

# THE WEEK:

A CANADIAN JOURNAL OF POLITICS, SOCIETY, AND LITERATURE.

Fifth Year.  
Vol. V., No. 29.

Toronto, Thursday, June 14th, 1888.

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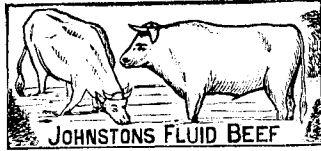
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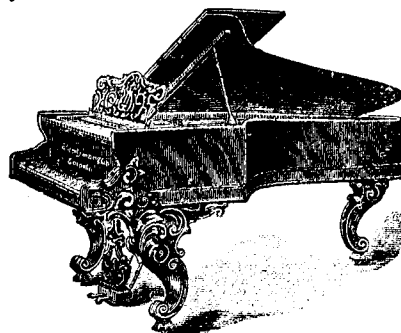
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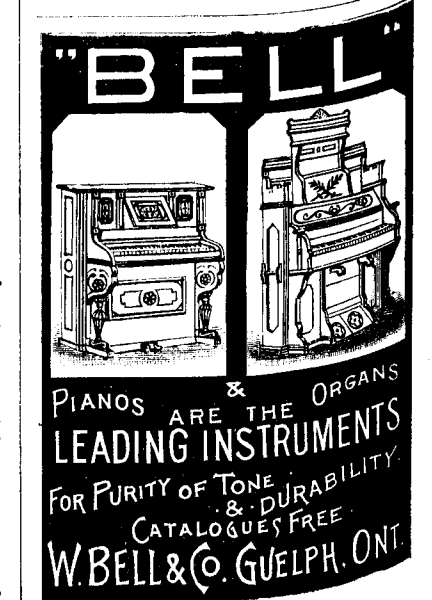
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### CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

TOPICS—	PAGE.
Mr. Mercier and His Supporters.....	455
The Still Dangerous Fisheries Dispute.....	455
Niagara Falls Park.....	455
The New Canadian Loan.....	455
The University Class Lists.....	456
Sectionalism in Canadian Politics.....	456
The Democratic Convention.....	456
Mr. Balfour and the Sun Reporter.....	456
Religious Liberty in Russia.....	456
Canal-building on the Planet Mars.....	456
Bridging the Straits of Dover.....	456
Prospective Opening Up of Siberia.....	457
THE BANK OF MONTREAL.....	457
THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION AGAIN..... J. Gordon Brown.	458
VILLANELLE (POEM)..... Seranus.	458
THE ANGLICAN SYNOD..... M.A.	458
MONTREAL LETTER..... Louis Lloyd.	459
PROMINENT CANADIANS—HONOURABLE HONORE MERCIER, Q.C..... H. Beaugrand.	460
IN RETURN (POEM)..... A. Ethelwyn Wetherald.	461
WITH NATURE IN MAY.—II..... T. Arnold Haultain.	461
SAUNTERINGS..... Sara J. Duncan.	463
LITERARY GOSSIP.....	463
OUR LIBRARY TABLE.....	463
CHESS.....	464

All articles, contributions, and letters on matters pertaining to the editorial department should be addressed to the Editor, and not to any other person who may be supposed to be connected with the paper.

RUMORS have been for some time rife in regard to alleged difficulties between the Quebec Premier and some of his Nationalist supporters. As these reports emanate mostly from sources hostile to Mr. Mercier, it has seemed necessary to take them with a good deal of allowance. His recent appointment of Mr. Pelletier, the principal member of the firm which has a monopoly of the Government printing, to the Legislative Council, seems likely to lead to an open rupture. The confident assertions that this appointment and other concessions of the Government to the Nationalist wing, have been distasteful to Mr. Mercier's Liberal supporters, and have led to earnest remonstrances, derive some colour from the Premier's open expression on Friday of dissatisfaction with the state of the Parliamentary printing, and his threat of the cancellation of existing contracts, in case the work was not more promptly done. It is pretty clear that there is not a little jealousy and ill feeling between the two wings of Mr. Mercier's supporters. But his great force of character will, in all probability, find a means of overcoming the difficulty, and restoring peace, if not harmony, in the ranks of his supporters.

WHEN the terms of the Fisheries Treaty were first announced we took occasion to point out that, even if ratified, it could not be regarded as by any means finally settling the dispute, or removing the causes of danger. The recent rather startling reports from the Nova Scotia coast unhappily confirm this view. Although, of course, the treaty has not been accepted, it is clear that the events which have made it necessary to send out the cruisers in force for the protection of the in-shore fisheries would be equally likely to occur were its provisions in full operation. So long as United States fishermen are forbidden to cross the imaginary three-mile line which marks off the in-shore fisheries, so long will the danger of the situation remain. Whenever those who may have been hovering in the offing for days or weeks with little success find an abundance of fish within the forbidden limits, the temptation to trespass will be too strong for most fishermen to resist. We fear we must go even further. So long as such senatorial firebrands as Mr. Frye are abroad, so long there will be plenty of his countrymen in the fishery business ready to claim a natural right to follow the schools of fish in-shore and take them when they can catch them. If trouble results, so much the better from their point of view. Under pre-

sent circumstances, there is, it is clear, nothing for the Canadian Government to do but to protect the in-shore fisheries as efficiently and at the same time as discreetly as possible. But there is danger in the presence of so much combustible material, and it will be no easy task for the new Minister of Marine to defend the rights of Canadian fishermen and at the same time avoid international complications. The statesmen of both countries should lose no time in striving to effect a real and permanent settlement of the whole question, on the basis of *quid pro quo*, and in such a manner as to remove forever the dangerous three-mile line from the international charts.

It is much to be regretted that the Niagara Falls Park Commissioners, representing, it may be supposed, the views of the Ontario Government, have seen fit to make a charge for admission to a view of the Rapids. The rich Province of Ontario could well have afforded to imitate the example of the neighbouring State by throwing the Park and its unique views open to the world free of cost. As a matter of taste and public spirit a cheese-paring policy in such a matter is indefensible. One of the good objects to be gained by the acquisition of the Park was to do away with the shame of allowing this great natural world's wonder to be made a thing of traffic, a means of vulgar money-making. We do not see that the principal is any the less objectionable when the charge is imposed by the Government, though, of course, the trickery and extortion may be done away with. As a great educational influence the scenery of the Falls should be made free, as the forest or the mountains, to all comers who have eyes to see. As a matter of economy, the charge will probably be a failure, and simply have the effect of driving tourists to the American side. It is to be hoped the Commissioners may be instructed to withdraw the hateful regulation.

FROM late despatches it appears that the Canadian Government is about to raise \$20,000,000 of the \$25,000,000 authorized by Parliament at the late session. From the favourable state of the money market and the high standing of Canadian securities there seems little reason to doubt that the money will be readily obtained on easy terms. The loan is issued, it is said, for the purpose of providing for the requirements of the Canadian Government, mainly in connection with the expenditure on reproductive public works. If this is an exact quotation from the terms of the advertised notice, there might be some room for cavil in regard to the use and meaning of the term "reproductive." If by the word is understood repaying interest on capital, we fear it would not be easy to point out many Canadian public works already existing which can stand that test, or to give any good reason for expecting that those about to be constructed will be able to do so. Indirectly, no doubt many of the public works upon which large sums have been expended are profitable. There seems too much reason to doubt whether the Sault Ste. Marie Canal, or the Chignecto Ship Railroad, if these are in the contemplated list, can be put even in that category.

THE body of students, counting up to nearly 400 in all, who have just passed the examinations of the various years in the Arts Department of Toronto University affords gratifying evidence of the steady growth of the Provincial University in popularity and influence. Of this number no less than eighty-four have been successful in the examination for the degree of B.A. This number, reinforced by those who have just completed their course at the other universities of the Province, will make quite a band of those who must be presumed to have laid the foundations of thorough culture and high intelligence, and who now go forth to various spheres of activity. It may be hoped that not all will join the already crowded ranks of the so-called learned professions, but that at least a goodly number will be added to the list of the educated in the pursuits of agriculture, horticulture and other ancient and honourable industries. The fact that four of the eighty-four graduates, and more than thirty of the undergraduates are women, indicates, too, that the opening of the courses and classes of the University to women, is appreciated, and the innovation, hesitatingly made a few years ago, likely to prove successful and permanent. The growth of the female contingent is apparent in the fact that while the number of women graduates is less than one-twentieth

of the whole, the proportion of female students in the other classes is more than one in ten. Should any envious male be ungallant enough to suspect that other causes, such as stiff examinations, may have had to do with the smaller proportion of the gentler sex in the higher years of the course, we doubt if the full statistics will bear out the inference. Certainly the ladies whose names appear in the class lists have borne off their full share of the Academic honours.

IN discussing the cause of the Southampton surprise of a few weeks since, some of the English papers bring pretty good evidence to show that those causes were largely local, not to say, mercenary. The prospects of certain material advantages which were to accrue from the election of the successful candidate was wielded most effectively as an argument in his favour. In pointing out the fact some of the journals in question manifest a degree of surprise and disgust which seem strange and almost amusing to Canadians. Is it, indeed, the rule that electors in England vote with chief reference to great political and national issues, and that questions of local advantages have little or nothing to do with the result? What would our trans-oceanic contemporaries think of a state of affairs under which the results in a large percentage of all the constituencies were determined notoriously by just such sectional and objectionable "influences." Such a state of affairs they would find prevailing almost openly and confessedly in Canada. A striking instance is afforded by an election just now in progress. In the county of Nicolet there are vacancies in both the Dominion and the local House, and an arrangement has, it is credibly stated, been reached by the electors in accordance with which a conservative shall be returned unopposed to the Dominion Legislature and a Liberal to the local. As a result these far-sighted electors will have backed the winner in each case. They will have a friend at each of the courts, antagonistic as those courts are to each other politically. The fact throws a curious gleam not only on the politics of many Canadian electors, but on the depth of the fundamental principles which divide and distinguish Canadian political parties.

THE Democratic Convention at St. Louis has amply fulfilled the expectations of those who so confidently predicted the endorsement of President Cleveland and his tariff-reform platform. Second only to the enthusiasm which led to Mr. Cleveland's re-nomination without a dissenting voice, was that aroused by the nomination of Mr. Thurman as the convention's candidate for Vice-President. President Cleveland's history and record are now too well known to need repetition or comment. Mr. Thurman has been for some years out of public life, but he is widely known and respected as a man of excellent judgment and ability, and what is better, of unimpeachable integrity. His selection does great honour to the party and to Mr. Cleveland. The Democratic party is certainly to be congratulated on the character of both its candidates. Nor is its platform, with tariff reform on the lines laid down in the President's message and the Mill's Bill, likely to be less popular. It is, of course, impossible to foresee what startling nominations and policy may be devised by the Republicans in their coming convention to checkmate their sanguine opponents, but it seems now as if any standard-bearer they may select must enter upon the contest as a leader of a forlorn hope.

THE ubiquitous and indefatigable reporter seems bound to win all along the line. He will soon be looking around for new worlds to conquer. Hitherto it was understood that there were certain elevated spheres within which his profane pencil and note book could not enter. Of these, one of the most unapproachable, next to the sacred precincts within which the majesty of the Sovereign is hedged around was that which protects the official dignity of the cabinet minister. Scarcely an United States' Secretary of State, much less a member of a Canadian Cabinet, and least of all a British Minister, was supposed accessible to the pertinacious asker of questions. And yet, it is now alleged, the British Minister has been the first to yield. Mr. Balfour, the Secretary for Ireland, has, if we may rely upon the asseverations of Mr. Blakely Hall, not only consented to be interviewed, but has actually taken the reporter into his confidence and unfolded to him his great schemes for the pacification of Ireland. It may be that the reporters have been so officious in foretelling that the coercion policy of the Government was about to be modified, that Mr. Balfour despaired of overtaking the rumour with an authoritative denial otherwise than through the same fleet agency which circulated it. But that Mr. Balfour should first confide to the representative of the New York *Sun* the outlines of his great policy of public works in Ireland staggers credulity. According to this interview, however, it appears that without withdrawing the sword from the right hand, the Government is about to

hold out to the people of Ireland the olive branch with the left. A great scheme of arterial drainage, involving the expenditure of very large sums of money is to be undertaken, as a means of relieving the prevalent distress. This is to be followed up from year to year. The scheme is of such magnitude and importance that it will be surprising if the faithful Commoners do not intimate that it should first have been communicated to them, as the holders of the purse strings. On the whole it will be safer to withhold comment until the statements have been confirmed by better authority.

RUSSIA has just given to the Christian world a new interpretation of the meaning of religious liberty. The Evangelical Alliance last Autumn embraced the opportunity afforded by the Czar's visit to Denmark to present a memorial setting forth instances of the persecution of Lutherans in the Baltic Provinces on account of their religious belief. The Czar seems to have handed the matter over to M. Pobedonoszeff, the Ober-Procureur of the Holy Synod of the Greek Church, and this official has now addressed to the President of the Central Swiss Committee of the Evangelical Alliance a lengthy letter explaining and defending the policy of the Russian Government. Liberty of worship is one thing it appears, liberty of speech another. The constant care of the Czar, says the Ober-Procureur, extends to all his subjects without distinction of race or religion, and his Majesty wishes to secure for them all the free exercise of religion; but this, he is at pains to make clear, does not include the right of proselytising. "Never," he declares, "will Russia grant them freedom of propagandism, never will she allow the Orthodox Church to be robbed of her children. She declares this in her laws, and appeals to the supreme justice of Him who alone rules the fates of empires. This position M. Pobedonoszeff goes on to vindicate, in a lengthy argument, which amounts to this: that it is the Greek Church which gives strength and stability to the Russian Empire, by sustaining and fostering national sentiment. This it is which has enabled Russia to fulfil her mission of holding the balance between the East and the West, and keeping the barbarous hordes and the Mohammedan hosts of Asia out of Europe. "What saved Russia was her national spirit, raised and nourished by the Orthodox Church . . . and her sacred duty is to keep from the Orthodox Church all that can menace her security." The predominating object in guarding the Church is thus political rather than religious.

THERE is, to say the least, nothing inherently improbable in the supposition that other members of the planetary system of which our earth forms a unit, may be, like it, abodes of intelligent life, and theatres of scientific and industrial activity. Nor will those who have kept track of the growth of the science of astronomy, and especially of the development of the marvellous powers of the telescope, be wholly incredulous as to the possibility of astronomers becoming one day able to discover unmistakable indications of the presence and operations of such intelligent agents in the planets nearest us. This, a European astronomer, M. Perrotin, by name, even now claims to have done in the case of the planet Mars. Those who are familiar with the maps of this planet as outlined by the star explorers, showing the surface divided into long, narrow bands, presumably alternate strips of sea and land, will at once realize that, as an English contemporary puts it, "a few great inter-oceanic canals would be of immense benefit to commerce," and so a great convenience to the merchants and travellers of Mars. According to Mr. Perrotin, straight transverse lines have of late begun to make their appearance, intersecting these parallel bands. These lines the astronomer, with scientific instinct, at once recognizes as canals in process of construction. It seems not a little curious, assuming that the sister planet has, like our own, been through long æons the abode of intelligent beings of some order capable of wielding pick and shovel, or whatever may do duty for those implements in another sphere, should have commenced these great engineering feats in the same generation—if they count by generations there—as ourselves. Can it be that the Mars folk are interested observers of what takes place on earth, and have taken a hint from the operations of M. de Lesseps in Suez and Panama? Seriously, however, we may be wise to hold our scepticism in check, and await with interest the observations of other astronomers, who will no doubt be eager to follow up and test the clue given by M. Perrotin.

