a drunkard's doom, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting torments, prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Such is the mad infatuation which intoxicating drinks have over the human mind, that the man who has been long addicted to the intemperate use thereof, loses all power of self-control, and in proportion as the degrading passion is indulged in does it become stronger, and in the same ratio is the mind weakened, until all the high intellectual powers which God has given to man, to guide him through this life and prepare him for the next, is subjugated to this Satanic influence, and all the noble powers of man are bound up in the fetters of the most despotic tyrant that ever cursed the human race. Then reason and judgment are trampled under foot, the laws of God and man are set at open defiance, all love for wife and children is totally obliterated, and nothing remains but a horrid passion and thirst for that infernal fluid which winds itself like a scorpion round the heart, and drags annually upwards

of five hundred thousand of our poor fellow mortals, with all their sins upon their heads down to a drunkard's grave. And there never will be salvation for the poor lost inebriate, (or but to a very limited extent,) as long as the soul-destroying beverage is allowed to inundate the land, as long as emblems of the cursed poison swing at every corner of our streets, where the poor wretched drunkard is tempted to spend his last penny. For when he sees the rosy bottle and the sparkling glass glittering in the noonday sun, though the soles of his shoes are about to make their exit from the bodies thereof, and the crown of his hat nodding its last adieu, with nothing but rags to cover him, with every nerve trembling, and with one foot in the grave, if he have a few coppers in his pocket, and his dear little children at home are gasping for bread, such is the damning influence of alcohol, that the poor wretch cannot resist the temptation, but staggers to the counter, and gives his last penny for the poisoned cup, and to a fellow man too, one who knows the distress of his family, and that certain destruction of soul and body is his doom. Yet this man with a hard, unblushing face, and a harder heart, for the petty, paltry love of money, pockets his last penny, yes, pockets the last penny of his brother man, who has been created by the same Father, with the same physical and mental capacity, made to be happy here, and hereafter, but sunk into the very depths of abject misery and crime, by the paralyzing influences around him. O, what can such a man feel, if he be not lost to all moral and religious impression when he awakes in the midnight watch, and the voice of busy conscience whispers in his ear, "The life of man hangs by a very brittle thread; you are employed in a traffic which is destroying the souls and bodies of your fellow-men, making widows and orphans of their wives and children; you are spreading destitution, prostitution, lying, swearing, stealing, murder, and

every species of vice and misery in the neighborhood around you, and for the paltry consideration of accumulating a few dollars, you are blasting your own peace and happiness here, and your eternal welfare and happiness hereafter. And although God has blest you with health and strength up to this moment remember, that before to morrow's sun gilds the mountain's top, your soul may be required of you, and on the bank of the dark and turbid gulf of death, with that soul flickering on the quivering, pallid lip, you may be launched into the boundless regions of a never ending eternity, there to answer for the deeds done in the body." O, melancholy picture of human weakness and degradation, and of the dreadful effects of intoxicating drinks on the family of man.

"Man's inhumanity to man,
Makes countless thousands mourn."

O, when will the Christian world rise up in their majesty and might, and with the frown of virtuous indignation on their brow, demand the annihilation of alcohol as a beverage, that Monster Evil of the human race. Let us hope that the new Parliament is composed of gentlemen who have the interest of the people at heart, who will endeavor to keep under the sordid feelings of our nature, and cultivate those of Christianity, patriotism and philanthropy, and frown down at every opportunity war, slavery, and intoxicating drinks, those giant enemies of human life. For what are all the improvements of Railways, Telegraphs, and all the advancement of the affairs of men in a worldly point of view, which have their foundation on the fickleness and uncertainty of this life only; what are they when compared to that improvement of the laws and customs of society which will have a direct tendency to confer inestimable blessings on man here, and to prepare for him the way to a state of eternal happiness hereafter. Having expressed my opinion freely on the passing events of the day,

which is the inherent right of every one, I have done so without one spark of unkindly feeling towards any man, of any country, sect or party. My heart yearns for the time when all will meet together in the bonds of Christian charity and love, and meet at the grand inquest of the country to vote for their respective friends, without fear of interruption, meet with the friendly shake of the hand, and the benevolent glance of the eye, and that peace, harmony and love may long reign throughout this city, and through the length and breadth of the land, is the sincere and ardent wish of

AN OLD CITIZEN.



