

PROGRESS, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1894.

LADY ABERDEEN TALKS followed by a midnight parade of the steets. I wish I could give a faint idea of the

ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES OF A CANADIAN WINTER.

The Countess Gives a Delightful Description of the Ouebec Carnival, and Many Other Things She Has Seen Since First Coming flashing across it, as if the garrison within to this Country.

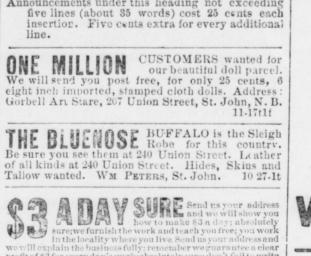
Our first winter in Canada! What a sently, came in sight the long defile of the experiences of many kinds, a new home, new friends, new work ; are all associated dian winters so famous.

cold very severely ?" I hear some one fortress answered boldly, and two little re- should find that summer succeeded winter ask. Well, to that question I can reply doubts took their part in answering fire for with a hop skip, and a jump. But I can with no uncertain sound. The cold may fire, until at last it appeared as if the whole but record our experience. Certainly we be severe, the thermometer falling once or fortress was enveloped in lurid flames, lit could never wish for six weeks more of twice during last winter to 26 and 30 dc- from within by crimson lights, and deluged perfect and substantial spring weather grees below zero at night in Government- with a final volley of rockets. The mo- than we experienced at Ottawa from the house gardens; but the fact remains that ment of surrender had come. M. de Lot- end of March. one does not feel it more cold than, if so biniere was ascending the fortress and But I may be asked whether the note of cold as at home. It is of a different qual- planting the flag of the conquerors on its gaiety; on which I have dwelt, is so preity; and our coachman, whose opinion turrets, and the flames faded away, leav- dominant a feature of Canadian life that may be considered impartial, as he has the fortress a cold mournful grey. The it throws all else into the background. frequently to bear night exposure, says be joyful troop of the jubilant snow-shoers Well, frankly speaking, I think this genhas often felt more chilly when driving on filed down through the streets, filling the eral gaiety and buoyancy is a national a winter night in Aberdeenshire than in night with their shouts of triumph and their trait in Canada, which impresses the new-Canada. Of course one has to adapt songs. We were taken around on a model comer very vividly; but let it be rememoneself to the climate's requirements; but locomotive belonging to one of the snow- bered that in a country like Canada all all the arrangements for protection against shoe clubs, which had figured in the great relaxation and recreation must perforce cold are so complete that there is more procession of the day before-which I have take its proper place. There is happily no likelihood of suffering from too much not space to describe, but in which there room yet for loafers; it is a young country, heat than cold in the Canadian houses were over 100 emblematic cars, also typi- where all must work who would and railways and places of public ie- cil parties; the voyageurs, the lumbermen, live, and this applies not only to sort. - So never let fears of the severity of the hunters, and other pioneers in Canada. the men but to the women; and of the climate deter anyone from making their home in Canada. Only let them come clad in the woolens which wise people wear at home as well in Canada, and be the premier winter game of Canada, was versant with the details of househould work ready to adopt simple precautions to pre- of course well to the fore, exciting the in the morning. If the difficulty of finding serve ears and fingers and toes from frost bites. There is a material made in Canada called blanket cloth, which is admir. bly the full excitement of the game is aroused, duced a race of mistresses, whose glery it is fitted for winter wear; it is in fact, an adaptation of the blanketing worn by the Indians, and has been great in vogue amongst the merry tobogganers. Bit we are disposed to think that it it not sufficiently appreciated or worn by the general played for the first time on ice, toboggan- should be that capacity for enjoying simple publied We think that the members of ing, coasting, and skating in its perfection. pleasures, and for entering heartily into the government house staff never look so well as when they turn out in their darkblanket suits striped with light blue. or, on very smart occasions, in white, with mere child's play, and dancing the lancers | aright the more serious duties of life. the same blue, and with many-colored a pastime ; but just watch the more serious scarfs, woven in times gone by by the skaters cutting figures of impossible nature French peasants, wound round their waists. with the utmost grace and ease, darting in It is a pity that a picture taken of our own and out like swallows; and presently, at a family should not have been rendered in signal from the band which is always precolors to illustrate the variety that may be sent on high days, the whole company asobtained in these costumes-three of the semble for what is called "a march," and children in bright blue and white, our eldtwist in and out, and backwards and forest boy in red and white. His Excellency wards and across one and another, with in dark