WHILE the resources of British military science are being laid under contribution for no other purpose that one can discover than to put the nation in a position to resist a possible French invasion by sea, the brains of certain scientific Frenchmen are busy with a project which, if successful, will give their countrymen a "walk over" into Britain. Their ambition

will be satisfied with nothing less than bridging the Straits of Dover. Already two leading engineers have wrought out the details of the plan, and, like good practical men of the time, put the result into figures. The cost of the bridge is to be, they tell us, \$150,000,000, and the quantity of iron to be used, 2,000,000 of tons. True, these numbers are round, and a little formidable in size, even in these days when we count by millions as readily as did our grandfathers by thousands or hundreds of thousands. But, though the project seems colossal, almost beyond the bounds of the credible, it would be at the least hasty to scout it as utterly impracticable. It is not so long since the stupendous structure that is now being thrown across the Frith of Forth would have seemed more wildly visionary than the projected highway over the Channel can possibly appear to those who know that the former wonderful engineering dream is rapidly being transformed into sober reality. The designers of the Channel bridge are even now contemplating applications to the French and English Governments for the requisite concessions. It seems almost absurd to conjecture that the bridge will be opposed in the British Parliament with the same arguments which proved so effective against the tunnel. And yet one can hardly see why the one might not prove as dangerous as the other. It may be added that the projected viaduct is to be high enough to admit of the passage under it of masted ships, and that it is to be a roadway, railway, tramway and footpath, all in one. Even the cyclists are to be provided for.

HAVING completed her great Southern railway to Samarcand, Russia is now turning her attention to the North. Siberia is next to be opened up to trade and civilization. We have all of us had from childhood indefinite conceptions of this vast land as a dreary, inhospitable region, a land of terrible frost, fathomless snows, and interminable wastes. All these features have existed in our minds but as the background for dark pictures of the miseries endured by wretched exiles, doomed by a cruel despotism to all the horrors of a living death in a region of absolute despair. In the light of the better knowledge now afforded by such writers as Mr. Kennan, who is describing the country in the *Century Magazine*, we find the truth of some of those pictures fully confirmed, but we have at the same time revelations of a very different character. Siberia is now known to be a country of vast, though practically undeveloped, resources, having immense tracts of fertile land, regions of impressive and often beautiful scenery, and, in some parts, of already advanced civilization. The opening up of this vast domain, a continent in itself, will be an event in the history of European civilization. Of course, with the entry of the railroad the system of political exile must come to an end. The Government is already taking steps for its abolition. The Administration Council of the Penitentiary Department has recently reported in favour of abolition of transportation to Siberia as a judicial punishment, and in all probability the system is doomed. As the prisoners will henceforth be shut up in dungeons at home, instead of being sent into Siberian exile, it does not appear that they, or the cause of humanity, will be immediate gainers by the change. But the spirit of change and of emancipation is manifestly at work, and will not cease till the whole land has come under its influence. When political exile has died, political imprisonment cannot long survive.

#### THE BANK OF MONTREAL.

The Bank of Montreal has completed the seventieth year of its existence, and its annual statement, and the remarks made thereupon by the President and General Manager, deserve careful attention. One marked feature which renders this country an unfavourable field for banking enterprise is simply and clearly stated by the General Manager. He says, "With all our care, every year tells us that losses cannot be escaped. The system of long credits, which prevail in Canada, adds materially to the hazards of business." We have here an old story, and it is easier to admit that this blot is a disgrace to the intelligence of our business men than to suggest a workable remedy. The banking interest is more than any other in a position to cope with the evil, inasmuch as our whole commercial system revolves round our chartered banks. Mr. Buchanan felicitated his hearers upon the fact that we are less dependent upon our crops than was the case even within a recent period. Sir Donald Smith, however, distinctly recognized the crop prospects as the principal factor in forecasting future financial probabilities, and he warns us of the danger attending the growth of our industries. There is no inconsistency in all this. The circumstances which alone make the development of our manufactures a source of danger may be stated in a sentence. They are largely carried on upon borrowed capital, and the goods produced are largely sold upon credit.

The banks are relied upon as the main source of supply in both classes of operations. It is equally unimportant whether this unhealthy state of affairs is a cause of our backwardness or a result of it. Such abuse of credit as we see around us is ruinous from a material point of view, and it has a direct tendency to lower the moral tone of those engaged in business. We do not dispute the wisdom of leaving economic laws to work out their own results, if by this is meant that legislative interference is likely to do more harm than good. Yet, if excessive competition be, as is alleged, a cause of our present evil plight, it is surely within the discretion of our legislators to render negative help when special charters are applied for. In the case of banking institutions, for instance, no public inconvenience would be felt should no new charter be granted during the remaining years of this century. There are grounds for the belief that such a restriction would be a positive benefit.

The Bank of Montreal controls one-fifth of the paid-up banking capital of the country. Its "Rest" is more than one-third of the total of this fund. Its annual statement shows total assets, exclusive of bank premises, (speaking in dollars) of forty-eight millions. The annual dividend of ten per cent. upon its capital is, therefore, equal to two and one half per cent. upon the entire amount controlled by the bank. In round figures the situation may be thus stated :

1st. The bank deems it prudent to hold in Canada nearly five millions in coin, legal tender notes and the obligations of other Canada banks.

2nd. Nearly ten millions on call in the United States, and over one million in Great Britain.

3rd. The remainder, thirty-two millions, is the fund employed in Canada.

Thus, one third of its assets are, from prudential motives, kept practically unproductive. Turning to the other side of the account we have :—

1st. The Bank's circulation of five and a half millions.

2nd. Non-interest bearing deposits of nine and a half millions.

3rd. Interest bearing deposits of fourteen millions, and the funds of the shareholders, nineteen millions.

It will be seen from the above that the Bank could discharge every liability to the public by curtailing its Canadian business to the extent of forty per cent. It is only by comparison with banks outside of Canada that we are able to realize how strong a position this really is.

The case of the Bank of England is of course unique. The returns of the Bank of Ireland are so classified as to render an exact comparison impracticable, but they compare favourably with those of the Bank of Montreal. With these two exceptions, there is no bank in the Empire in so strong a position. To prevent misunderstanding, we hasten to say that this is not necessarily a matter for unalloyed satisfaction. In no other part of the Empire (the poorer Provinces of Ireland not excluded), is there an instance of an equally well managed bank failing to attract from the public larger deposits in proportion to the investment of capital by the shareholders ; so that the strength of the Bank under consideration in this regard merely indicates the comparative absence of unemployed capital in Canada. This condition of affairs should not be lost sight of in any attempts to place our credit system upon a sound basis.

The General Manager briefly referred to the policy of the Government in respect to the savings of the people. Happily this subject has at no time been made a party question, neither has it heretofore received anything like the attention it has deserved. There is a general agreement that the employment of the Post Office Department as a means of facilitating smaller savings is a wise one ; but if the Executive undertakes the functions of banking it should at least conform to sound banking practice. Were a bank to give a high fixed rate for deposits at short notice the final result would be disaster, and the continuance of such a practice by the State is economically indefensible. It is good policy to extend the system of banking within the reach of the working classes ; it is not good policy to provide a means of permanent investment based upon an unsound principle. The locking up in permanent public works of forty millions of the savings of an impecunious community is in itself an evil. To attract or to retain them by imposing upon the State a direct loss of interest in addition to the expenses of management is mischievous folly. The object aimed at by the Government in undertaking to receive savings is the prevention of waste it is not surely to prevent such savings from fructifying themselves in the community. In connection with this matter the establishment of a system of annuities simple enough to be popularly understood should be considered. It would be out of place here to discuss the point whether this should be done directly through the Post Office Department or by means of the machinery of a National Debt Commission, which should have as an object the reduction of the debt.

We heartily congratulate the management upon the success of the Bank. It is a Canadian institution : here its stock is mainly owned : here, too

it has always been managed, and Canadians feel a just pride in its long and honourable career. It began in our national infancy, and it is just that it should share in the prosperity it has done so much to promote. There are only seven other joint stock banks in the Empire that were in existence in 1818—the Banks of England and Ireland, already referred to; four in Scotland, and one Colonial bank. The last five have paid-up capitals averaging little more than one-half that of the Bank of Montreal. The average number of branches of the four Scotch banks is one hundred and nineteen. The Colonial one—the Bank of New South Wales, established in 1817—has one hundred and eighty-two branches, and the market value of its stock is three hundred and fifty.

### THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION AGAIN.

THE advocates of temperance seem to be divided for the moment as to the policy to be pursued on the question which is nearest their hearts. Some are unwilling to abandon "Local option" without further struggle, while others are disposed to commence an agitation for total prohibition, under the authority of the Dominion Government. High license and limited license meet no favour from them, which is not matter for astonishment. High license merely adds to the desire to sell more liquor to pay the tax. Reducing the number of taverns, while there are still sufficient to offer an open door to every inebriate, is as irrational as fastening the stable door after the horse is stolen. But of all the follies of which men have been guilty, in connection with the liquor question, commend me to the proposal to establish at public expense asylums for the cure of inebriates. License the tavern to enable men and women to drink and when their appetites have become depraved, try to cure them by a short abstinence and turn them out to fall once more under temptation, the fate of ninety-nine inebriates among a hundred!

The out-and-out prohibitionist is logical in his methods whatever may be thought of his chances of success. Absolute entire suppression of the traffic is a complete remedy for intemperance, and I do not suppose that the world would lose much if it were carried into effect, while the gain would undoubtedly be enormous. That the use of alcohol is often beneficial I have no doubt. A recent writer in the *Century Magazine* who speaks with authority, and is evidently master of his subject, declares stimulant to be a valuable aid to digestion, and many can support his statement from personal experience. But the view of Carpenter, and other writers on the side of total abstinence that stimulus can be had in a less seductive form than that which is now so common, is likewise true. It does seem, however, rather a strong interference with the liberty of the subject to grant the necessity for stimulant and proceed to limit not the quantity but the character of the agent. Every one knows how various are the idiosyncracies of the human stomach, that "what is one man's meat is another man's poison," and it is not probable that till the world at large has attained to a much higher state of development than it has yet reached will there be a general agreement to the total suppression of alcohol. It is true that Mahomet secured general obedience from his followers in the matter. The true believers, however, if we can rely upon the reports of travellers, have always drunk and now drink a good deal upon the sly, and it must be recollected that the false prophet found converts in hot countries only where the atmosphere affords of itself sufficient stimulus.

People may argue and joke about the liquor traffic, but it is beyond denial that drunkenness is a gigantic evil, destroying, soul and body, millions of men and women every year, and inflicting untold misery on their relations and friends. Very few deny that some remedy is needed. Numberless have been the checks put upon the liquor traffic from the earliest ages to the present time. All have failed. A thoroughly prohibitory liquor law for the Dominion would meet with strenuous opposition in Parliament, and from the press and people at large. It could only be enforced at enormous expense and with a repetition of the serious conflicts which have marked the career of the Scott Act. Not only men of the baser sort would resist the law, it would be set at defiance by many respectable citizens. Even an attempt could not be made to put it in operation without an expenditure of many millions to recompense the manufacturers. The smuggling from the States and the illicit manufacture would be enormous and have a demoralizing effect on large sections of the community. Temperance men have nothing just now presented to them by their leaders save a long expensive struggle, with no better result in view than the failure which the Scott Act has encountered.

Since my first letter on the subject appeared in THE WEEK, I have been frequently asked whether it was the Swedish law that I proposed to introduce into Canada? With the aid of City Librarian Bain, to whom no one goes for information in vain, I learned that the Swedish system is one of local option, the regulations being mainly left to the municipal authorities to formulate. What is called the Gothenburg system, introduced by the magistrates of that town under the Permissive Act, differs in one particular from any other that I have heard of. They do not allow the liquor sellers to make a profit from their customers. The municipality gives a monopoly to a company, composed of the best citizens, which supplies the dealers, twenty-five in number, with brantvin, a kind of whiskey. Cheap food is provided in all the taverns, and the keepers sell the liquor at cost, and make their living by the profits on the food. Hotels of a higher class and grocers are allowed to sell without much restriction. There is not much comfort for prohibitionists in these regulations, though drunkenness is said to have diminished in consequence of the low taverns having been closed. Those who go to the licensed taverns have every facility for drinking spirits with their meals, the price of brantvin being

low and the quality good, and there is apparently no fixed limit to the quantity, one writer mentioning that customers re-appear ten or twelve times during the day. The taverns close at eight p.m., and it is to be presumed that liquor would be refused to any one obviously intoxicated.

Prohibitionists desire the extinction of the importation, manufacture and sale of strong drink of all kinds, and they think that in time they will attain their object. But, in the meantime, they must see that liquor will be freely sold and drunkenness will increase. The assumption by the Government of the Dominion of the importation, manufacture and sale of liquor would be a long step towards the object desired by Temperance men. It would bring the traffic directly under the control of Parliament, and consequently of the people. The distilleries and breweries would be purchased or worked by their present owners under Government superintendence. As the sale was reduced by stringent regulations against the use of immoderate quantities by any one, and the entire stoppage of supplies to the intemperate, the manufacture would be gradually lessened, and machinery wearing out would not be renewed. Thus the violent measure proposed by the Prohibitionists of stopping the manufacture in a single day, without compensation to owners, would be avoided, and the Government placed in a position to follow public opinion as expressed at the polls. If it demanded total prohibition after a trial of restricted Government sale, it could be granted with very little trouble or expense. If, on the contrary, the system of restriction prevented drunkenness and consequent crime, the moderate sale would be continued. It may be said that suppression of drunkenness will be difficult, but it will not be impossible. Let the Government undertake the sale, aided, not merely by teetotallers, but by all the decent men in the community, and drunkenness can be put down by strict limiting of the amount sold to all and entire prohibition for the man or woman known to be intemperate. Even the secret drunkard is easily detected. His friends and relatives know his weakness, and by communicating the fact privately, to the authorities, would secure stoppage of the supply. The public drunkard would be reported by the police. All that is mere matter of detail. Give a willingness on the part of the public to submit to total prohibition—alleged to exist by Temperance men—and submission to a limited supply to the sober and total abstinence for the drunkard is easy.

I am prepared to find Prohibitionists reject this plan, but as time goes on, and they find themselves blocked in their efforts for total prohibition, they will be glad to accept my proposition. J. GORDON BROWN.

### VILLANELLE.

SPRUNG from a sword-sheath fit for Mars,  
Sharp and straight, of a gay glad green,  
My jonquil lifts its yellow stars.

Barter, would I, for the dross of the Czars,  
These golden flowers and buds fifteen  
Sprung from a sword-sheath fit for Mars?

Barter, would you, these scimitars,  
Among which lit by their light so keen  
My jonquil lifts its yellow stars?

No! For the breast may break its bars,  
The heart its shell at sight of the sheen  
Sprung from a sword-sheath fit for Mars.

Miles away from the mad earth's jars,  
Beneath its leafy and shining screen,  
My jonquil lifts its yellow stars.

And I, self-scathed with mortal scars,  
I weep when I see in its radiant mien,  
Sprung from a sword-sheath fit for Mars,  
My jonquil lifts its yellow stars!

SERANUS.

