

APRES LA COMMUNE

SOUVENIR DE 1871

"Ces souvenirs sont empruntés à un volume qui paraît sous ce titre : "Journal d'un vaincu." L'auteur, M. Pierre de Lano, s'est fait connaître déjà par de curieuses révélations sur le monde politique du second empire :

La pression dirigée contre la commune fut effroyable. Cependant l'humanité ne perdait pas tout à fait ses droits, et des exemples heureux seraient à noter pour l'honneur des hommes qui eurent, à cette époque, une part quelconque dans les affaires publiques.

Parmi ces exemples, il en est deux que j'ai recueillis. Le premier eut pour théâtre le palais de l'Élysée au moment même où les troupes de Versailles venaient de reprendre ce monument au fédérés.

Comme on conduisait dans le jardin un groupe de malheureux, saisis les armes à la main et destinés à la mort immédiate, un gamin d'une quinzaine d'années se détacha de ses compagnons et, fuyant aux travers des soldats, s'en vint se planter devant un colonel chargé des exécutions.

Le gamin ayant fait le salut militaire, adressa alors la parole à l'officier :

—M'sieu, vous allez me fusiller, n'est-ce pas ?

—Certainement, mon bonhomme. Pincés les armes à la main, tous y passeront, c'est l'ordre.

—Eh bien, voilà : j'habite la rue Miromesnil, où maman est concierge. Puisque je vais être fusillé je ne rentrerai pas à la maison, maman m'attendra et sera inquiète. Voulez-vous me permettre, m'sieu, d'aller jusque chez vous ? Je dirai à maman que j'ai une course à faire, qu'il n'y a pas de danger pour moi ; comme cela, elle m'attendra bien, mais elle se tourmentera moins. Et puis j'ai une montre ; je voudrais bien la donner à maman avant de mourir. Voulez-vous, dites, m'sieu, que j'aille jusque chez vous je vous promets de revenir.

Le colonel, entouré de quelques officiers et du gouverneur du palais, M. de Bevalle, qui était resté à Paris pendant la Commune, demeurait stupéfait du langage de cet enfant. Il y avait assez de sang peut-être ; il lui répugnait sans doute de faire tuer ce gamin de quinze ans ; il sourit et demanda au petit homme :

—Et si je te permets d'aller jusque chez toi, tu reviendras bien sûr ?

Le gamin se redressa : —Parole d'honneur, m'sieu. —Eh bien, va.

Puis se retournant vers les officiers, le soldat murmura : —Il a de l'esprit, ce voyou Ça le sauve.

Une demie-heure s'écoula, et nul ne songeait plus à l'enfant, lorsque devant le colonel, soudain, il reparut.

—Voilà, m'sieu, fit-il. J'ai dit la chose à maman. Je l'ai embrassée. Maintenant, je suis prêt.

Ce fut alors comme une détonation chez le soldat. Il saisit l'enfant par les oreilles (il eût voulu l'embrasser, peut-être) le mena vers la porte, et, lui appliquant le pied dans le bas des reins, il le jeta dehors.

—Sacré brigand ! s'écria-t-il, veux-tu bien f...le camp et retourner chez ta mère !

Puis, s'adressant de nouveau à ceux qui étaient auprès de lui et désignant les fédérés vaincus :

—Ils ont dont des héros ces gueux-là ?

Le second exemple d'humanité, de pitié, eut lieu à Ver-

sailles, devant le 3e conseil de guerre, siégeant alors au palais de justice et présidé par le colonel D...des cuirassiers. J'étais à l'audience lorsqu'il se produisit.

On venait de faire asseoir sur le banc des accusés, un jeune homme distingué et vêtu convenablement. Le colonel, ayant parcouru rapidement son dossier, lui adressa les questions habituelles, après quoi, brusquement, il l'interrogea plus intimement :

—Vous êtes veuf, et vous avez deux enfants ?

—Oui, mon colonel.

—Deux filles, n'est-ce pas ?

