

Extracts from an Essay, entitled, "Canada," by J. Sheridan Hogan,—which was awarded the first prize, by the Committee of the Paris Exhibition, of Canada.—

THE HABITANT, OR LOWER CANADIAN.

No persons can contrast more strongly than the habitant of Lower Canada and the farmer of Upper. The latter is a very proud, advanced, and is always ready to change his neighborhood for a better one; and his homestead of a few hundred acres of cleared land, is a mere trifle to him as compared with the hundred acres of wilderness, if he can satisfy himself, that the latter would be better for his children. The habitant, on the other hand, is not so long, or rather than that for his life, he is contented. The place where he was born, though giving him, in many cases, a slender livelihood, is still dearer to him than all the world. In vain for him has the magnificent West been opened up, in vain for him has America been filled with accounts of prosperity in it. His dreams have never found his own life. His imagination is bounded by the fence round his farm. He asks no better lot than to live where his father lived, and to die there like him.

As might naturally be expected, avarice has little to do with such a character. If he knows not the rewards of grasping and covetousness, he has no pride, nor is he mortified. There is not, in consequence, a more cheerful, happy, and contented being in existence than the Lower Canadian habitant. His little farm—for, as a general rule, on account of frequent subdivisions, the farms in Lower Canada are small—supplies him with enough to live in ease and comfort, and to support the cars of to-morrow. He has five or six cows, and he knows that should give milk enough for himself and his family, and he never gives him any more about the matter. He increases their number, or improving their quality. He has six or eight pigs, and instead of fattening two or three for the market, he keeps an entire flock of them to dole out the blessings of Heaven as they are sent to him, and eats the whole of them. He copies no man's improve-ment, he has no ambition, he is very happy. His life, his food, his enjoyments are regulated by the opportunities of the day. If he fares sumptuously, he thanks Providence, and is happy. If he has to eat a little less, he is contented. He thinks it all right, and is equally contented. Simply, in his life, but happy in its simplicity. For he has no desire for any other, no desire for any desirable change; but, happily, his gentleness, his innocence, and his cheerfulness, have been equally enduring.

I can take leave of the habitant of Lower Canada, without alluding to his amiable disposition, and native politeness. You pass through a country parish in any part of the world, and you never see a more amiable and good natured, by both old and young, and so gracefully, yet with so much ease and frankness, that you forget for the moment where you are, and you enter the habitant's house—always clean, with flowers in the windows, and the walls well white-washed—and though the man may be the poorest of the parish, he is always distinguished by so much cordiality and refinement, so wholly unembarrassed and unassuming, that you can with difficulty, believe such people do not live in ease and plenty. You speak execrable French—many English people unfortunately do—and make mistakes which would provoke the rivalry of the gods, yet you are not made to feel a single particle of offence, nor even on the faces of his children. Of course after you go away, they enjoy the fun of their own language, and the civilities of your country, may, from accidental circumstances, be distant to him; yet, as long as you are under his roof—it is for no moment—you are under his care, and he will have you as feeling or wound your pride. In enterprise, in that boldness of thought and action which make a people great and a country beyond the rest of America, it is not commonly to be found in America. In not seeking to understand, and sometimes opposing the introduction of palpable improvements, and in not desiring to be led by their own intelligence. But in refinement and good breeding—in all that fascinates the stranger, and makes the resident happy among his neighbors—are to be found in the habitant class on this continent. And all that America can teach them in enterprise would not exceed what they could teach America in refinement and civilization—namely, gentleness and good manners.

To appreciate the magnitude of the canals and their locks on the St. Lawrence, it is necessary to glance at the spots in the river nearly a hundred miles of navigation they form the completing links. Let me conduct the reader then to where the steamer, destined to shoot its way to the first of the Thousand Islands, and Islands. It is between Kingston and Brockville, and usually just after sunrise. The scene here, of a bright morning—and mornings are seldom so bright in the St. Lawrence—would offend to captivate. You pass close by, near enough to catch a pebble from the deck of the steamer