### THE ANGLICAN SYNOD.

WE are glad that we are, on the whole, able to congratulate the Bishop of Toronto and his diocese upon the proceedings at the meeting of the Synod last week. In the first place, it was gratifying to learn that the various societies and organizations for educational and missionary purposes are in a flourishing condition, and that their financial state is more prosperous than in former years.

Again, it is a sincere matter of congratulation that the bitter party spirit which formerly marred the proceedings of the Anglican Synod, seems to be dying out. It is a scandal to Christians, in which not merely the particular community concerned is interested, when hot and bitter disputes break out among those who profess the same religion. It is surely worse when the strife is among members of the same Church. All communions must rejoice to know that this evil spirit is passing away. We do not, of course, mean that it is extinct in any denomination. Among Presbyterians it is still found that representatives of the old established Church of Scotland on the one hand, and representatives of the Free Church on the other hand, will go into different lobbies when a division takes place. And so, among Anglicans, the tendencies represented by the High Church, Low Church, and Broad Church (Altitudinarian, Plitudinarian and Latitudinarian, as Bishop Wilberforce used to call them) will

## MONTREAL LETTER.

drive men apart, except in the case of men of unusual breadth and depth who may unite all the three tendencies. Nor must we forget that, in our present condition of imperfect knowledge and incomplete life, these very divisions which we mourn over may be made a means of good which, in our actual circumstances, could not otherwise be obtained.

It is hardly necessary to refer to one episode in the proceedings of the Synod which might seem to militate against the opinion which we have expressed. We refer, of course, to the somewhat heated discussion on the Sunday School leaflets, and the teaching which they contain. The curious thing that came out was, that the leaflets proceeded from the very school whose representatives made objection to them, so that the whole discussion originated in a mistake. We do not, for a moment, suggest that those who raised the question intended to disturb the harmony of the Synod. If they did so, the attempt was a conspicuous failure. In any case, the termination of the incident must have been gratifying to the Bishop and to those members of the Synod who "labour for peace."

One subject which was debated with some warmth was the resolution to deprive endowed Churches and Clergymen of that portion of their "commutation grant" which was represented in their endowment. Undoubtedly, the principle of the resolution was sound, and it was carried. But it may entail hardships upon individuals; and some of those who will suffer evidently feel keenly what they consider the injustice of the decision. They say that they will be none the better off because of the Rectory surplus. It is no business of ours to advise the Synod; but it does seem that some plan should be adopted which should, at once, make the disposition of the funds of the Church available in the widest manner without doing injustice to those who are doing the work of the Church with very inadequate remuneration. It is not quite easy for us to go further into this matter; and besides, the remarks here offered will be sufficient for those who are interested in the subject.

There is one other point of general interest upon which we would venture to make some remarks. We have heard many complaints of the irregularity of the debates, and the newspaper reports fully bear out the complainants in their contention. It is difficult to count up the number of times that some of the more loquacious members of the Synod must have spoken during its recent sessions; but this is not the worst. A frequent speaker may be a nuisance or a bore, but still he may be within his legal rights. This is not what we are thinking of; but the case of those who speak three or four times to the same resolution or motion, and that not merely in explanation of their meaning or in protesting against a violation of order, or the like, but actually making set speeches, and in some cases a good many times. This is really intolerable and should be put a stop to.

We are not criticizing the conduct of the President. The Bishop made (and we believe always does make) an excellent chairman. He is fair, courteous, patient, as well as firm. Sometimes he puts his foot down very decidedly, and refused to move from his position, with the evident acquiescence of the great majority of the Synod. But the rule of the Synod seems to be that no member is to speak to the same motion more than twice, and it is needless to say that such a rule defeats itself. A man who has spoken twice easily forgets that he has spoken more than once. In all assemblies of a consultative and legislative character that ever we have heard of in civilized times, the only person allowed a second speech is the mover of a resolution, and it is extremely difficult to see what good end can be served by departing from such a rule. The consequence of the present rule in the Anglican Synod is that hardly any one pays the least attention to it, and so it comes to pass that the bores with which such assemblies are always afflicted exercise a quite unlimited power of wearying the patience of their long suffering neighbours.

This is bad enough; but a worse consequence results from this licence. When a man knows that he can speak but once on a subject in which he is interested, he will think twice before he gets upon his feet, and will carefully put his thoughts together that he may not throw away his opportunity of enforcing his opinion. In the other case, when people can speak, and do speak, any number of times, they will jump up without thinking once, in obedience to any passing emotion, and so waste the time of the meeting in a way that would to themselves seem utterly unjustifiable, if others were the offenders, and they the spectators.

We hear that a motion will be brought forward at the next meeting of the Synod to put an end to this nuisance. We understand that it is quite unknown in English diocesan conferences, and no reason is assigned for its toleration here. Apart from these irregularities the proceedings of the Anglican Synod seems to have been worthy of the great communion which it represents.

M. A.

THE English language, strong, delicate, elastic, simple in its grammar, varied in its vocabulary, rich in its literature, spoken by over 100,000,000 people in two of the leading nations of the earth, would seem to be just the language that should become universal.

RESERVE is the secret of Matthew Arnold's art. Keenly sensitive to all that was fair in Nature, he looked at Nature with the eyes of one who was, first of all, a man interested in the pursuits and struggles of humanity. The artist rarely absorbed the man, but the man, it must be added, never forgot that he was an artist. He looked at the world lovingly, but with trained eyes. He saw the blots as clearly as the beauties, and he noted both. A student, who could not confine himself to books: an enthusiast, whose disciplined intelligence forbade him to rhapsodize: a moralist, who saw more in society than its problems: a melodist, who valued verse not for the music's sake alone: he passed on his way indifferent—too coldly indifferent, perhaps—whether or not, he caught the fancy of the multitude.

WHETHER it lead to anything or not, we always experience a certain satisfaction on hearing that our good fellow-citizens have met together to help the wronged through all the town. At Thursday's spirited meeting a proposition was made recommending local assessments for local improvements. The city shall be divided into sections, in which those proprietors desiring the widening of streets may, provided they form a majority, make and maintain such improvements under control of the city surveyor. Their exemption from other taxation for similar purposes during the progress of this work is naturally understood. Toronto, we were told, followed the proposed scheme with eminent success. That people should object to those often most arbitrary limitations set down by the Council at an unreasonable distance from the spot under repair must be readily understood, but that the community, or rather the city, shall eventually gain in carrying out this new system remains dark. There certainly exist some methods by which our town might be improved with greater celerity than at present. We trust we have a right to hope the palatial gentlemen of the West End would, once matters had been placed in their own hands, set to work and pave Sherbrooke Street, the loveliest of drives, but whose roadway, alas! a backwoods path could hardly surpass. It is the East End that troubles us, and the East End needs the principal reparations. With all due respect to him who proclaimed the English-speaking residents of Montreal the most obtuse and disunited people on the continent, and the French an eminently creditable community, we doubt whether in the pretty rivalry some utopian-minded individual predicted as likely to follow the adoption of the new system when street beautifying should begin, the east would not sacrifice admiration to barley loaves.

The meeting was adjourned till next week, the citizens having come to the always more or less suggestive decision that "they would think about it."

On the first Monday of every month His Grace the Archbishop holds a reception in the square brick palace standing behind St. Peter's Cathedral. Simple and unpretending enough this archiepiscopal residence, so that one might easily mistake it for some school. The ante-rooms are bare to austerity, and the servant who answered us of becomingly grace and unlackey like appearance. We were ushered into a huge saloon where sat along the wall solemn-faced gentlemen who looked disconcerting memories of older conclaves dissimilar but with regard to dress. Such memories, however, Monseigneur's genial manner and countenance quickly dispelled for the nonce. He rose from his throne, and coming forward, received us with charming cordiality. Monseigneur Fabre is rather short, stout, with a priestly physiognomy—strongly marked features, eyes that see all, yet nothing—and furthermore, *homme du monde* (I wonder if the clergy of other churches realize how strong a card this latter quality may be). His Grace leaves shortly for Paris and Rome. Every ten years, it appears, such a trip he must take in order to visit the different *mother houses* of the various orders, and also to see and converse with the Pope. Monseigneur's sojourn at French, not French Canadian, colleges his accent betrays pleasantly. After most of the solemn gentlemen had retired, not, however, without having kneeled and kissed the archiepiscopal ring while His Grace addressed some friendly words to each, Monseigneur left the throne—a beautiful piece of Canadian workmanship, designed for the cathedral, and presented by the priests whom the Archbishop has ordained—and showed and explained to us the paintings lining the walls. There was a dingy portrait of the last of the Recollects, and here that of the founder of the Oblates. Pius IX. looked down with his usual imperturbable benignity, and Gregory's dark countenance showed well against a crimson background. But I cannot begin to tell you the names of all the other dignitaries, among whom by the way, figured shyly Prince Arthur's face with an autograph beneath.

"*Enfin*, this is I. As you see, the resemblance is not striking."

"Fortunately, Monsigneur, we are as yet very far from having any need of such a portrait."

Directly under *Notre Dame's* sentinel towers, in the green square before the parish church, a huge tent has been erected, where all day long the *Kermesse* attracts sundry and diverse creeds and classes. This fair is given in aid of the *Notre Dame* hospital, a thoroughly Catholic (we use the word *un-etymologically*) institution, which does not, however, disdain foreign charity. The French element contributed very generously to the general hospital bazaar, and rightly, inasmuch as the Catholics in this house amount to a large percentage. The English reciprocate now by supplying and serving at three tables—the American, the Scotch and the English. It is a fair like all others, pretty enough with bits of bright colour, and fresh-faced young girls in the uniform of hospital nurses. I cannot tell what you and other men think of "fancy work," but there are those who would prefer cane-seated chairs and honest deal tables to the tawdry frippery with which modern drawing-rooms are hung, as if it were washing-day. Since women must stitch, why don't they broider like those well disciplined maidens of old, or like Eastern artists of the needle?

As the news has just reached us, I cannot tell you the general opinion on Dr. Wilson's refusal to be knighted. It must not, however, prove other than favourable. That commercial men should feel their position uncertain until stamped with the letters K.C.B. we understand, but that a man who has devoted his whole life to study, receives with pride, nay, welcomed with unscholarly glee any title outside what a university can bestow, a title coveted by successful English brewers and cotton manufacturers, is not only incomprehensible, but a tacit insult to learning. Though we have not the good fortune to boast of Dr. Wilson as a Montrealer, we are at least proud of him as a Canadian.

LOUIS LLOYD.

PROMINENT CANADIANS.—XIX.

SKETCHES of the following Prominent Canadians have already appeared in THE WEEK: Hon. Oliver Mowat, Dr. Daniel Wilson, Principal Grant, Sir John A. Macdonald, K.C.B., Louis Honoré Fréchette, LL.D., Sir J. William Dawson, Sir Alexander Campbell, K.C.M.G., Hon. William Stevens Fielding, Hon. Alexander Mackenzie, Sir William Leonard Tilley, C.B., K.C.M.G., Alexander McLachlan, Hon. J. A. Chapleau, Sir Richard Cartwright, K.C.M.G., Sanford Fleming, C.E., LL.D., C.M.G., Hon. H. G. Joly, Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Sir Wm. Buell Richards, and Hon. Wilfrid Laurier, M.P.

HONOURABLE HONORÉ MERCIER, Q.C., PREMIER OF QUEBEC.

NO ONE among our leaders of Provincial politics has come to the front of late years with more prominence, and few have surmounted more difficulties in achieving success, than the subject of this sketch, the Hon. Honoré Mercier, Minister of Agriculture and Premier of Quebec. And that well marked prominence, in our opinion, has been largely due, apart from ordinary circumstances, to the very bitterness that his political adversaries have displayed in attacking him personally, and in attempting to thwart his designs with all the means at the disposal of a strong party organization.

When the Hon. H. G. Joly resigned the leadership of her Majesty's loyal Opposition in the Quebec Parliament, during the Session of 1883, the Liberals formed a minority of fifteen out of a House composed of sixty-five members; and only one Liberal held a seat in the upper branch of the Legislature, with a membership of twenty-four Legislative Councillors.

It required more than usual courage and devotion to party principles to accept the heavy responsibilities of leadership under such unfavourable circumstances, and Mr. Mercier, who was elected to the position, must have felt in accepting the honour conferred upon him at that time by his colleagues, that he was leading a forlorn hope in the daily struggle which he had to wage against a powerful Provincial Government, strongly supported by all the electoral influences of the Federal authorities at Ottawa.

Quebec was then looked upon as the stronghold of Conservatism, and it was only at short spasmodic intervals that the Liberals had ever had occasion to govern in that Province. At the present day, under the guidance of Mr. Mercier as Premier and Minister of Agriculture, the Liberals hold the reins of power in Quebec with a majority of sixteen in the Legislative Assembly and with a controlling influence in the Legislative Council.

The change wrought in such a short time (1883-88) has been sufficiently remarkable, even in Provincial politics, to cause the public to inquire by whose capable and energetic hand the movement was directed that achieved such success for the Liberal cause.

The Hon. Honoré Mercier was born at Iberville, in 1840, and belongs to a family of sturdy farmers who settled in Canada over two centuries ago. He was educated at the Jesuits' College, in Montreal, where he graduated with honours. He then commenced to read law in St. Hyacinthe, in the office of Messrs. Laframboise and Papineau, both afterwards called to the Superior Court Bench. Mr. Mercier was admitted to practice in 1865, but already, as a student, he had for two or three years taken an active part in the political struggles of the day, and at the age of twenty-two had become managing editor of *Le Courrier de St. Hyacinthe*. Although at first a great admirer and follower of Sir G. E. Cartier, he parted company with him on the question of Confederation, and ever since 1867, Mr. Mercier has been an enthusiastic exponent of the Liberal doctrines as they are understood and practised in the Dominion of Canada.

At the general elections of 1872 Mr. Mercier was elected to the Federal House of Commons for the county of Rouville, and took his seat on the Opposition benches, under the leadership of the Hon. Alexander Mackenzie. He took an active part in the memorable debates of those days on the question of the Pacific Scandal. At the general elections of 1874 he retired from the contest in Rouville to make way for one of his political friends, the late Mr. Cheval, M.P.

Again a candidate in 1878 for Parliamentary honours, he was this time defeated by Judge Tellier by a majority of six, in the county of St. Hyacinthe, but was the next year, 1879, elected to the Provincial Legislature for the same county, and appointed Solicitor-General in the Joly administration. Mr. Mercier entered the Cabinet on the eve of its downfall, but sat long enough on the Treasury Benches of Quebec to show himself a well informed, energetic, and eloquent debater. It is needless to recall here the facts connected with the defeat of the Liberal Cabinet through the treason of five members of the Legislature, who had been elected by Liberal constituencies to support Mr. Joly, but who voted against him to accept Cabinet and other positions from Mr. Chapleau, and who became supporters of the new Conservative Administration.

The Liberals became somewhat discouraged at this unexpected turn of affairs; and Mr. Mercier, for a moment thought of abandoning politics to devote himself exclusively to the practice of his profession. But his friends prevailed upon him to retain his seat in Parliament, and when the Honourable Mr. Joly, in 1883, resigned the leadership he was unanimously elected to replace him, by his Liberal colleagues.