—Oui, mon colonel.

—Et pendant que vous êtes ici, où sont vos enfants ?

—Un ami s'en était chargé jusqu'à ce jour. Il vient de mourir. Mes enfants sont à l'audience.

—A l'audience ?

—Oui, mon colonel.

—Voulez-vous les voir ?

—Oui. Gardes, faites avancer les deux enfants.

On vit alors deux fillettes ; l'une de seize ans environ, l'autre de quatorze ans, adorablement jolies, sortit timidement de la foule et s'arrêta à la barre des témoins, escortées par un fonctionnaire.

Le colonel leur sourit et leur dit :

—Nous avons à causer avec votre papa, mes enfants. Vous allez l'attendre dans une pièce voisine de celle-ci. Mais avant, vous seriez bien contentes de l'embrasser, n'est-ce pas ?

L'ainée répondit :

—Oui, monsieur.

—Eh bien, embrassez-le.

Une émotion violente s'empara du public qui emplissait la salle et une sympathie allait de ce père qui pleurait sous les caresses de ses fillettes au président, assez humain pour permettre cet épanchement familial, peu en usage avec le cérémonial ordinaire de la justice.

Lorsque les pauvrettes eurent enlacé leur père, le colonel reprit :

—Maintenant, comme je vous l'ai dit, pendant que votre papa et moi nous allons causer, vous allez vous retirer dans une pièce voisine de celle-ci. Gardes, conduisez ces enfants dans la chambre des témoins et ne les quittez pas.

Ce que fut ce procès, on ne peut le penser. Le prévenu était accusé de simples délits de presse, mais risquait cependant la déportation.

Le colonel D...dirigea l'interrogatoire de telle façon qu'on crut à l'acquiescement. Une condamnation à un mois de prison fut pourtant prononcée.

L'auditoire était attentif, anxieux. Lorsque le président eut fait connaître le jugement du conseil au malheureux père, il parut réfléchir, puis de nouveau il reprit ses questions :

—Tout cela est très bien, mais vos enfants, que vont-elles devenir tandis que vous serez en prison.

—Je l'ignore, mon colonel.

—Comment, vous l'ignorez ?

—Oui. N'ayant ni parents ni amis, je ne sais à qui confier mes enfants.

Le colonel D...laissa bruyamment tomber son poing sur la table.

—Ca ne peut pas se passer comme ça ? s'écria-t-il. Ces enfants ne peuvent être à la rue.

—Elles y seront pourtant, mon colonel.

Le colonel se tourna vers les gardes.

—Ramenez moi les enfants, grogna-t-il.

Puis, quand les fillettes furent de-rechef devant lui.

—Mes mignonnes, dit-il. vo-

tre papa va faire un petit voyage. Il sera absent durant un mois. Mais en l'attendant, il faut que vous sachiez où trouver l'hospitalité. Voyons, il paraît que vous ne connaissez personne. Eh bien, moi, est-ce que je vous fait peur ? Voulez-vous venir avec moi ?

Ce fut l'ainée qui répondit encore.

—Oui, monsieur.

—C'est dit, alors. Embrassez encore votre papa et allons-nous-en. Messieurs l'audience est levée.

Je n'ai pas besoin d'ajouter que les larmes furent nombreuses, ce jour-là au 3e conseil de guerre, et que le colonel D... dont la rude moustache était humide fut félicité.

Il mit les deux fillettes au couvent. Et c'est une consolation de penser si elles sont devenues d'honnêtes femmes, elles le doivent, filles de vaincu, à un vieux grognard victorieux dont le militarisme, alors peu transigeant, n'avait point desséché le cœur.

PIERRE DE LANO.

THE NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY

The North American Life is one of the first Canadian companies to make public its report for the business of the year 1896. It has made it a practice since its organization to close its books promptly on the last day of the year and forward its Government returns to the Dominion Superintendent of Insurance.