and light blue, and myself in a precision and a finish which appear the brown and yellow. But it is to the Ice perfection of the art. Carnival time in Quebec last January From time to time, as on the occasion Gideon, ordered to be hanged. Hanging that we owe our most picturesque recolof this carnival, or for some special night a cattle thief was such an everyday affair lection both of blanket-clad snow-shoers as we had at Ottawa, a skating masquerade and of the pleasure of a Canadian winter takes place, and the skaters will appear handsome youth of a good family was to generally. dressed in character; and sometimes the be executed, sought her husband and It was the first time that one of the carnive's had been held in the quaint, historic | children get an afternoon devoted to them, and appear as Red Ridinghoods, princes old city overhanging the St. Lawrence, and princesses, clowns and sailors, and red of Harden, wi' three ill faured lasses in and her citizens had determined that the Indians, and so on. These children seem event should be a success. Not only in the main streets, but in the by-ways, it to be brought up on skates, and their little would be seen that the inhabitants were figures in vivid colors flashing past, skating hand in hand, backwards and forwards, he'll stretch for it." vying one with another as to who should do the most for the occasion. Decorations make one feel amongst the fairy-tolk in there were in abundance, also all manner very deed. At Quebec the bob-sleds used for tobogof snow fortresses and buildings, arches, ganing purposes down the steep slopes are marvelously.carved ice statues of the old not the usual flat, wooden toboggan curved heroes of Quebec, an ice model of a lion, at one end, but are iron-tipped, and curved and to crown all, an ice fortress, built of at both ends. But it is the ordinary toboghuge blocks of transparent green ice, with tortifications all around it and all glittering gan which is used on our slides at Government House, where we have had many and shimmering in the sunlight, a constant merry gatherings both by day and by thing of beauty to all beholders. The reality of the reign of King Winter | night. I must leave to some one of more exwas demonstraoed on the day of our perience to tell about the merry Canadian arrival by a furious blizzard of snow and winter life, of the fishing through the icehail, which delayed cur train for six bound waters, the pursuit of the moose. hours, but which at the same time gave and the methods of winter travelling by the finishing touch to the carnival means of dog-sleighs, adopted by the hardy preparations by frosting over the Hudson Bay Company hunters and the whole. In spite of the tempest, all the devoted missionaries of the North-West. snow shoe clubs had assembled in their I have only been able to give a glimpse of many colored blanket costumes of white, first impressions of the winter's recreations red blue, and black, brown, and green. of the townsfolk, and even so, I fear, I and purple, to receive us at the station, have not at all conveyed an impression of and insisted on themselves dragging our the condition of things which make this sleigh up the precipitous streets to the sort of life possible. The sun is a great finely-designed, newly erected Chateau factor in a Canadian winter, and Canadians Frontenac-the hotel put up by the tell us how they miss it when they Canadian Pacific Railway, which has the spend their first winter in England; distinction of adding to the beauties of the place instead of detracting from them as and then the snow, it is not such edifices are wont to do. At the head of the wet, penetrating snow we know, the snow-shoers, as president of the carnival | but the dry, crumbling, shimmering subwas a notable figure, M. Joly de Lotbiniere, stance, in which it is a pleasure to roll, or WHITE LABEL ALE an ex-Premier of the Province, a handsome to be upset from a toboggan; the deep old gentleman of 70, who proved to be the rivers, too, become perminent roads not very life of all the proceedings, cheering, only for the snow-shoers (with their long encouraging, here, there and everywhere, netted snow-shoes, which look rather like forever amongst his "boys," as he called lawn-tennis racquets made in the shape of his stalwart army of snow-shoers. He | a flat fish), but for carts and wagons and was ably supported by his lieutenants, and traffic of all kinds; and, in the centre of all the organizers of the carnival mus thave | the river, you can watch huge blocks of ice being hewn out for the butchers and other been proud of the results of their efforts. provision merchants, who keep all their and of the conduct of the people. Though meat, fish, etc., frozen. often waiting for long hours to see the But if the winter is enjoyable, let me processions, or the illuminations, or whatever it might be, never did we see the add a word to describe the beauties of the first Canadian spring. King Winter had, slightest disorder, or any behavior which after all, only reigned three months, from could cast the least discredit on the characths beginning of December, when crash ! ter for orderliness and courtesy of the incame the end of his power. And by the habitants of Quebec-no. not even on the I middle of March the sledges were discardgreat night of the attack on the ice fortress,