In this new rôle Mr. Mercier was afforded an opportunity of displaying to full advantage those remarkable qualities which have placed him in so short a space of time in the front rank of Canadian statesmen. In the three succeeding years he showed himself, through good and ill report, to be a leader imbued with the courage of his convictions, always standing to his guns, and never flinching under the most raking fire of his adversaries. With only a corporal's guard of followers, he maintained a struggle against a Government, which, owing to its long lease of power, the skilful manner in which it had manipulated the constituencies, and the inherent

prejudice that appeared to exist against anything bearing the name of Liberal, seemed well-nigh invincible. Mr. Mercier's fight was a heroic one. With a following reduced to fifteen members, he had to check three successive Governments. His adversaries soon began to feel the force of his attack, and one after the other the Hon. J. A. Chapleau and Hon. J. A. Mousseau retired discomfited from the field, leaving in other hands the direction of the party. The Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition in the Local Legislature, by his scathing denunciation of the mismanagement and recklessness of his opponents, succeeded in demoralizing the Conservative ranks, and gained for himself great popularity in the country. That courage which is one of the most prominent traits in Mr. Mercier's character was at this period of his career brought out in strong relief. Poor in this world's goods—having a family to support—a large and complicated law practice to attend to—with a mere handful of followers and the chances a thousand to one against him—unmercifully maligned, misrepresented, and traduced by his opponents he stood by his post while his enemies decried him, until devotion won its reward and success crowned his brilliant efforts. Looking over the whole field of Canadian politics, few instances can be found of a party leader who has attained such success in the face of such seemingly insurmountable difficulties. To properly understand the situation, it must be remembered that in 1886 when Mr. Mercier entered upon the campaign that resulted in the defeat of his opponents, the Liberal party was without organization or discipline. The genius of its leader speedily asserted itself, and once more placing himself at the head of his followers, he commenced a combat with his opponents that ended only with their overthrow. It was virtually a struggle to the death.

The memorable events of the campaign of 1886, its *raison d'être*, the exciting incidents that attended it, and the absorbing interest with which it was watched throughout the Dominion, are too recent in the minds of all readers to require any elaboration in this article. Dealing as we are with Mr. Mercier in a personal aspect, and as a party leader, it is only necessary to point out a few of the salient features of this remarkable period in his career. There are those who pretend to find fault with the present Premier for his actions at this stage. But it must not be forgotten that at this time Quebec politics were in a peculiar position. There were those in both parties who were disgusted at the inaptitude and mismanagement shown by the Government of the day, and it was seen that something had to be done for the honour of the Province. Dissatisfaction was appearing in the Conservative ranks, and it was therefore not surprising that the eyes of many Conservatives turned to Mr. Mercier as the only leader capable of inaugurating a new and more successful era in Provincial politics. Mr. Mercier was too great a tactician, as well as too patriotic a Canadian, to lose sight of the opportunity. He saw with the eye of a practised statesman that by uniting all sections on behalf of a good and honest Government, the result would be a comparatively easy task. This was the *raison d'être* of the new National Party, of which Mr. Mercier became the head and active spirit. The result of his foresight was speedily apparent. When the general elections of 1886 were brought on, Mr. Mercier devoted himself to the exposition of his new policy with herculean energy. With a few trusted followers he began an extended tour from one end of the Province to the other, addressing meetings in county after county, and appealing personally to the people for the endorsement of his programme. It was, in many respects, a remarkable incident. His opponents had money and the *prestige* that long years of government assures, the leader of the gallant little band of Oppositionists had only his untiring energy and the heroic devotion of a small band of enthusiastic supporters. But with all the disadvantages under which he laboured, he never faltered in his gallant struggle. Traversing the length and breadth of the Province he addressed no less than one hundred and sixty public meetings, crossing swords with the most redoubtable of opponents, and utterly worsting them in debate. His vigorous assaults soon commenced to have their effect. The people, accustomed to believe that there was nothing good outside of the Conservative party, began to ask themselves if a man who displayed such splendid courage, such determined energy, and such powerful talents as he had shown, was not fit for the highest position in the Province. Moreover his political programme was one that secured the support of the great body of the electors. There was the most urgent necessity for the speedy restoration of the Provincial finances to a sound basis, the readjustment of the representation, and the better protection of Provincial rights. Mr. Mercier was the only leader in Provincial politics who had the courage to come out squarely on these issues, and to his firm and decided stand in this respect, not a little of his future success was due. The results of the elections are known to every one familiar with Canadian politics. Going to the country with a following of fifteen members, out of a House of sixty-five, Mr. Mercier returned with a substantial majority in the Chamber.

The defeated Government did not take the result with the best possible grace, and it was not until after considerable and vexatious opposition that it yielded to the inevitable, and that Mr. Mercier was called upon by Lieut.-Gov. Masson to form a Cabinet. This he accomplished with great success, giving representation to the different elements in the party, and gathering around him several of the strongest figures in Provincial parliamentary life.

The subsequent events of Mr. Mercier's career are of too recent occurrence to require much attention at this time. After a brief adjournment of the Legislature he again appeared before the House as Leader of the Government with a clearly formulated policy, which he was prepared to defend all along the line. Its principal planks, as already indicated, were the restoration of the finances to a sound basis, the re-adjustment of representation, and the protection of Provincial rights. Several of these measures the Premier has successfully inaugurated, others are only await-



ing a favourable occasion. So strong and determined was his policy that Mr. Mercier found himself at the end of his first session in a more powerful position than ever.

The Quebec Premier has been called the "Man of Providence," and looking at the remarkable series of subsequent victories, it would almost appear as if he were befriended by Providence. Since his return in 1886 by a rather restricted majority, victory after victory has attended his course, by-election after by-election have resulted in the return of his supporters. Much needed reforms have been inaugurated in the civil service, energy and activity have been infused into the various public departments, and special attention has been paid to the important work of colonization and agriculture. A new loan of three and a half millions was also negotiated in a manner that showed that Mr. Mercier was not only a skilful party leader but also a sound financier.

Other reforms are in contemplation: many outstanding difficulties are to be regulated; the Provincial debt is to be consolidated, and thus a large amount of money saved to the people of the Province; further attention is to be paid to colonization and education, and the Province placed in a sound and prosperous situation.

But great as these labours of Mr. Mercier have been, it was perhaps more than anything else his connection with an event of the greatest public importance to every section of the Dominion that drew the attention of the whole country to him, and at once marked him out as one of the most distinguished figures and far-seeing statesmen in Canadian politics. The Interprovincial Conference, conceived and successfully inaugurated by Quebec's Premier, was undoubtedly, both in its *personnel* and the far-reaching nature of its results, one of the most important gatherings that ever assembled in Canada. Mr. Mercier saw clearly on arriving in power that if Confederation was to be saved from the dangers which threatened it, means must be taken to get rid of the rotten timbers in the structure, and to put the Constitution on a sound and precise basis. Calling to his side the distinguished leaders of the other Provinces, without distinction of party, he sought their co-operation in a work that was fraught with importance to the whole Dominion. The results of the Conference are fresh in the minds of all. After a long and careful consideration of the various questions at issue, the heads of the different Provinces came to an agreement embodied in a series of resolutions, the carrying out of which it is hoped will tend to allay the many difficulties that have arisen in the past.

Mr. Mercier's versatile genius again showed itself conspicuously in connection with the work of the Conference. Though the youngest Premier in attendance, he was the guiding spirit of the Conference, and during its progress displayed a marvellous knowledge of the Constitution in all its aspects. His erudition, his deep research, and the breadth and strength of his mind were the admiration of all present. At the close of the Conference there was no doubt of Mr. Mercier's position in Canadian politics. He at once took a place in the front rank of statesmanship, and though his opponents have misrepresented his object, and sought to belittle the work of this important body, impartial men on both sides of politics have conceded that changes in the Constitution are in several cases urgently required, and that the work of the Conference will ultimately result in great good. There are many more points in Mr. Mercier's brilliant and varied career that might be dwelt upon did time permit. Viewed as a great party leader, a brilliant orator, and a wise ruler, he has been one of the most successful men of his day.

As a party leader, and the head of a Government, his distinguishing characteristics have already been referred to. As an orator, he is equally distinguished. Mr. Mercier's eloquence is peculiar to himself, and one requires to hear him to appreciate the force and vigour of his speech. There may be in Canadian parliamentary life more fervid orators, men endowed with a quicker and more subtle magnetism, whose words flow in a running torrent of eloquence. Very few possess in an equal degree the gift of impressing themselves on an audience. Mr. Mercier may not possess the voice or the elegant diction of Mr. Laurier, nor the large rhythmic periods with which Mr. Chapleau delights to cover up much that is commonplace, giving his audience the delusion of a grand eloquence. Mr. Mercier's eloquence, on the contrary, is a continual and powerful stream of tenacious and convincing logic. His eloquence recalls that of the old Roman Senate, in its days of sturdy republicanism. It is that of a Cato rather than a Cicero. The orator must be heard to be appreciated.

Addressing an audience of his countrymen on the great questions of the day, Mr. Mercier is seen at his best. Force and sincerity are the distinguishing elements of his speech. He speaks from the heart with a devotion to his cause that carries conviction to the minds of his auditors, overthrows the argument of his adversaries, and gains complete mastery over his hearers. It is as an orator that Mr. Mercier has won some of his greatest triumphs. As a skilful debater and a keen reasoner on the floor of Parliament, he has few equals and hardly any superior. He is a hard hitter and has made many enemies. He has been one of the best hated men in Canadian politics, and his enemies have spared no pains to overthrow him. He has been accused of vast and ambitious designs, and of many things that existed only in the minds of his traducers.

One of the favourite devices of his adversaries is to charge him with being the enemy of the English speaking people, claiming that the rights of the minority of this Province are not safe in his hands. Nothing could be further from the truth, and it is only proper that the English-speaking Province of Ontario should have a true conception of Mr. Mercier's position in this respect. Far from being an enemy of the English, Mr. Mercier has always been a zealous defender of the rights of the minority. His course as Leader of the Opposition was marked by many instances of zealous devotion to their cause, and when he was placed in the chief seat of power, notwithstanding the fact that, blinded by the

prejudices of the moment, the great bulk of the English-speaking electors had refused him their support, with a fairness and impartiality that showed him worthy of his high position, he forgot everything in his desire to do justice to all sections of the community. Since his advent to power the Protestant minority has had many signal proofs of his readiness to do them justice on all occasions. His course in regard to the Protestant Insane Asylum showed him to be fully alive to their interests. The members of the Protestant clergy were given respectful consideration, and so prompt and unexpected was the action of the Government in giving the required grant, that so eminent an authority as the Anglican Bishop Bond was constrained to publicly thank the Provincial Premier. In other Protestant works of a charitable and moral nature he has shown a deep interest, and is always ready to help a good cause. These facts, which are known to all, should be sufficient guarantee that Quebec's Premier is imbued with a spirit of fair play towards every one, without distinction of creed or origin.

The writer has endeavoured in a cursory way to trace a few of the salient features of Mr. Mercier's notable career. Much more might be said as the political situation opens up a broad field for speculation and research. But enough has been outlined to show that the present Premier of Quebec is destined to play no small part in Canadian politics of the future. Mr. Mercier is still young, and with a physique that can stand a great deal if he will only take proper care of himself, and not allow his devotion to run away with his health. In personal appearance he is the type of one born to command. His face is suggestive of great mental power and force of character. In private life he exhibits a fund of geniality that has gained him a host of friends. Only forty-eight years of age, he should have many years of usefulness before him. What the future may hold in store for him is uncertain; but that Mr. Mercier will be equal to all emergencies, that he will be guided by a sincere and earnest patriotism in all his public actions, and that his future career will be marked by the same energy, courage, and determination that have marked his past, there can be no doubt. The political horizon is full of shadows presaging momentous events that may tax the energy and patriotism of our public men to the utmost; but whatever the future may hold in store for the young Confederation, we may look to find standing in the front rank, amongst the patriotic phalanx of our public men, the figure of Honoré Mercier, Premier of Quebec.

H. BEAUGRAND.

#### IN RETURN.

GIVE me your love, I give to you  
Fresh heart-flowers, blooming, sweet, profuse,  
Cut with a reckless hand. They grew  
Beneath your smile, for your dear use.

GIVE me your joy, my joy will leap  
To meet and greet it on its way;  
Give me your graver thoughts; they keep  
Their place beside me all the day.

GIVE me your grief—still would it shun  
Regret, sighs, pity, phrase that cheers;  
These hurt the wounded heart. Dear one,  
I bring you naught but inward tears.

A. ETHELWYN WETHERALD.

#### WITH NATURE IN MAY.

II.  
(Concluded.)

BUT what do you see? do you still ask? I see the graceful trillium, the most simply graceful of Canadian wood flowers. Did you never notice its stem? Wherein lies its beauty? In gradations, I think, gradations both of form and colour. It is not a straight line nor yet a curve, but rather a series of curves imperceptibly gliding one into the other. Its colours, too, shade off from a red-brown where the stem springs from the ground to a shining green at the calyx. I see the dandelion, a glorious flower despite its commonness. Why should commonness destroy beauty? I deny that it does, any more than repetition destroys wonderfulness. But I can see hundreds of dandelions without leaving home, you say. Yes; but do you ever examine or admire them when they grow in your back yard? I trow not. Only when you are in love with Nature do you love her most insignificant manifestations. Not until a maiden is loved are her fingertips worshipped. Have you ever looked carefully at a dandelion? It will repay you. Botanists tell us it is many flowers compounded into one. From its beauty I can well believe it. What a blaze of yellow those many petals enkindle, and how superbly that yellow is variegated by the shadows of those petals and stamens,—simply by the shadows. It is a flower of one single colour, and that not a delicate one, and of no peculiar beauty of form, and yet by its miraculous manipulation of the light it receives it becomes beautiful. I see the birds' nests. Not fifty yards from my tent is a dear little ground-bird sitting on three eggs. A more exquisite picture, a picture perfect to repletion in its feeling, pathos, tenderness, and, yes, thought, to say nothing of composition and tone, than that little hen sitting on that nest I know not. The combination of helplessness, trustfulness, and hopefulness in the expression of the bird, and reflected in every part of the picture it is useless to attempt to describe. I see the woods just bursting into leaf, one of the most glorious sights in the country in May,

as seen in an afternoon sun on a clear day in the middle distance of your landscape. The light green feathery topmost branches of the rounded birch and maple and oak and elm, as the light falls on them and through them, form shadows and shades of green no pigment can truly imitate; the deep-toned pines, quite black in the shadows, rise high above the wealth of buoyant green masses towering over one another, rolling away into the distance, swell upon swell, the edges here distinct and clear against the shadows beyond, here lost melting into innumerable other edges; and beneath all and in the near distance the delicate-hued aspens show their white slim branching stems, and in one low corner there is a faint hint of the ochreous catkins of the willow. Suddenly a cloud obscures the sun; at once the shadows deepen, the greens are changed, the feathery edges through which the light was transmitted lose their clearness of outline, and each tree, with the loss of light, seems to nestle closer to his fellow. But it is vain trying to describe Nature's pictures. To be felt they must be seen. And in pictures that can be felt Nature is inexhaustible. Her every square inch, as her every square league, is a scene provocative of an emotion which we cannot explain, cannot name.