upon them—cluster after cluster of beautiful little circular islands, whose trees, perpetually moistened by the river, have a most luxuriant and exquisitely tinted foliage, their branches overhanging the water, and their leaves, by the winding passages and bays between the islands, the trees on their margins, interlacing above one another, forming a dense natural archway; yet are the water of these bays so deep that the steamers of considerable size might pass under the interlacing trees. Then opens before you a wide bay, with a large island apparently in the distance, dividing it into two great rivers. But as you approach this, you discover that it is but a mere opening into the river, being divided into many parts, and looking like silver threads flowing carelessly over a large green cloth. Considerable numbers of bright passages open, and you begin to lengthen to feel the multitude of ways there must be great danger for your half colored and winding river steamer to an abrupt termination four or five hundred yards in advance of you. But as you are approaching at headlong speed the threatening rocks in front, a channel suddenly opens upon you, and you are again in the river. It is a miracle; and the next second a magnificent amphitheatre of lakes opens out before you. This again is bounded, to all appearances, by a dark green forest, and the river, which you have moved as if in a Kaleidoscope, and to a hundred beautiful little islands, which you approach and pass by, in twenty miles, and you glide through it, as if in the country which you glide through.

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The inhabitants of Carleton, N.B., celebrated the success of the Allies at a public Dinner. Sentiments followed in rapid succession, and "a feast of reason and a flow of soul," inspired without a word of intoxicating drinks.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

NICOLAIEFF. Nicolaieff, to visit which the Emperor Alexander II. left St. Petersburg, and where he probably now is, has since the spring been the focus of interest for Russia. The commonly held opinion in the Crimea, and especially in the Crimea, is that there were 60,000 troops in the Crimea for some time, this camp has not been much spoken of, but the place has again been brought into notice by a statement to which undue prominence has been given, and which could only have been a result of a report from the Central Government, viz., that the Russian Emperor had resolved to make Nicolaieff replace Sebastopol about two months ago when the operations of the Allies in the South of Africa were giving expectations of further naval exploits in the East, the well-known importance of Nicolaieff, the cradle of the Black Sea navy, pointed it out as the place of an admirable fleet. The chief question to be considered was, whether its arsenals and dockyards were not sufficiently secured from the attacks of the English, and whether the river in which they are situated, and which flows to the little depth of water that the Russian ships built at Nicolaieff can only reach the sea by the aid of a bar, and whether the bay was not entirely overlooked, when it is said that Nicolaieff is to become a second Sebastopol. A person which can mean nothing unless that part is in the hands of the Allies, and which can serve as the basis of naval operations in time of war. The suggested removal of the establishment of the Black Sea navy, and the removal, within the limits of the Diaper, since it would bring them nearer to the enemy, would be a measure in opposition to the principles by which the naval authorities of the Allies have governed their conduct throughout the war.

Amber-Kader is Peace—Abd-El-Kader has arrived in Paris. His health continues to improve. He brought with him some magnificent presents for the Empress and the ladies of the court. The reward of the Emperor consists of a pair of slippers so richly set with precious stones as to be worth 20,000 piastres, and a rich carpet for the side of a bed. The Princess Mathilde is to receive complete coffee services in chased silver, in the fashion of Constantinople, and on the sifter the Emir has caused to be engraved some Arabic verses, complimentary to the Empress. The reward of the Emir consists of the sifter, and it alone is worth 5,000 piastres. Accompanying the services is a quantity of Mecca silk, and a quantity of gold and silver, and it is said that the Princess will be able to draw office, exactly as it is prepared in the seraglio. The other object brought by the Emir consists of pipes, carpets, and other Oriental articles.

PROVISIONS AND AMMUNITION.—It is said that the belligerents in Europe, have been and still are drawing very large supplies of provisions and ammunition from Great Britain. The thing has been managed very quietly, and is every powder-mill in the United States has been for months constantly and most fully employed, and that article has been sent by whole cargoes to Europe. Such an extent has this been carried on, that the supply of saltpetre in this country is very nearly exhausted, and unless further supplies are received shortly, the manufacture of powder will soon come to a standstill.

A SMALL ITEM.—The New York Sun, decanting on the extravagancies of dress in that city, estimates the annual cost of dressing and jewelling the ladies of New York and its vicinity, at from thirty to forty millions of dollars, as much as its costs to maintain the general government.