The year closed has been more successful than any preceding one, in that the new insurances issued exceeded those of 1895 by 18 per cent., as will be seen from the following :

- New Insurance Increased over 18 per cent.
Total Insurance in Increased over 10 per cent.
Cash Income Increased over 10 per cent.
Assets Increased over 9 per cent.

The North American Life is a Policy-holders' Company, and the main object of the management has been to build up the Company on a solid and sound basis, and to secure to the members a satisfactory return in the way of profits. That the Company has been eminently successful in this, is proven beyond doubt by the general satisfaction which the results of its matured Investment policies have given the holders of them, and from the acknowledgments thereof published from time to time by the Company.

The test of the financial strength of a Company is generally gauged by the ratio of the Company's assets to its liabilities, but in some companies the paid-up capital stock is not treated as a liability. If in the case of the North American it is treated as a liability the net surplus is \$421,546 20, and the ratio of the Company's assets to its liabilities is \$1.20, a ratio which will compare very favorably with that of any of our own institutions. A striking feature of the year's business was the relatively large amount paid out on policy-holders' account. The Consulting Actuary, in this connection, says, "Nevertheless, after making these relatively large payments for matured Investment policies you have been able to close the year again with an increased surplus to your credit;" and in commenting upon this point, The Monetary Times, the leading Canadian exponent of Insurance and Finance, referring to the surplus-earning power of the Company, stated, "We could not praise it more strongly, for there is no

higher test." One of the principal features of the life insurance business in Canada is its stability. It is regrettable that in some companies while an enormous amount of business is transacted in the year, a very small increase is made in the total insurance in force, and sometimes it happens that a decrease results.

President Blaikie, in his admirable address to the policy-holders, referred to this point, and in contrasting the total terminations with the insurance issued found that the percentage of the former to the latter in the North American Life was but 52 per cent., while that of the other leading Canadian and American companies was very considerably higher.

In a very large degree, the high position which the Company has attained, and the excellent results of the year's business, are to be attributed to the zeal and efforts of William McCabe, LL. B. I. A., the Company's managing director whose name and work have always been identified with the Company, and whose reputation for sound and conservative underwriting is well known in this country, as well as in his own. In the planning and conduct of the business he has been ably assisted by the Company's Secretary, L. Goldman, A. I. A., whose connection with the Company likewise dates back to the time of its organization—Spectator, New York, February 11th, 1897.

G. J. McCormac, Special Agent, Charlottetown office, Corner Queen & Sidney Streets.

McKINNON'S ENGLISH OINTMENT

—CURES— Fever Sores, Tetter, Itch, Salt Rheum, Scald Heads, Itching Piles, Pimples on the Face, Ringworm, Blotches, Erysipelas, Inflammation, and all Eruptions of the Skin from any cause whatever. It removes Dandruff and Prevents the Hair from Falling Out. It also cures Scratches, and Wounds on the Backs and Shoulders of Horses. It is virtually the Poor Man's Friend and Medical Companion.

\$18,000 IN CASH \$18,000

Grand Provincial Exhibition HALIFAX

SEPTEMBER 28th to OCTOBER 1st, 1897.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals

The largest amount ever offered in Prizes at any Exhibition in the Maritime Provinces. In addition to the Grand Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, special attractions have been arranged for every day and night.

The Spectacular Siege of Sebastopol every evening—the most gorgeous and realistic effects ever produced in Canada.

An unequalled half mile track for speed competition Exhibits carried at exceedingly low rates. Very cheap excursion tickets on all railways and steamboats.

Full particulars later. Apply for prize list, entry forms and all information to John E. Wood Secretary

July 22, '97 Halifax, N. S.

PATENTES OBTENUES PROMPTEMENT Envoyez un timbre pour notre "Guide des Inventeurs" Nous obtenons plus de patentes pour les inventeurs que tous les autres ingénieurs ensemble, et nous faisons une spécialité des applications, que les autres agents n'ont pas réussi à obtenir. Par de patente, pas de paye. MARION & MARION, EXPERTS, No. 185 rue St. Jacques, Montréal, Tel. 2398. Mentions de Journaux.