I cannot begin to tell of all that I see. The trees and bushes change their tints every twenty-four hours, so rapid is the growth; the wild cherry throws out its delicate white sprays against the deep green spruce and cedar; the balsam emits a scent all its own; woodpeckers of all hues, some with flaring red top-knots and throats, bold, quick-moving fellows, come and knock at the trees about your tent three, four, and five hours before breakfast time; the oriole shows you his orange-gold breast, bright in the sunlight, in the highest twig of that tree just over your favourite shady nook; the agile chipmunk will steal and eat a biscuit under your very nose; the minnows fight for the scraps you throw them close to the rock on which you sit and watch; even the blood-thirsty and hungry-looking perch lurks slyly near by watching your every movement and frightening the fleeing minnows by disputing with them their right to a snatched mouthful. All is not peace you see, reader, even here. Far from it. Strife there is everywhere. That perch reminds me of this. He gobbled yesterday a minnow too big for him. It certainly was a most curious sight. Two-thirds of the unfortunate minnow's body stuck out of its captor's mouth and wriggled violently from side to side, so violently as sometimes actually to disturb even the solid perch's equilibrium and cause him to show his glittering white belly and blood-red fins. It was a tragedy in more than one act, for another perch, equally blood-thirsty and hungry-looking, glided stealthily up and made incessant snatches at the protruding tail of his friend's quarry; and the cunning way in which this friend dodged the onslaughts was most amusing. A strange thing this universality of strife. It is everywhere. That fragile trillium had to fight its way through the world—literally. And the fight tells on its appearance. In the woods it is tall and slim, stretching up its head for the sunlight which comes sparingly through the trees. In the meadows it is short and thick. This stump of mine contains a million battle fields. The mosses fight for its sap, the worms eat into its wood, in its bark the mites hide from the birds, it itself fought with its fellows for air and sunshine and moisture; the very earth it grows on fought once long ago with the ocean which broke up its rocks into sand and soil. Strife, strife everywhere. Who can understand it? Is "strife" only another name for *process*? Is it synonymous with change, with perpetuation, evolution; with birth, growth, decay; with *becoming*, in Hegelian phrase? Is it through strife that all things progress, tend towards some unknown goal? But strife means pain, often unmerited pain. Ah! here I feel the ground slipping from under my feet. The problem of the existence of pain I give up. All I can say is, if change, evolution, life itself, be impossible without strife, and strife without pain, that pain must be borne. Ha! I am about to sin again. But I have not quite entered the confines of metaphysics this time, I hope.

There are two creatures, however, of whom I cannot bring myself to speak approvingly or even politely. One is the mosquito. What volumes of diatribe could I not pen upon this thorn in the flesh, this messenger of Satan! What series of ejaculatory imprecations have I not uttered against him, what murderous threats? His pertinacious pugnacity is astonishing. (I can only ascribe it to his having Anglo-Saxon blood in his veins!) Big words you think, reader, with which to rail at so puny an enemy. Yes, but indicative of the huge force necessary to overcome him. I must have put forth muscular power to be measured only by foot-tons in chasing and slaying my foes. And what was disheartening was, they seemed to be numberless. My tent was no sooner rid of some fifty score than a new and hungrier host took their places. They seemed to fill the created universe. Not a corner was there wherein I could be free of them. At the bottom of a full and lighted pipe they may not exist, for I have heard they have a distaste for tobacco; but in no other place in the infinity of tri-dimensional space would I undertake to say they were not. The other is the whip-poor-Will. The whip-poor-Will makes me tired—not in slang phrase but in sober truth. Has any one ever seen this beast—or bird, except in museums stuffed and labelled *Caprimulgus vociferus*? I could almost believe in disembodied spirits revisiting the glimpses of the moon as I listen nightly to his ceaseless, unsatisfied, importunate "whip-poor-Will," "whip-poor-Will."\* I have sat patiently by my camp-fire from eight o'clock till half-past eleven trying to compose my soul in quietness through the dinning of two rival whip-poor-Will's in vain. What did they want? Would to all that is quiet and calming somebody would procure it for them. I would soundly trounce a score of Will's if by that means I could put a stop to their cry and gain me peace. At half-past eleven I gave it up exhausted. I

\* I find, on enquiry, that this is really the belief of the Indians (*vide Cyclopaedia of the Natural Sciences*, "Natural History," by Wm. Baird, *sub voce*). Strange that the same thought should have entered my mind.

got up at four the next morning looking forward with anticipations of keen delight to a long pleasant day, and the first thing to greet my ear was one of those same two rival whip-poor-Will's still at it.—I am naturally kind-hearted. Above all I cannot bear the sight of any brute creature in pain. But that whip-poor-Will's neck I think I could wring.

There are also other aspects of Nature not to be wholly lost sight of, though to one trying to escape from his fellow-men for a period not perhaps so interesting as the trees and the birds and the sky—I mean the inhabitants of the country. If not very remote from the limits of civilization and settlement, one not seldom comes in contact with men and women, after one's own kind indeed, but differing from one's self in some indefinable but enviable manner. They possess somewhat which we city folk have lost, and I know not by what word to name it. It is not exactly artlessness, nor kindly frankness, nor yet sympathetic freedom; and yet it is something of all these combined. We in towns have clothed ourselves with customs, with manners, with habits of thought and feeling as we have with fashionable garments—all after one pattern; they in the country move in no such fettering raiment. The result is, the simple grace of their thoughts and feelings awakens in us pleasure and emulation. Nay more, we would show them our appreciation of a grace we have lost, and, to rise to their level, to exhibit our brotherly-kindness, we doff, or do our best to doff, our constricting costume, and with frank eye and free speech try to be one with them. Rarely do we wholly succeed, however; and many are the types of Nature's children whom we remember with the kindest of feelings. One fair creature I shall not soon forget. On a hot afternoon during a long and dusty walk I stepped to the door of a cottage and asked for water. There was something so unconstrainedly and simply natural in the unlearned grace with which the healthy buxom damsel of some eighteen freckling summers who answered my knock hastened to grant my request, that the meeting was well worth the many miles I had trudged. There was every reason for embarrassment, too: the presence of a stranger whom, from his coarse holiday garb, it was impossible to relegate to his proper social or vocationary status; the evident difference, nevertheless, of intonation and language; the dearth, or rather absence of all common topics of conversation; and not at all least the stockinglessness of the girl (I espied two whitish—I cannot say more for them—ankles). But withal I think I was more embarrassed than she. She was comely, even picturesque. Her smiling lips seemed made for naught else but to smile—and perchance to press. "A hot day," she pleasantly remarked. "Very, but it does not seem to affect your looks;" and the compliment brightens the ever-dawning smile. "Let me drink to your health,"—again that smile. "Although I do not think I need." Ha! it rises now into the full sunlight of a gay laugh. A pleasant episode this; and somehow, as I go on again and leave that cottage far behind, I find myself thinking of that simple coming-together. It has left its influence upon me. Does not every coming-together of thinking minds and feeling hearts leave its influence, an influence only unperceived because, in the rush of city life, it is so frequent? What had she done to me? I was not the same man that I was before I reached that cottage. Had virtue gone out of that simple lass? Had she unwittingly raised me into a higher plane of thought and feeling? If so, by what power? Ah, that none can tell; the subtle influence of one soul upon another none shall explain.

But to return once again to the purest of Nature's beauties, what have I told you of the sounds, the colours, the smells of nature? The "smells," yes, I use the word advisedly; "scents" reminds me too much of waxed floors and orchestra chairs. The woods and the fields and the roadsides give you symphonies of smells, as if exhaled from innumerable, immeasurable, unplucked nosegays; smells, compared to which that of Milton's "tedded hay" would seem almost artificial. Then the colours. Ruskin, I believe, ranks the plumage of birds third in order of superiority; but I wish he could see the blue of that martin's back as he skims to and fro, east and west, over the water after insects: with the sun, deep to blackness, against the sun, glossy to iridescence. Never did I see such a blue. And I wish, too, that scarlet tanager had flashed by him at noon-day, as did it flash by me. Believe me, out of these (perhaps to some) insignificant beauties one can, if he so chooses, lay up "life and food for future years." And of the animals whose acquaintance I made I have told you next to nothing. I found myself once within ten feet of a rabbit and of a squirrel at the same time. They gambolled gracefully, unfeeling, to my delight, till one of those messengers of Satan (verily I believe sent to buffet me after having been caught up to a seventh heaven) trumpeted right in my left ear. I started; the rabbit and squirrel disappeared—of course. But here I must draw to an end. I have returned to civilized regions, to the region of newspapers, and business communications, and black coats, and gloves, and Church services; and away from my mistress—I will not write of her. I feel, however, that I can now understand something of what that deepest of Nature's poets meant when he said that "to these forms of beauty . . . he owed

that blessed mood,  
In which the burthen of the mystery,  
In which the heavy and the weary weight  
Of all this unintelligible world  
Is lightened—that serene and blessed mood,  
In which the affections gently lead us on;"

and I heartily recommend you, reader who have patiently followed me thus far, to try a like experiment.

T. ARNOLD HAULTAIN.

WHEN publishers have the security they now lack, that in bringing out a book in decent form they will not be undersold the next week by a re-issue in an indecent form, they will go to the additional expense required for a book intended to be kept. The result will be the extension of the excellent practice of collecting books, and the revival of the trade of book-selling, which is now almost extinct.

## SAUNTERINGS.

Nobody need plume himself upon a knowledge of the capital whose smattering of the political aspects of the place, picked up in the three most disagreeable months of the year, is not supplemented by an acquaintance formed in June. The narrow area of observation during the Session—Sparks Street, the Parliament buildings, New Edinboro', Sandy Hill, and the West End—expands to a gracious extent one would not dream who saw it only under the rigours of February and March, or the half-hearted relentings of April. Long, tree-shadowed walks diverge in it, and across the end of one wanders the quiet line of the blue Laurentians, and another breaks, not a mile from Parliament Hill, into a country roadside rambling pleasantly past the toll gate and along by places where the air is sweet with the cherry blossoms that drop their whiteness over the fence upon the way, and across the wooden bridge that spans the straight, cool reaches of the canal. And the blue and fanciful Rideau, and the lucent and shadowy Gatineau, and the brown and tawny Ottawa, all hasten from afar among those strange, round hills to the north to meet us here, and the glistening ways by which they have come are bordered with the spreading pine and the dusky tamarack and vigorous young clumps of outrolling ferns.

Under one of the town bridges, known from its peculiar curvature as "The Maria Street camel's back," the canal is slow and turbid and narrow and very like all other canals. But often fifty boats moored along the bank tell very plainly that this is only a town-washed state of things, and that further up the oarsmen have their reward. Boating is, beyond any other, Ottawa's summer diversion. It is too hot to ride, and too expensive moreover; tennis is always exclusive, and the field games require hard and constant practice, but a boat is always ready, whether one's own or to hire, makes no demands on time or energy, is a cheap luxury, and lends itself to the cool of the evening to twilight or to a moonlit hour, as no tennis, racquet or lacrosse would dream of doing.

To know the water intimately, you must go in a canoe, a boat is a clumsy, inert, unsympathetic clog after the aboriginal idea, that skims the water like a withered leaf, trembles with every eddy, answers the whim of your paddle almost before it is expressed. And a favourite canoe-voyage is around the bend through the Deep Cut and Muchmore's Cut to the neighbourhood of the Exhibition buildings, portaging across to the Rideau just where the May is blossoming mildly about an abandoned old farm house and the pale green flame of the birches is showing against the clumps of pines beside it. From this point to Billing's Bridge where another portage is necessary back to the canal, the Rideau is the daintiest stretch of water one could fancy. It is very remote from the human life pulsating within half a mile of it; for the most part uninvaded woods troop alongside, with all the sweet cries and cadences of the under-world in them, chiding all day long the vast silence that never lags upon the heels of humanity. And it seems just now that all the trees that ever one knew are growing together here in these woodlands, their riotous spring happiness disciplined by the spruce and sobered by the tamarack. There are islands in the river, and reedy places between the islands and the shore, where in a month there will be a wonder of water-lilies. Along the banks the shumachs are swinging their tassels and the wild strawberry-blossoms sit meekly in the sun and the columbines dance in the wind, and every marshy spot is yellow with marigolds. And through it all the river goes, pausing and pondering in the shadows, racing over a mimic rapid in the sun, twisting and straightening, narrowing ruefully, broadening sweetly, listening all the time through her own foolish gurgle to the musical gossips of the new come cat-birds and whip-poor-Wills and wild canaries.

The Ottawa Field Naturalists are a number of clever and energetic people who do not propose to allow the opportunity of residence upon the top of the most venerable and interesting portion of the earth's surface to go unimproved. Every Saturday therefore they gather together, with hammers and specimen cases, and lunch baskets, and sally forth in vans to the woods and the fields. There they look for specimens, bits of rock, plants, insects, fungi, fossils, and upon some class of these the specialist for the day makes public a certain percentage of what he knows. I have heard the Ottawa Field Naturalists less respectfully called "the Bugs and Beetles," but that was by a person who confessedly did not know one from the other, and could therefore be excused for confusing the various orders of the animal creation.

Last Saturday one hundred and twenty-eight people packed themselves into six vans and drove out to Kirk's Ferry, on the Gatineau. The excursion would doubtless have been as edifying as any similar one in the past, if it had not rained. If it had not rained, however, three or four of us would have missed the acquaintance of Stainslaus Pasquette who is master of the small white hostility in which we took refuge, and "Stennis," as he called himself, was a fair equivalent for much Latin. The sign that swung over his hospitable door was a little ambiguous. "S. Pasquette" was painted on it in thin crooked black letters, but over the further announcement, "Hotel," was nailed a pine slab. The acute observer might guess the original inscription by the edge of the letters, but to the general public it seemed intended to express blankness, despair.

Stennis explained it, in answer to an inquiry by one of the party for *vin du pays* to add its much needed cheer to our luncheon. He stood on the rag carpet of his own neat little sitting-room, with its coloured lithographs of the saints on the walls, and its white muslin curtains falling in two stiff cascades before the windows, and its beautiful artificial flowers in a blue vase on the table, balancing a plaster image of St. Joseph, and explained it. He made a fair type of his class as he stood there, talking and gesticulating. Thick black hair—baldness has not yet crept up the

Gatineau,—sharp brown eyes, a broad-faced smile that showed teeth discoloured by tobacco, and a well knit pair of shoulders, from which his argument required a hitch every now and then.

"I tell you both in little time. I pay my licenz *autrefois* hunners dollars, every time—straight. Dis time dey reduce number of licenz. I was reduce also." He laughed with an air of making the best of it, but the shrug that followed instantly was serious.

"Dey don' look at it right way, I tink. Here's my place. Two mile from any ho-tel. Right at de ferry. Now I kin on'y sell sof' stuff." He had given us ginger "pop." "But," with a lowering of his voice, and a respectful look at the ladies, "folks stop here, most all want hard stuff—want strong glass. I can't sell 'em."

Stennis was a model of propriety throughout his entire conversation with us, and never once alluded to anything of a bibulous nature by other terms than "strong glass" or "soft stuff." Temperance principles to the contrary, notwithstanding, we sympathized with him in his fallen fortunes, especially when he introduced a convulsive and wide-mouthed young Stennis, of two months, with all the pride and gratulation of a father with no stimulants in his business connection.

"You put on de boots, now," said he, giving his offspring a ferociously funny poke under its chin, "an' fetch in de wood dis aft'noon, you hear?"

"He is smart child, dat child! He speak Engleesh as good as French. Eh, Stenny?"

In reply to an inquiry as to whether our innocent potatoes had been paid for by a member of the party, desirous of disbursing for the common benefit, the French Canadian spirit of acquisition came out.