AN EMERGENCY ROOM.—The largest room in the world, under a single roof, and unbroken by pillars or other obstructions, is at St. Petersburg, and is 650 feet in length, and 150 feet in breadth. By daylight it is used for military displays, and at night for a ball-room. In the evening, it is often converted into a vast ball room, when it is warmed by sixteen production stoves and 20,000 wax tapers are required to light it properly. The roof of the structure is a single arch of iron, the bars alone on which it rests weighing 12,301,000 pounds.

A young lady in Charleston, S. C., recently attempted to commit suicide by taking laudanum. Her attempt was discovered in season to save her life. She gave as a reason for the deed, that her lover had left her for another. He had never been so cold before, and from that moment "life became a burden and a curse."

The Norfolk correspondent of Petersburg (Va.) Express thus speaks of the "yellow fly" which has appeared at Norfolk and Portsmouth, since the commencement of the fever—"The fly is about the size of our common fly, of a yellowish color, with long delicate porous wings of a texture as fine as the softest silk. They fly together in swarms, and may be seen in large numbers on the fig trees, but their great point of attraction is the human nose, which repels the inflated victims of "yellow jack." We took a stroll out to that Galathea of burial grounds, Putters' Field, yesterday, and were intensely horrified at seeing many of the coffins that lay on the ground, scattered around, awaiting interment literally black with these loathsome little insects that are so common to our country, more so thick as to exclude the coffin entirely from sight. It was the most disgusting spectacle we ever beheld, having an ugly, wormy significance of the last of poor mortality about it that was absolutely sickening!"

Canada extends in length from the coast of Labrador to the river Kaministiquia at the end of the Lake Superior, about 1000 miles, with an average breadth of 230 miles, being nearly three times larger as Great Britain and Ireland. It contains an area of about 350,000 square miles, or 221,000,000 acres.

INCREASE OF THE METALS.

There can be no doubt but any increase in the use of the workable metals—such as iron, copper, tin, lead, zinc, silver, gold, and platinum—tends to advance the useful arts. The cheaper these metals become, in the same proportion will man be benefited. Were iron to be obtained at the half the present price, it would be more generally employed, and all classes would be greatly stimulated, and all classes would be gaining by the improvement. In its own place copper is just as valuable, and were it as cheap as iron it would be used for many purposes for which the latter is now employed. We never expect to see it become as cheap, still, we hope it will be more generally employed, and all classes would be gaining by the improvement. The great copper deposits of the Lake Superior regions, in the course of time, influence the price of copper, and render it more abundant. It is estimated that the yield of pure copper from these regions this year, will not be less than 5000 tons. In a few years, these mines will be yielding more than that now produced by all the other mines in existence. When steel is produced as cheap as tinued-steel iron, it will be extensively employed for the roofs and conductors of buildings.—Scientific American.

The other day a friend of mine saw a grave looking old Turk, with spectacles, reading for his own edification, aloud from the New Testament, and a crowd of Turks standing around him, who were all looking at him with great interest. Last week a box of New Testaments, in the Turkish language, was sent from the bible depot to the Custom House, according to rule, from whence it was going to be shipped for Thessalonica. The Custom House officer said, that as the contents were books, they should be examined by the Government, and that they should be allowed to pass. Some copies were accordingly sent to the Consul's office, and they soon came back with the Government seal on the first cover, and the others free circulation in Turkey!"

CONVEYANCE AND WHOLESALE FOOD.—A very interesting and palatable food, may be prepared with the common pilot bread, which is a hard, dry cracker, made of flour and water. These can be purchased by the barrel at a price but a little higher than flour, pound for pound, as they are generally made by machinery, and the cost of making and baking is but trifling. The following is a recipe for making a good quality of pilot bread is quoted in this market at less than one cent per pound above good flour, and as they are nearly as dry as flour, they are about as nutritious. They will keep longer than flour without deteriorating or becoming stale. They can be used in a variety of ways, such as eating them in slices of meat, or with butter, or with sugar, or with molasses, or with a good substitute for "crust" in popovers, having the advantage of always being light and soft, and of not becoming stale, and of not being put into an oven after the bread is removed, or into a stove oven, and let them dry thoroughly; then break them up and pour boiling water over them, and let them stand a few minutes; or milk. We know of no more easily prepared, more wholesome, and more palatable food than this, and it will keep longer than any other food for a domestic use.—American Agriculturist.