WOMAN * HER HOME, HEALTH AND BEAUTY

Boudoir and Toilet. Dining Room and Parlor. House Decoration. Health of Women and Children.

A BOOK THAT EVERY MOTHER AND DAUGHTER SHOULD STUDY AND EVERY HOUSEHOLD POSSESS

An Intensely INTERESTING Chapter on Education of Women. A Very PRACTICAL Chapter on "General Hygiene," including: Hygiene of the Skin, and Hygiene of the Digestive Organs. Sympathetic Articles on MOTHERHOOD and the HYGIENE OF CHILDHOOD. Also Hygiene of the Respiratory Organs, Hygiene of the Eye, Hygiene of the Ear, Hygiene of the Generative Organs.

It is hardly conceivable that any exigency could present itself, or any question arise, in the household, that this book would not meet or answer. It is a book expressly for women. It deals exhaustively and intelligibly with a vast number of matters, concerning which all women ought to be thoroughly informed. In its comprehensive sweep, it covers the whole ground of personal and domestic life, and especially for those just entering on the cares and responsibilities of housekeeping.

A CHARMING BOUDOIR EDITION. Size 12 mo. 388 pages, bound in blue cloth, gilt top, uncut edges, ornamental cover design in gold and two colors. Illustrated. Among the illustrations are 16 full-page reproductions of as many paintings of ideal female heads, each by a different celebrated artist—Seifert, Cossans, Thumann, Siehl, Bougereau, and others. In the Health Department of this valuable work are exhaustive chapters of inestimable value to all mothers and daughters, giving practical hints in emergencies. Whole chapters are given to Woman's Physical Structure, Motherhood, Diseases of Women, Maidenhood, Education of Women, Babyhood, Diseases of Babyhood, Womanhood and Wifehood, Childhood, Diseases of Childhood.

Too frequently such matters are clothed in technical language to such an extent as to be very difficult to comprehend their real meaning. This work will be found to be a plain home talk with all women. We sell this book for \$1.25 To any one sending us 3 new subscribers we give this book free. L'Impartial, Tignish

TEN GREAT REFERENCE WORKS IN ONE MAMMOTH VOLUME.

Webster's Dictionary Original Edition, Revised and Enlarged by Chauncey A. Goodrich, Professor of Yale.

NEW AND MAGNIFICENTLY ILLUSTRATED EDITION... This Dictionary Contains Every Word that Noah Webster ever defined, and 10,000 Additional Words. By the following list it will be seen that the publishers have covered much the same ground as...

THE SUPPLEMENTARY MATTER IN THE LATEST \$12.00 EDITION. 1708 Pages. 1500 Illustrations. An Appendix of 10,000 Additional Words.

It Embraces... Nine Special Dictionaries, protected by copyright, and not found in any other dictionary. A Dictionary of Synonyms and Antonyms. A Dictionary of Biographies and Heroes and Heroines of Prose and Poetry. A Dictionary of Noms de Plume. A Dictionary of Mythology. A Dictionary of Musical Terms. A Dictionary of Familiar Allusions. A Dictionary of Foreign Phrases. A Dictionary of Abbreviations.

EVERY HOME MUST HAVE A DICTIONARY. The Make-up of this edition is superior, the clear white paper, and strong, heavy, durable binding, being in marked contrast to the dirty, brittle wood-pulp paper and flimsy binding of the cheaper editions heretofore published.

THIS IS NOT THE CHEAP BOOK but a beautifully printed edition on fine paper, with thousands of valuable additions of great value to all students of modern science. The study of this famous American work is a liberal education in itself. It is the grand educator of the masses, now offered to our readers in a sumptuous style in keeping with its great value to the people. We could not offer the cheap flimsy editions.