"Yass. 'E 'ave pay for de sof' stuff,"—meditatively. Then with sudden inspiration, "But for de bottles, non! I do' know if he want to take 'em away!"

We comforted him with the hope of summer boarders, who could not possibly come where "hard stuff" was sold, and came away.

SARA J. DUNCAN.

## OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE ARGONAUTS OF NORTH LIBERTY. By Bret Harte. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Company.

Bret Harte has in many of his short stories shown what goodness there may be in those who are accounted bad; what virtues may still linger in those considered irreclaimably depraved; what heroism and unselfishness even the outcasts of Poker Flat may give proof of. In this book he endeavours to show the badness of a woman who is professedly good—excessively good. The effort has not been successful; but we have long ceased to hope for a really good novel from the author of *Gabriel Conroy*. His short stories are admirable; his novels are unhappy compilations of sketches. In this one he is peculiarly unhappy. The literary critic will find in it evidences of literary art, but the uncritical reader can hardly be benefited in any way by a story which represents life and character, not with the fidelity of an artist, but with the carelessness or malignity of a lampooner.

## LITERARY GOSSIP.

MACMILLAN AND Co. will publish shortly, a new volume by Matthew Arnold, entitled "Essays in Criticism."

MISS ANNIE ROBERTSON MACFARLANE, the critic of fiction for *The Nation*, is writing the history of the French in Canada, for Putnam's *Story of the Nations* series.

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS will publish during this month "The Story of Turkey," by Stanley Lane-Poole, which will form the nineteenth volume of the *Story of the Nations* series.

A new venture in Canadian journalism is about to be hazarded by the Desbarats in Montreal. Its name, *The Dominion Illustrated*, indicates what will be its principal feature. Prominent members of the Royal Canadian Academy are to furnish drawings. Mr. Henri Julien will supply the cartoons, and the critical and scholarly Lesperance, whose name is mentioned as editor, will take good care that the literary departments of the paper will be kept up to a high level.

It is believed that there are some very remarkable libraries that might be exhumed from the buried cities of Uxmal and Mayapan, in Yucatan. The ancients must have been highly civilized, since they made use of a written language and alphabetical characters. It is the hope and ambition of Dr. Augustus Le Plongeon, the archaeologist and explorer, to present to the scientific world a series of manuscripts written by the founders of these cities. He discovered that Freemasonry existed in pre-historic time, and has brought to this country photographs of old masonic symbols which correspond very nearly with those now in use.

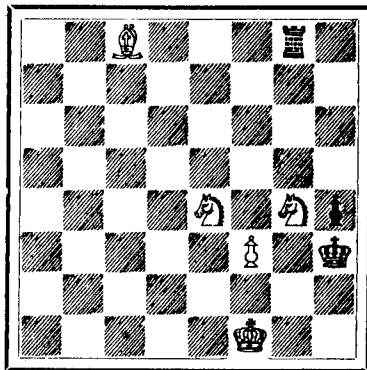
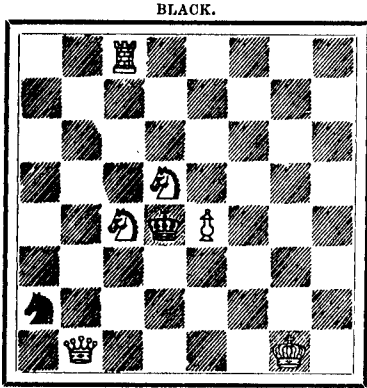
THE QUEBEC BANK.—The statement of the Directors of the Quebec Bank, published in another column, presents a fairly satisfactory year's business. Its circulation and deposits have largely increased, \$100,000 have been added to the "Rest," which now amounts to nearly half a million, and the industries in which the bank's capital is, as appears from the Report, chiefly invested, have been, during the year, prosperous.

CHESS.

QUEBEC BANK.

PROBLEM No. 261.  
By DR. GOLD, Vienna.

PROBLEM No. 262.  
By E. G. MUNTZ, T. C. C.  
Composed for THE WEEK.



White to play and mate in two moves.

White to play and mate in three moves.

SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS.

- No. 255.  
White.  
1. B-B 6  
2. B-B 5  
3. R or P moves mate

- No. 256.  
White.  
1. Q-R 4  
2. Q-K Kt 4 +  
3. B-R 4 mate  
If 1. P moves or K x P  
2. moves.  
If 1. K-K 4  
2. K-B 5  
3. Q-B 3 mate

Correct solution to problems No. 251, 252, 253, and 254 received from Roger Bontemp.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Roger Bontemp.—Problem No. 255 is correct. You will see the solution above, it is a very fine problem.

GAME PLAYED BETWEEN CAPT. MICHAELIS, OF PHILADELPHIA, AND AN AMATEUR.

EVANS GAMBIT.

White.	Black.	White.	Black.
CAPT. MICHAELIS.	AMATEUR.	CAPT. MICHAELIS.	AMATEUR.
1. P-K 4	P-K 4	10. B-Kt 2	Kt-K 2
2. Kt-K B 3	Kt-Q B 3	11. B-Q 3	Castles
3. B-B 4	B-B 4	12. Kt-B 3	Kt-Kt 3
4. P-Q Kt 4	B x P	13. Kt-K 2	P-Q B 4
5. P-B 3	B-B 4	14. Q-Q 2	B-Kt 5
6. Castles	P-Q 3	15. Kt-Kt 3	B-Q B 2
7. P-Q 4	P x P	16. Kt-B 5	B x K Kt
8. P x P	B-Kt 3		
9. P-Q 5	Kt-R 4		

The following beautiful end game is from the *Chess Monthly*. It occurred in a game between Mr. Pollock (white) and Mr. Lee (black) in a handicap at Simpsons, and a special prize was given by Mr. F. H. Lewis for its brilliancy:

WHITE.—K at K R 1, Q at K 3, R's at K B 1 and K 1, B at Q Kt 2, Kt's at K Kt 3 and K R 3, P's at K R 2, K Kt 2, K B 4, K 5, Q 2, and Q R 3.  
BLACK.—K at K Kt 1, Q at Q 1, R's at K B 1 and Q R 1, B's at K 2 and Q 2, Kt at Q Kt 3, P's at K R 2, K Kt 3, K B 2, K 3, Q 4, Q Kt 4, and Q Kt 6.  
White having the move the game continued thus: 21. P-K B 5, K P x P; 22. Q-R 6, B-K 3; 23. R x P, B x R; 24. Kt x B, P x Kt; 25. R-K 3, R-R 5; 26. P-K 6, R-K Kt 5; 27. Kt-Kt 5, R x Kt; 28. R-R 3 and wins.

A WINTER in Southern Europe, as planned and managed by Dr. Tourjee, must be an ideal trip, where, added to the pleasure and profit of leisurely travelling in a climate more genial than that of the finest winter resorts in America, is the delight of looking upon the marvellous works of art and the beautiful scenery which that country possesses. The circular, which in its description of the countries visited reads like a book of travels, should be in the hands of every one. The winter abroad costs less than a trip of equal extent in this country, and under this management becomes the very perfection of winter travel. Arrangements have been perfected for an extensive tour in Egypt and the Holy Land.

FRENCHMEN complain that few women know how to walk. They say that Englishwomen think more of the exercise itself than the manner of it; are, in fact, too much in earnest in getting over the ground. They look with greater leniency on the little tripping step of the true Parisienne, a description of locomotion which is sufficiently fatiguing to account for the very small amount of walking that comes into the daily programme of a French lady's life. A coquettish, self-conscious way of setting down each foot, as though a separate thought went to every step, distinguishes the daughters of France all over the world. It sometimes results in a graceful gait, and always looks smart, the latter being the great desideratum from the fair walker's point of view. Englishwomen think little about their gait as a rule, except now and then spasmodically, when their attention is specially directed to the subject. Fashionable boots are the great enemies of graceful walking. They cripple the feet and destroy all freedom of movement. There is a popular idea that teaching girls to dance improves their manner of walking. This notion is a relic of the days when the waltz was unknown, and the stately measures of the gavotte and the minuet necessitated careful training of the limbs and much instruction in deportment. It is possible that our great-grandmothers may have walked well; but it is certain that their great-granddaughters do not.

Report of the Directors to the Shareholders at their Seventieth Annual General Meeting, held 4th June, 1888.

The Directors have pleasure in submitting to the Shareholders a statement of the Bank's affairs for the year ending 15th May last:—

This statement shows the amount carried forward from profit and loss account as on the 15th May, 1887, viz. ....	\$106,202 71
The profits for the year ending 15th May, 1888, after deducting charges of management and making full provision for bad and doubtful debts, amount to .....	223,506 27
Deduct—	\$329,708 98
Dividend of 3½ per cent., paid 1st December, 1887 .....	\$87,500 00
Dividend of 3½ per cent., payable 1st June, 1888 .....	\$7,500 00
Transfer to the Rest .....	100,000 00
	275,000 00
Leaving balance of profit and loss account .....	\$54,708 98

The Rest has been increased from \$325,000 to the amount of \$425,000 at which it now stands.

The business of the Bank during the last year has been fairly prosperous. When the Directors last had the pleasure of meeting the Shareholders, the prospects for the timber trade were not encouraging. A favourable turn, however, took place in the British market during the autumn season, which enabled our merchants to dispose of a large portion of their stock of timber to advantage. The demand for sawed lumber for the American market is fairly active both for pine and spruce. It is to be regretted that the ground rent upon timber limits, which, in this section of the country, produce chiefly spruce timber, should have been increased 50 per cent.—telling heavily upon the cost of production of the low-priced wood.

The local industries of Quebec, represented chiefly by the boot and shoe manufacturing companies, which give employment to large numbers of the population, continue to prosper; and the goods produced find ready sale in every market of the Dominion.

Business at the principal Branches of the Bank—Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal—continues to increase, and the Directors are satisfied with the year's transactions at those important points, while a fairly remunerative business has been cultivated at minor points where this Bank is represented. It would be premature to express any opinion in regard to the prospect of the cereal crops in Western Canada; so far nothing unfavourable has been reported on the subject. Arrangements, meantime, have been made by which this Bank, to some extent, will share in providing means for moving the crops, both of Ontario and Manitoba, to home or foreign markets.

The Quebec and Lake St. John Railway has reached the fertile shores of the lake. The traffic on the road, according to a recent report of the Company, is already considerable. During the year ended March last 66,000 passengers, 60,000 tons of freight, 11,000,000 feet of deals, besides square timber and other goods, were carried over the road. The branch lines, when completed, will add to the importance, and no doubt to the revenue, of the main line.

In December last the Directors lost an esteemed colleague by the death of Mr. William White, who for a long period faithfully served the Bank as a Director, and took an active and zealous interest in its affairs.

The Head Office and Branches of the Bank have been duly inspected and found in order, and the Directors have pleasure in expressing their satisfaction with the manner in which the officers of the Bank have discharged their respective duties.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

JAS. G. ROSS, President Quebec Bank.

GENERAL STATEMENT, 15TH MAY, 1888.

	Liabilities.	Assets.	
Capital Stock .....	\$200,500 00	Specie .....	\$86,600 35
Rest .....	\$425,000 00	Government demand notes .....	324,633 00
At Credit of Profit and Loss Account .....	54,708 98	Notes of, and cheques on other banks .....	150,456 00
Dividends unclaimed .....	3,500 26	Due from other Banks in Canada .....	64,646 71
Dividend No. 132, payable 1st June, 1888 .....	\$7,500 00	Due from Foreign Agents .....	51,005 69
Reserved for interest due depositors, rebate on current discounts, etc. ....	45,471 07	Dominion Government Debentures .....	148,433 33
Notes in circulation .....	616,240 31	Bonds and Stocks, Foreign and Canadian .....	371,069 41
Deposits bearing interest .....	725,576 50	Loans and Bills Discounted .....	6,996,610 21
Deposits not bearing interest .....	910,423 85	Debts secured by Mortgage and other Security .....	233,943 75
Due to banks in Canada .....	4,485,860 95	Overdue Debts not specially secured (estimated loss provided for) .....	46,264 71
Due to agents in United Kingdom .....	213,608 14	Bank Premises and Bank Furniture in Provinces of Quebec and Ontario .....	7,270,518 67
	304,897 17		105,091 71
	\$8,632,544 93		\$8,632,544 93

QUEBEC BANK, Quebec, 4th June, 1888.

JAMES STEVENSON, Cashier.

Proceedings of the Seventieth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Quebec Bank, held at the Banking House on Monday, 4th June, 1888.

Present—Sir N. F. Belleau, K. C. M. G.; Hon. James G. Ross, Rev. W. B. Clark, Messrs. Wm. Withall, R. H. Smith, John R. Young, G. R. Renfrew, S. J. Shaw, Robert Brodie, Wm. Hossack, John Laird, Jr., W. Henry, Peter Johnson, P. McNaughton, John C. Thomson, Wm. Sutherland, Michael Cahill, James Morgan, E. W. Methot, and others.

The chair was taken by Hon. J. G. Ross, President, and W. R. Dean, Inspector, acted as Secretary of the meeting.

The President read the Report of the Directors, and James Stevenson, Esq., Cashier, read the statement of the affairs of the Bank as on 15th May, 1888.

The Cashier, Mr. Stevenson, gave further information concerning the affairs of the Bank and said:

The report upon the affairs of the Bank is so full that little remains for me to add by way of information to the Shareholders.

The general statement, in regard to the volume of business, compares favourably with that of last year:—

The amount of notes in circulation shows an increase of .....	\$27,520 00
And the deposits show an increase of .....	221,034 00

Not the least gratifying feature, however, in the statement is the addition of \$100,000 to the Rest Account, which now stands at \$425,000.

Moved by Hon. J. G. Ross, President, seconded by Wm. Withall, Esq., Vice-President, and Resolved,—That the report and statements now read be adopted.

Moved by the Rev. W. B. Clarke, seconded by Robert Brodie, Esq., and Resolved,—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the President, Vice-President and Directors for their valuable services during the past year.

Moved by Samuel J. Shaw, Esq., seconded by J. W. Henry, Esq., and Resolved,—That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Cashier, Inspector, Managers and other officers of the Bank for the efficient manner in which they have discharged their duties.

Moved by Peter Johnston, Esq., seconded by James Morgan, Esq., and resolved,—That the ballot box be now open and remain open till four o'clock this day for the election of Directors, and that Messrs. C. R. O'Connor and E. W. Methot be requested to act as scrutineers, and that if five minutes elapse without a vote being cast, the scrutineers be empowered to close the ballot box.

Moved by Wm. Hossack, Esq., and seconded by Peter McNaughton, Esq., and resolved,—that the thanks of this meeting be given to the Hon. J. G. Ross for his services in the chair.

Moved by John C. Thomson, Esq., seconded by A. Forrest, Esq., and resolved,—That the thanks of this meeting are hereby given to the Secretary and scrutineers for their services.

The scrutineers reported the following gentlemen elected to serve on the Board for the ensuing year, viz., Hon. James G. Ross, William Withall, Esq., Sir N. F. Belleau, K. C. M. G., R. H. Smith, Esq., John R. Young, Esq., George R. Renfrew, Esq., and Samuel J. Shaw, Esq.

# BANK OF MONTREAL.

Annual Meeting of Shareholders, June 4th.