carr iage and four when going to open Pa beauty of that scene. The fortress was lit liament on the 15th of March. What a up from within by a succession of colors sight the rivers were about that time ! rosy pink, changing to fiery orange, and With what cracks and groans did the huge then again sea green, with araethyst gleams masses of ice break up and drift down the waters, and hurl themselves over the rocky were holding high festival. And then, preheights. And then, almost before we were aware of it, the woods around Government medley of memories it brings up !- new attacking host, some 2,000 in number, House were one mass of glorious wildeach with torch in hand, and at last taking flowers; the Canadian robin (a bird of up their position right in front of the walls. | the thrush species, for our own little pert with bright skies, an ever glittering scene A few minutes' suspense, and then poured robin friends are not known there) were of snow and ice, and bevies of eager-faced forth a very shower of fire on the devoted slrging in the trees, and tapping on the youths and maidens, intent on some one or defenders ; every manner of firework was lawn for their worm victims, and the loveother of the sports which have made Cana- launched forth over the fortress, and ly little blue birds were delighting us with myriads were the stars of many colors their sweet notes. We were told that "But the cold ? Do you not feel the which poured down out of the sky. The there was no spring in Canada-that we

ed, and the Governor-General could use a

As for the games and the competitions the young ladies who issue forth in brave of all sorts which were going on, I could array for their amusement in the afternot attempt to describe them. Hockey, noon or evening, are usually very conwonted enthusiasm of its devotees, though and retaining good servants has been felt a the roughness which accompanies it when real hardship and difficulty, yet it has protends to detract from its charms and from that they can, if the necessity arises, be one's admiration of the skill with which it independent of servants altogether. And is played; curling, another Scottish game so long as there is this background of defadopted so thoroughly by Canadians that | inite work in the lives of the people, it is they almost consider it their own; lacrosse, surely a matter for rejoicing that there



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that Sir Gideon went about his ordinary business. But his wife, hearing that a indignantly exclaimed:

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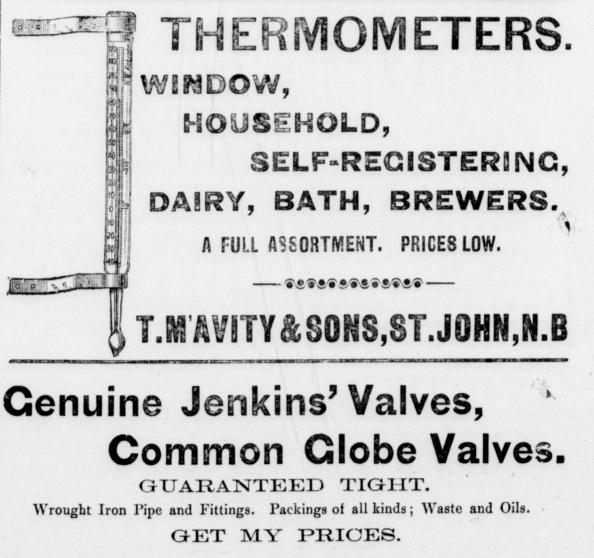
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