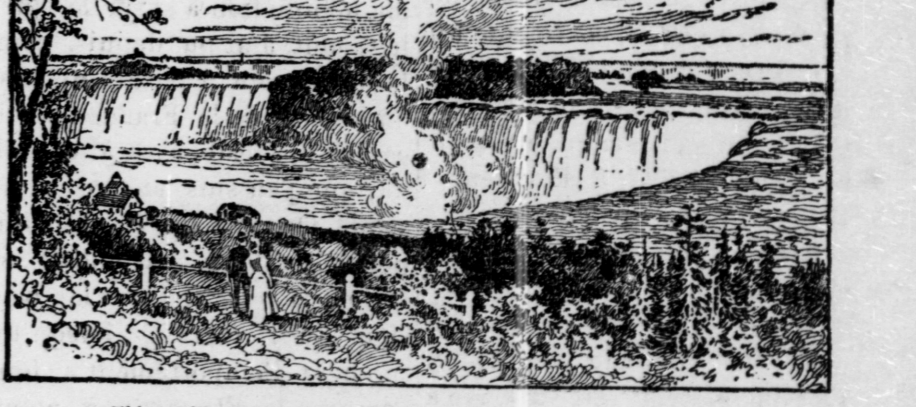
BUT THE GREAT BOOK CHEAP is what our offer means, and you will marvel at the general excellence of this edition if you will grasp the opportunity to secure a copy. Our readers will wonder how we can make as low an offer as the following, so we will "let the cat out of the bag." The fact is the publishers are overstocked, owing to the general depression of the past year, and we have secured a limited supply at about the cost of printing and binding and can therefore make

A MOST UNUSUAL PREMIUM OFFER To the person sending us 10 new subscribers we give it free

\$25.00 for \$1.85 or Even Free! ASTOUNDING BUT TRUE!

Niagara Falls Engraved on Steel after the Famous Painting by CHARLES GRAHAM, America's Leading Scenic Artist.

There are only a few copies of this magnificent art work left and you will be fortunate indeed if you secure one.



This cut illustrates but very faintly the magnificence of the original. The above reproduction is less than one-fiftieth the actual size, the engraved surface being 4 1/2 x 6 1/2 inches, printed on heavy plate paper for framing. Actual size of picture 6 1/2 x 27 inches. The publisher's price is \$25.00, unframed, and that is what a copy would cost you in the art stores. It is a work that would grace the walls of the most palatial mansion in the land.

"The subject is treated in a masterly manner, the grand curve of the Horseshoe in the foreground leading the eye up to the tumbling, raging rapids above, and the broad expanse of river beyond, with the islands in the middle distance and the face of the further curve of the Horseshoe, as well as the great white wall of the American Fall, partially obscured by the cloud of rising spray which is handled lightly with fine effect. In the great amphitheatre below the falls are seen the boiling waters, strongly and effectively depicted, and the two staunch little steamers that make their tours under the constant showers of spray. Never before has this subject been handled by an artist with equal force and impressive dignity, combined with deep, thorough feeling and delicacy of touch."—The Railway Age.

We will send a copy postpaid on receipt of \$1.85, or if you will do a little pleasant work and secure a few subscribers for us as follows—The Famous Picture will be Sent Absolutely Free.

To any one sending us 10 new subscribers we give it free

A PIANO AND ORGAN BOOK FREE. Our new Catalogue is a grand portfolio of all the latest and best styles of Organs and Pianos. It illustrates, describes, and gives manufacturers' prices on Organs from \$25.00 up, and Pianos from \$150 up. It shows how to buy at wholesale direct from the manufacturers, and save over 50 per cent. THE CORNISH ORGANS AND PIANOS Guaranteed for 25 yrs., have been played and praised for nearly 30 yrs.; to-day they are the most popular instruments made. Secure our SPECIAL TERMS of Credit, framed to suit the times. Remember this grand book is sent FREE. Write for it at once. CORNISH & CO. (Estab. nearly 30 yrs.) Washington, N. J.