## THE REPORT FOR THE YEAR.

Speeches of the President and General Manager. The Trade Situation Reviewed. Caution Impressed upon Merchants and Manufacturers. The Outlook.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Montreal was held in the Board room of the institution at one o'clock, Monday, June 4th, and was largely attended. Among those present were Sir Donald Smith (President), Messrs. Hugh McLennan, Gilbert Scott, W. C. McDonald, A. T. Paterson, E. B. Greenshields, R. B. Angus, R. W. Shepherd, John Crawford, J. H. R. Molson, Hon. Thomas Ryan, Robert Anderson, Thomas Workman, George Macrae, Q.C., Hector MacKenzie, Jesse Joseph, John Dunlop, J. L. Morris, James O'Brien, F. S. Lyman, Rudolph Forget, A. C. Clark, R. G. Stark, Robert Benny, D. R. Stodart, J. Morrison, A. M. Crombie, James Burnett, Thos. Peck, Henry Joseph, G. Strathy, Henry Yates, Angus Hooper, J. B. Learmont, D. McCarthy (Sorel), A. H. Lunn, B. A. Boas, J. P. Scott, Campbell Lane, W. J. Buchanan, W. H. Meredith and others.

On motion of Mr. H. Yates, Sir Donald Smith, K.C.M.G., was requested to take the chair. Mr. Robt. Anderson moved, seconded by Mr. Alex. Clark: That the following gentlemen be appointed to act as scrutineers: Messrs. James Burnett and F. S. Lyman, and that Mr. A. B. Buchanan be the secretary of this meeting. Carried.

### THE DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT.

The President then called upon the General Manager to read the Annual Report of the Directors, which was as follows:—  
The Directors have pleasure in presenting the Seventieth Annual Report, showing the result of the Bank's business of the year ended 30th April, 1888:—

The balance of Profit and Loss on 30th April, 1887, was .....	\$605,740 35
The Profits of the year ended on 30th April last, after deducting charges of management, and making all necessary provision for bad and doubtful debts, were .....	1,284,501 17
	\$1,890,241 52
From which is to be deducted:	
Dividend 5 per cent. paid 1st December, 1887 .....	\$600,000 00
Dividend 5 per cent. payable 1st June, 1888 .....	600,000 00
	1,200,000 00
Leaving a balance of .....	\$690,241 52
To be carried forward at the credit of Profit and Loss account.	

Attention was drawn last year to the fact that the Deposits had fallen off about \$5,000,000. This amount has been more than recovered, and a reference to the annexed General Statement will show an addition of upwards of \$6,000,000 during the past twelve months.

The loans and discounts and balances due by foreign agents have increased to a corresponding degree.

The Head Office and all the Branches have passed through the usual thorough inspection during the year just past.

In the preceding Annual Report it was intimated that preparations were being made for establishing a branch at Vancouver; this has been done, and in connection with it an office in the adjoining town of New Westminster has lately been opened.

Since the last Annual Meeting the Directors have had cause to regret the loss by death of their late colleague, the Hon. John Hamilton, who had served on the Board for the space of nearly five years. The vacancy caused by Mr. Hamilton's death has been filled by the election of the Hon. J. J. C. Abbott to the Directorate.

DONALD A. SMITH, President.

### GENERAL STATEMENT, 30TH APRIL, 1888.

Liabilities.		
Capital Stock .....	\$12,000,000 00	
Rest .....	\$9,000,000 00	
Balance of profits carried forward .....	600,241 52	
	\$6,600,241 52	
Unclaimed Dividends .....	10,137 52	
Half-yearly dividend, payable 1st June, 1888 .....	600,000 00	
	7,300,379 04	
	\$19,300,379 04	
Amount of notes of the bank in circulation .....	\$5,467,743 00	
Deposits not bearing interest .....	9,399,525 92	
Deposits bearing interest .....	14,325,790 23	
Balances due to other Banks in Canada .....	148,782 97	
	29,332,832 12	
	\$48,633,211 16	
Assets.		
Gold and silver coin current .....	\$1,835,398 28	
Government demand notes .....	1,872,016 25	
Balances due from other banks in Canada .....	\$178,503 24	
Due from agencies of this bank, and other banks in foreign countries .....	9,788,205 47	
Due from agencies of this bank, and other banks in Great Britain .....	1,333,579 43	
	11,300,434 14	
Notes and cheques of other banks .....	1,138,971 50	
	16,146,821 17	
Loans and bills discounted .....	\$31,452,541 50	
Debts secured by mortgage and other securities .....	317,222 24	
Overdue debts not specially secured (estimated loss provided for) .....	116,620 25	
	31,886,389 99	
Bank premises at Montreal and Branches .....	600,000 00	
	\$48,633,211 16	

W. J. BUCHANAN, General Manager.

BANK OF MONTREAL,  
Montreal, 30th April, 1888.

### THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Sir Donald Smith, in moving the adoption of the Report, said:—You have just heard the Report read, and you will see by it that on the 30th April last there was a balance, speaking in round numbers, of \$605,000; that the profits of the last year, up to the 30th April, were \$1,284,501, or, altogether, \$1,890,000. If we take from that two dividends of 5 per cent. it leaves \$600,000, or about \$85,000 more than is shown by the balance of the previous year. The profits for last year were, roundly speaking, 12½ per cent., and the profits for this year 10½ per cent., or about 2 per cent. of a difference. To have given a bonus of 1 per cent. would have required to have taken from last year's balance some \$40,000. Although it would have been very pleasing to your Directors to have paid a bonus of 1 per cent., or even 2 per cent., they felt that they had to consider—and very carefully to consider—the interests of their shareholders. During the past year, as you are aware, the harvest was a partial failure in Ontario, which had its effects upon the profits of this bank as well as upon the profits of banks generally. There were also last year two failures of banks in Canada, and one of them a very disastrous failure. Taking this into consideration, and also remembering that, although not politically connected with our neighbours on the other side of the line, we know that during the year of a presidential election there is always a disturbance, more or less, of business; considering, again, that it is uncertain what the outcome of the crops for the present year may be, and that the fall wheat is not well reported of, your Directors have thought that they would be acting most to your advantage and your interests by giving only a dividend of 5 per cent., making 10 per cent. in all for the past twelve months. Those who come to look back some nine years will recollect that in 1879 it was found necessary in order to make up the ordinary dividend to take \$500,000 from the "Rest." They will also recollect that in the following year of 1880 the dividend was only 9 per cent. Now we do not wish to be obliged to repeat this. All along it has been said to you by your Directors that their earnest wish

and great desire was to have a steady dividend of 10 per cent., and after that so much of a bonus as they thought it was quite safe to give, keeping intact the Rest and having at the same time a sufficient balance to meet all contingencies. The Directors believe that in examining and considering the result of the business for the last year they have made provision for everything which could be considered bad, and they further believe that the Bank of Montreal at this moment is in every way in a condition for transacting its business to the best advantage. They regret very much not being able to give a bonus which would, no doubt, be very pleasing to certain classes of the community—especially these generally spoken of as "on the street," those who had speculated by endeavouring to advance the market price of the stock by "bulling" it, as the term goes. It is not in the province of your Directors to consider such.

A Shareholder—Hear, hear.

Sir Donald Smith—It is the duty of the Directors to look to what may be most to the advantage of their shareholders. In passing I might say that at no time in the existence of this bank have the Directors had so great an individual interest in the stock of the Bank as an investment as has been the case with the members of your Board during the past year. This fact, apart from their wish to discharge their duty faithfully towards you, will also be considered as an incentive to give whatever dividend or bonus they can possibly give with safety. Having gone back last year to the position of affairs which existed before the late lamented Mr. Smithers became president of the Bank we thought it proper that the duty of placing before you an extended statement of the affairs of the Bank should rest with the General Manager. As you know, Mr. Smithers was not only President of the Bank but he also occupied the position of joint General Manager. At present the President does not occupy this latter office. The President and Vice-President are the representative members of the Board, and Mr. Buchanan takes the place vacated by Mr. Smithers. Mr. Buchanan will therefore put before you an extended statement of the business for last year. While regretting that we cannot show a better exhibit now, we are not without hope for the future. Should be have, which we hope may be the case, good crops in the eastern provinces and in the North-West—and especially from the North-West we hear very good accounts—we believe that with this and other favourable circumstances the outlook for next year ought not to be unsatisfactory. I may say here, that had it not been for the bountiful crops in the North-West and Manitoba last year the situation throughout the country, considering the partial failure in Ontario, would certainly not be so good as it is at present. We have got rid of the burden of the Lake St. Peter debt, that incubus which has been hanging over the harbour of Montreal and over the people of Montreal for so long a time. I may be permitted to say that this shows us what persistent determination in a good cause can effect. I hope that in every other instance in which the people of Montreal are concerned they will be as determined to uphold their rights and to obtain what properly belongs to them. Another act of legislation this year which will also do good to banking institutions, is the Warehousing Act, which has been extended to manufacturers of cotton and woollen goods, and to distillers, so that the advances made by banks to those industries are now in a better position than before and better secured. The prospects are very good in the North-West. The extent of ground broken up is much greater during the last year than formerly, and should the crop be a fairly good one we may certainly look upon it that Manitoba and the North-West will contribute largely to the prosperity of the whole country. The Sault Ste. Marie route affords us a new inlet into Canada, and having gone over that route within the last three weeks or so, and knowing something of the Western States for a good many years before, I can say that my friends and myself were surprised beyond measure to see the great advances that had been made within the last five or six years. We feel satisfied, and I think I am quite safe in saying to you that Canada will benefit greatly from having this road and from having so much of the produce of that country brought into and through Canada. Another encouraging feature for us is the evidence we have of the high credit of our country in the European market. We have seen that for a certain loan put on the market within the last week some ten times, or more than ten times, the actual amount was bid for it. In some respects, however, the prospects are not very promising, and I do think that very great caution is required. I think we have been producing far too largely in cotton, agricultural implements, and some other manufactures, and I think that manufacturers and merchants alike have to look very carefully to the future. Still with ordinary prudence I am satisfied we have no cause to despond, but that we have every reason to believe that the country will go forward prospering, and that with the prosperity of the country your Bank and the stock you hold in it will appreciate year by year. At any rate you may fairly expect a fixed 10 per cent. dividend on your stock, and that the management of the Bank will be such as will ensure for you the full benefit of the prosperity of the country. We very much regret the loss of the Hon. John Hamilton, one of the members of the Board, during the past year. The Directors were glad to be able to induce the Hon. Mr. Abbott to fill the vacancy which so occurred. Mr. Abbott is well known to all of you, and I am sure you will consider that the choice is a good one. I move, seconded by Mr. Gilbert Scott:

That the Report of the Directors, now read, be adopted and printed for distribution among the shareholders.

Mr. Gilbert Scott—As seconder of the Report it is not necessary for me to say anything, as the President has explained everything to you. I second the adoption of the Report.

The President—I would ask Mr. Buchanan, the General Manager, to make his statement to you.

### THE GENERAL MANAGER'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Buchanan, the General Manager, then said—I do not propose to make any very extended remarks in connection with the statements just submitted to you, but it may be interesting to sketch as briefly as possible the course of the money market during the past bank year, as its condition, especially in the United States, has an important bearing on our Profits. In England money ruled easy at 2 per cent. until August, when the Bank of England rate was raised to 3 per cent. On 1st September it was advanced to 4 per cent., and so continued till the close of the year, not so much apparently from actual scarcity of money as from the fear of it. During the first three months of the present year it came down steadily, until it reached 2 per cent. in March, where it remained until the other day, when it was raised to 3 per cent. In the United States there was a severe stringency in the last week of June; it did not last long, but the fear of a repetition of it kept money pretty steady until the end of December. The action of the Government in purchasing its own Bonds to the extent of \$25,000,000, and also of depositing the funds in the National Banks, not only prevented excessive rates, but (unfortunately for us) had a good deal to do with the reduction in the value of money to a very low point, the best rates obtainable now being 1½ to 2 per cent., and on several occasions lately we have not been able to place our money even at those figures. So that during the greater part of the last six months, when we generally look for our largest profits, circumstances were dead against us. There has been a considerable shipment of gold during the past month, and it is to be hoped this will continue and induce a dearer money market.

In Canada money has followed pretty much the same course; owing to over-importation, poor cash collections, the unusually heavy demands of the lumbermen, the absorption of capital in real estate, and other causes, the surplus of loanable funds was reduced last autumn, and an advance in the rates of interest was only natural. Relief came towards spring by the successful marketing in London and Paris of Provincial and Municipal Bonds, and the rates have been lowered again. It is to be hoped the Government will act on the power taken lately and reduce the rate of interest on deposits in their Savings Bank from 4 to 3½ per cent. It seems a waste of public money to allow a higher rate for deposits liable to be withdrawn at short notice than would have to be paid for a long loan. Then, again, these savings can be used to more advantage to the country if lodged with the banks, but the competition between the Government and the banks is not on equal terms, as the banks must of necessity carry a reserve in coin or legal tender notes against their Deposits, while the Government carry none. If the Government rate was brought down to 3½ or 3 per cent. the banks would then have some chance. The question you are probably most interested in is the reason for the falling off in the net profits this year as compared with last. The decrease—\$235,000—is very close to the amount of bonus given to you a year ago, and I may say at the outset, that had we been able to see far enough ahead at the time, your Directors would probably have only declared a bonus of 1 per cent., and in that case the profits of the two years would have been about equal, and a similar bonus could have been paid this year also. The causes for the diminution in net profits are twofold, viz., smaller profits and larger losses. Last year we had a considerable amount of Dominion Government Securities which were disposed of in England at a handsome profit, and we also made money on the sale of American Securities in New York. This year we have had no similar opportunities, and were it not that our Canadian business has been above the average we should not have been able to make so good a showing as we have done. The very low rates before alluded to, which have prevailed in New York for the last three or four months, have also curtailed our profits very materially. Then, I am sorry to say, our losses last year exceeded the average—we have had nothing like them since 1883. As you know it has been a trying time—two banks have failed—one very disgracefully, and disastrously to its depositors, and another has been forced into liquidation. There have been two or three large mercantile failures and a number of smaller ones, while in many cases, though no actual bankruptcy took place, compromises have been effected. Merchants bewail absence of profits and many bad debts, and it is, therefore, not very surprising that this Bank, with so immense a business in this country, has suffered a good deal. With all our care every year tells us that losses cannot be escaped. The system of long credits, which prevails in Canada, adds materially to the hazards of business. We endeavour to exercise the greatest possible care in lending our money, but we must take the risk incident to banking business in Canada, or look abroad for the employment of the bulk of our capital. But now about the losses, for which we had to provide in the past year, it is only right to state that a great portion of them should more properly have come out of previous year's profits. We took rather too sanguine a view of the future, and of the condition of two or three of our accounts in particular—they were weaker than we supposed, and the failure of crops in Ontario last year brought matters to a crisis. Bearing that in mind and the extent to which another failure of the crop would affect the prosperity of the country, the Directors were impressed with the necessity of exercising more than ordinary caution in estimating the present position of our assets, and the future prospects of the Bank. We believe ample appropriations have been made for all losses, and that the Bank to-day is in as sound a position as it ever occupied, and we feel confident that the Shareholders will approve the conservative policy adopted.

As to the future, you will see from our general statement that we have plenty of money to lend, and all we require is a profitable field to place it in. Canada is limited, and we must always calculate on using a good deal of our money in the neighbouring States—the prospects of large earnings there in the immediate future are, as I have already said, very poor. We shall hope that a more active demand will spring up before long, although it looks as if low rates will last at least during the summer. We are obliged to hold reserves here from motives of prudence. Keeping as we do large accounts, and being in some cases the bankers for other banks, we are occasionally drawn on for large sums without notice, and if we were obliged to withdraw money from our restricted local markets to meet these demands, you can see how disorganizing it would be to the general finances of the country. In New York we could always get in all our call money in twenty-four hours without creating the slightest excitement, or causing a murmur, which would be an impossibility in Canada. Employing this large amount of our funds in the United States, the interest ruling there will always be an important factor in our Profits, and it need not be surprising, therefore, if the net result does not always compare favourably with that of other banks, who have not the same necessity for carrying large reserves in foreign markets. Still we have paid not less than 10 per cent. for a number of years, sometimes more, and not many banks in this country can show a better record. The crop prospects in Canada, apart from Manitoba and the North-West, are not very cheering; the season

has been extremely backward, and the winter wheat has been materially damaged. But fortunately Canada is not now dependent on its grain crop to anything like the extent it used to be—cattle, cheese, butter, and even eggs produce a great deal of money, and the spring crops may turn out well, and in that case the loss of the winter wheat would not be very much felt. The lumber trade looks promising, and sales have already been made at remunerative prices. Looking at the whole situation, although it is not bright, there is no special occasion for despondency, if bankers, manufacturers and merchants will only recognize the facts as they are and face them squarely. Business has undoubtedly been much overdone for a good many years, curtailment is annually preached to both merchants and manufacturers, but it never seems to come in sufficient quantity. There has been no season for a long time back when it was more necessary than it is now. The cotton mills show a strong tendency to over-manufacture—the output should be materially reduced. This also applies to manufacturers of agricultural implements. Stocks of goods all through the country are undoubtedly excessive, and merchants must cut down their importations with an unsparing hand, and scrutinize their credits with more than ordinary care. Bankers themselves have undeniably contributed largely to this state of affairs by too great readiness in the matter of single name advances, particularly to the dry goods trade, enabling them to carry stocks altogether out of proportion to the capital embarked in this business. Unless all this is changed trade cannot be placed on a sound and healthy basis.

DIVIDENDS AND BONUSES.

In conclusion I would like to be permitted to say a few words regarding Dividends and Bonuses. The first, our late President told you some years ago, we calculated on maintaining at 10 per cent., and the object of carrying forward a large amount at credit of Profit and Loss account each year was to ensure that rate of dividend in the event of any great mishap. But I would ask you always to consider a bonus as an exceptional thing—not to be calculated on, but to be viewed in the light of an agreeable surprise. Sir Donald Smith, speaking as Vice-President at the annual meeting in 1884, in the absence of the President from illness, plainly indicated this. He said, in effect, the attainment of the full Rest of \$6,000,000 would give assurance of a steady dividend, and he trusted, a bonus from time to time. Not, as you will remember, a bonus as a regular thing. The fact that a bonus has been given for the three succeeding years no doubt may have encouraged the expectation that they would be paid every year; but the outcome for the last twelve months has proved that this could not have been done now without reducing the Profit and Loss account below the amount the Directors think it should be maintained at, say \$600,000, and I am sure the prudent course in that respect decided on by the Directors will commend itself to all Shareholders who look to the permanent interest of the Bank. I have now, I think, gone over all the ground, but if there is any more information required, I shall be happy to answer any questions to the best of my ability.

The President—We shall now be glad to hear from any gentleman present who may desire to address the meeting.

After some remarks from Mr. John Morrison, Mr. Henry Yates, of Beaufort, trusted that the Directors would see their way to lay a more detailed account of the working of the Bank before the Shareholders. Although it was a very nice thing for a Shareholder to handle his bonus, he did not complain that they had not got one, and he felt that it was for the best, as he always had placed his most unbounded confidence in the management of the institution, and knew them to be both capable and honest. Anything told to the Shareholders by the Directors he felt that all could put their implicit belief in. He regretted the absence of the Hon. Mr. Abbott from the meeting, because that gentleman had done good service to the country in Parliament by breaking up the bucket shops, and he thought he might perhaps impress on him the necessity for some legislation which would better protect the shareholders in banks. So far as the shareholders were concerned they had no "N. P." at all. The money of those who invested in banking institutions circulated through every channel of commerce and they did greater good to the country through their savings than perhaps any other class of the community. At present bank shareholders had no protection, and this condition of things should be altered. He advocated the appointment of an auditor by the Government to look after the monthly statements of the banks and the responsibility of the Government to the shareholders in the event of anything going wrong. While believing that the expenditure made by the management was wise and prudent in the interests of the Bank, he suggested to them that they should consider the question of economizing in the future.

Mr. John Crawford—Mr. President, I suppose the moral of Mr. Yates' speech is that you must not look to the future for too bright a prospect, and that our interest depends upon close attention and keeping down expenses; expenditure in the management of the Bank. Last year, in my innocence, I suggested to you, Mr. President, the propriety of initiating the payment of a 6 per cent. semi-annual dividend. As you had already secured your plum of \$6,000,000, and the very handsome contingent fund of \$600,000, I took it for granted that that was an opportune moment to inaugurate this 6 per cent. semi-annual dividend. I am, however, now prepared to admit, Mr. President, that you were wise in your generation. You did not see fit to accept the gauntlet which I threw down; you were in a clear position to know the assets of this institution than an outsider like myself; in fact you spoke from the inside. With reference to the election of a Director to take the place of the late Senator Hamilton, I might say that the same remarks which I made on a previous occasion when that excellent choice of a Director was made in the person of my friend Mr. McDonald, are applicable now, that as the period for the general election had so nearly approached, it might have been courteous to have permitted the Shareholders generally to have participated in the election of such a qualified Director as the Hon. Senator Abbott, but good and sufficient reasons, no doubt, have induced you to do otherwise. With reference to the appointment itself I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that the choice could not have been improved upon. His profound legal lore, his experience in commercial law, and his influence makes him an especially desirable Director. The policy, however, of recruiting your ranks from other banks, Mr. President, is another point that I am not prepared to discuss, further than to say that it is just possible that reprisals might be made, and I should not like to see a raid made upon the Bank of Montreal and the *crème de la crème* of our Directors carried off. But I am prepared to admit that the Bank has secured a very valuable addition to its Board in the election of Senator Abbott; but if this Bank has attained such an excellent result, what must the Merchant's Bank not have lost. I think, Mr. President, some gentleman said the Shareholders would be perfectly satisfied even with an 8 per cent. dividend, but I think that there are few Shareholders who will endorse that sentiment. If my memory serves me rightly, in 1874, a Shareholder, instead of being satisfied with an 8 per cent. dividend, brought it before the then President, and said: "I trust there is no intention on the part of the Board to inaugurate a 10 per cent. dividend, payable half-yearly." They were then paying 8 per cent. half-yearly, and he wished to prevent them increasing it from 8 to 10 per cent. At that time, I think, the dividend was 6 per cent., with a bonus of 2 per cent. Now, as you have said, our late President intimated that he thought he was prepared to say that 10 per cent. would be the minimum of dividends which this Bank would pay, and, therefore, I am not disposed to accept the suggestion to reduce it to 8 per cent. We all deplore the losses, which must have been exceptional, that have led to the dropping of the bonus paid last year. I may say, Mr. President, that a friend intimated to me a short time ago that it would be desirable, seeing that the bonus cannot be continued, to initiate a quarterly dividend of 2½ per cent., paying a bonus when a fund for that purpose had been realized. It occurred to me that the suggestion was an admirable one, and I know that it would popularize this Bank. I believe it is the tendency of the age to pay quarterly dividends. The British consols now, I believe, pay a quarterly dividend, and I therefore see no impropriety, whatever, in inaugurating an annual dividend of 10 per cent., payable quarterly. Of course I expect opposition from the management side of the house, because it will entail a little more labour, but even that labour I think, as a rule exaggerated, and if it were once established I am sure every Shareholder would be delighted. I would like to add a word with reference to the gross earnings. I have heard the President himself say that you are desirous of taking the Shareholders into your confidence, and I would like, Mr. President, an illustration of that confidence by your producing next year a statement of the gross earnings of the Bank. By so doing we will be able to arrive at something like a definite percentage of the expenses in proportion to the management of the Bank. There is a feeling abroad that the expenses have increased very materially. We all know what salaries and emoluments were created in prosperous time, and these should not apply forever unless there be corresponding results. I merely throw out this hint, feeling assured that in the near future the Shareholders will insist upon having a statement of the gross earnings, because there is no other means by which they can know whether the Bank is extravagantly or economically managed. Is it not fair and reasonable that this information should be placed in our hands? I know bank managers, as a rule, are opposed to the payment of maximum dividends and prefer to tickle the tastes of the shareholders by an occasional bonus. I trust that this contingent fund will not be encroached upon until it reaches a million dollars, and that after that you will elect to pay a 6 per cent. semi-annual dividend or a quarterly dividend of 2½ or 3 per cent. Before sitting down I would also like to ask what the appropriations for bad and doubtful debts have been during the past year? I think the management of all banks are in the habit of saying that they have made ample provision for all bad and doubtful debts, and of furnishing the Shareholders with the net result, but I think they would like to know what the appropriations for this purpose have been during the past year. I wish also to allude to one other point and that is that it has been suggested to me, that this Bank holds a considerable amount of provincial bonds. There has been some little flurry and excitement in the newspapers as to the propriety of calling them in and re-issuing them at a smaller figure. If it is not too inquisitive, might I ask, if the Bank itself holds such securities, and what is the impression with reference to them?

Sir Donald Smith—I need hardly say that we have listened with very great interest to the remarks made by Mr. Morrison, Mr. Yates, and Mr. Crawford, and it is satisfactory to the Board to know that our policy of being conservative in the management is endorsed by those gentlemen, as no doubt it will be by the Shareholders generally. Mr. Crawford referred last year to the election of a Director almost immediately before the annual meeting. I then mentioned in reply to him that the Board were only acting in accordance with the provision of the by-law of the Bank which, to provide for a vacancy in the directorate, says—"Then the remaining Directors shall from the qualified Shareholders fill up the vacancy for the unexpired period." I am glad that Mr. Crawford has expressed his unqualified satisfaction with the appointment that has been made. With regard to quarterly dividends, and the publication of gross earnings I have no doubt that the Board, which may be elected now, will be very glad to take that proposition into their careful consideration. It has not been customary to give information with regard to profits, and I am not prepared to do so now. With reference to Mr. Crawford's question regarding the Province of Quebec bonds, I can answer that the Bank holds something like \$50,000 of these bonds. We have seen it stated in some newspapers that the Premier of the Province of Quebec had expressed himself to the effect that it was not only possible, but that it was quite legal, for the Province to call in those bonds and securities at par, and to consolidate them at a lower rate of interest without the consent of the bondholders. This report is not substantiated, and we can hardly suppose that the Hon. Mr. Meier, who is so astute and experienced, and who has so much responsibility devolving upon him—even if this consolidation were possible, which we really cannot bring ourselves to believe—would make such a statement. I should hope that the honourable gentleman has been misinterpreted. I cannot think that the Government of the Province would treat these bonds and securities as if there were no agreement between the debtor and creditor as to time, and it could not be otherwise than disadvantageous to the credit of the country if such an impression should go abroad in the money market.

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS.

Mr. Crawford—I am very glad to have an opportunity to move a vote of thanks to the President and Directors. Most of us, if not all, will believe that the losses, however heavy they have been during the past year, were those which in the ordinary course of things could not be foreseen or averted. The Bank of Montreal, I need scarcely say, is the third largest joint stock bank in the world. I believe that administering as it does fifty millions of money, with its vast assets scattered over the vast area of this Dominion, extending from the Atlantic seaboard to that of the Pacific, the only country so extensive with the important exception of the United States, it is difficult to imagine that a bank can under such circumstances escape some losses. I think, sir, it is fair to assume that the Directors hardly realize the great responsibility which they assume in undertaking to dispose of fifty millions of money. It is certainly a stupendous trust for them, and requires the greatest assiduity and fidelity, taking into consideration the extent of that trust. I think that the Directors who ourselves regret the necessity of withholding the bonus to which we have been accustomed for some years, but there is this to be considered, do we not deserve some blame for encouraging the Directors by a constant desire to create larger dividends, to hoist more sail and therefore to provoke greater debts? We have no reason under the circumstances, I think, to be aggrieved at a 2 or 3 per cent. of what we call proper profits being converted into so much loss. The gist of what I would say is simply in the following few words: Had the Board seen fit to encroach upon the contingent fund of \$600,000 in order to pay a bonus notwithstanding that there was great pressure brought to bear upon them to do so, I hesitate not to say that the confidence hitherto reposed in them would have been shaken, and moreover they would have been disloyal to the Shareholders and to the Management of the Bank. I beg to move—

That the thanks of the meeting be presented to the President, Vice-President and Directors, for their attention to the interests of the Bank.

Before asking you, Mr. President, to put this motion, I may say that I do not wish either the Directors or the Shareholders to imagine that there is any Shareholder who would have been less satisfied had the Board been able to declare a bonus as they did last year.

Mr. R. B. Angus—As the meeting has been so prolonged I will content myself with simply seconding the resolution which I do very heartily. It expresses the thanks of the meeting to the President and Directors for their attention to the interests of the Bank during the past year, and I hope will be accepted by them as a vote of confidence in the Board, as at present constituted as meeting the entire approval of the Shareholders.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The President—On the part of my colleagues and myself I have to return you our very best thanks for the confidence you have expressed in us, and to assure you that we are fully conscious of the great responsibility resting upon us.

THANKS TO THE GENERAL MANAGER AND OTHER OFFICERS.

Mr. A. T. Patterson moved, seconded by Mr. W. C. McDonald.

That the thanks of the meeting be given to the General Manager, the Inspector, the Managers and other officers of the Bank, for their services during the past year. Carried.

Mr. W. J. Buchanan—On my own behalf and on that of my colleagues in the service, I will say simply that we are exceedingly obliged to you for this resolution.

Mr. Hector McKenzie moved, seconded by Mr. Geo. Macrae, Q.C.:

That the ballot now open for the election of Directors, be kept open until 3 o'clock, unless fifteen minutes elapse without a vote being cast, when it shall be closed, and until that time, and for that purpose only, this meeting be continued. Carried.

A formal adjournment then took place. The scrutineers reported the following gentlemen as duly elected Directors:—Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, Geo. A. Drummond, E. B. Greenshields, Hugh McLennan, Alex. Murray, W. C. McDonald, A. T. Paterson, Sir Donald A. Smith, K. C. M. G., Gilbert Scott.

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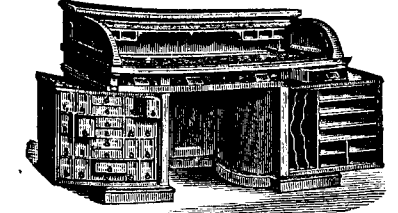
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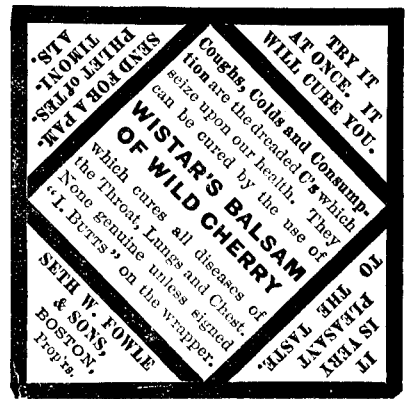
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