

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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TWO SHEETS. FIFTEEN

## CANADA REINFORCED.

OCCASIONALLY we find a politician of the advanced modern school raising the question how far the secrecy and mystery of diplomacy should be suffered to mingle in the administration of a popular Government. The argument that little good can arise from what may be called the secretiveness of a Ministry in England has been strenuously urged. Indeed, the assertion has often gone the length of assuming that in this country positive evil follows the tortuous and occult twistings of those administrators whose training or whose tastes are diplomatic. There can be little doubt, however, that the system thus denounced is inconsistent with the spirit of publicity and the reference to general opinion which prevails among us, and it is seldom applied to matters which concern our home administration; and, though it nominally clings to the conduct of our foreign relations, it is but sparingly applied there, and generally revelation even in this respect is a question of time more or less short. It would seem, nevertheless, that something of the genius of secret diplomacy is influencing her Majesty's Government just now in reference to their policy in North America. The unhappy

condition of affairs in the United States would very naturally create in the minds of those responsible for the government of England and her dependencies an appreciation of the necessity of watchfulness over those fair regions of the great western continent which, in a limited and technical sense, owe allegiance to the Queen, but which, in all the qualities and essentials which make up a brotherhood of race and a community of interest, are linked firmly to the old country. It has become the fashion of late for some of the guides of public opinion to lay down very stringent reasons why all our colonies, and Canada especially, should be made to understand that they are to depend solely on themselves for military defence. This dogma has been carried out to the extent of maintaining that, in the event of any aggression on the Canadas on the part of the United States, no military aid or assistance ought to be expected by those colonies from England. The obvious fallacy in this line of argument is the assumption that American invasion of Canada can be a *thing per se*, and wholly disconnected with an Imperial war. An attempt at the annexation of Canada by the United States as an independent

entity, uninvited by the condition and the public feeling of the colony itself, is almost a political impossibility. Such an event implies a premeditation on the part of our Canadian brethren to separate themselves from their mother country; and in such a case it is not likely that England would think it worth her while to enter into a war for the purpose of endeavouring to retain a disaffected and revolted dependency. Any military operations in Canada could only form part of a decided and complete contest between the two great Powers, and then, surely, England would be bound to send her armies in sufficient force into Canadian territory, just as she would send her fleets into those waters which would form the obvious arena of the naval part of the struggle. It is from this point of view, and not on any narrow or mere colonial principle, that the question of the defence of Canada is to be looked at. Hostilities there imply a general and regular war with America. Under these circumstances an army such as that which we sent to the Crimea would be indispensable, and would probably be transported to North America more easily, and certainly with greater speed, than characterised the conveyance of our troops to the Black Sea



THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO IRELAND: HER MAJESTY EMBARKING AT ROSS CASTLE, LAKES OF KILLARNEY,—FROM A SKETCH BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST,—SEE SUPPLEMENT, PAGE 249.



ST. MARY REDCLIFF, BRISTOL, IN PROCESS OF RESTORATION UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. G. GODWIN, ARCHITECT.

#### THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY REDCLIFF, BRISTOL.

ON Whit Sunday the scene which for some time past has shut from view the Lady Chapel of Redcliff Church was taken down, and the parishioners were enabled to see the restored interior and three new stained-glass windows which have been set up as memorials. The eastern window of the Lady Chapel, seen in the View which we give in our present number, is in memory of the late Alderman Thomas Lucas, of Bristol, and is one of the best works of Mr. Wailes of Newcastle. That on the north side, by the same artist, commemorates a lady of the same family, having for subject the raising of Jairus's daughter. The south window, illustrating the command, "Suffer little children to come unto me" (by Messrs. O'Connor of London), is in memory of the late Mr. W. Hall, for forty-five years the devoted superintendent of the Sunday-school. The cost of the stonework of this part of the church has been defrayed partly by a committee of ladies and partly by the Freemasons of Bristol and its neighbourhood.

The effect of the interior of this noble church, as may be judged of from our View, is now becoming superb. For many years past our readers are aware the work of restoration has been going on here gradually under the direction of Mr. George Godwin, architect. Funds came in but slowly, and the work has been done bit by bit, mainly on the outside, where actual danger threatened. Recently, however, donations have been made specially for the interior, where a greater show could be made with smaller expenditure. The fine clustered columns of the nave and transept, seen in the View, have been restored, and their bases and capitals perfected; elaborately-carved oak bench-ends, a pulpit, reading-desk, and font, have been set up; the latter, of Caen stone and alabaster, was carved by Mr. Rice, by whom all the stone carving has been beautifully executed. We should especially point to that about the exterior of the north porch, which portion of the church has been restored under peculiar circumstances, not generally known beyond the locality. This porch, which is one of the finest examples of the Decorated style in the kingdom, has long been connected with poetry and mystery. It was in the upper chamber of it that the ill-fated Chatterton, according to his own assertion, found the Rowley poems. This character the porch was not to lose.

A few years ago a benefactor, known as "Nil Desperandum," the signature he assumed, placed himself in communication with the chairman of the Restoration Committee, Mr. Alderman Proctor, stating that he was desirous of contributing to the restoration of the north porch, and asking whether the committee, with a view to that object, would procure drawings and specifications from Mr. Godwin, and estimates from three different masons of well-known talent, and forward them for inspection. In making this request the writer imposed the following conditions—viz., that no endeavour should be made to break through his incognito until he thought fit to communicate his name to the committee; and that, in order to maintain the desired secrecy on this point, the chairman should pledge himself not to allow the letters received from his unknown correspondent to be seen or read by any one but himself. As a guarantee of good faith the halves of certain bank notes were inclosed to meet expenses. A reply to the proposition was requested to be inserted in one of the Bristol papers. In answer to this communication it was at once resolved by the committee that the chairman should be authorised to insert in the Bristol papers a letter giving the required pledge regarding the conditions of secrecy which the writer imposed, and promising that plans, specifications, and estimates for the renovation of the north porch should forthwith be obtained.

Without going into a long story, suffice it to say the funds were regularly forwarded, to the extent of £2120, by the generous donor, who, though his secret provoked frequent comment, and was the theme of some clever "conjectures" in one of the local papers, continued to preserve his incognito; nor at the present time are we able to designate the unobtrusive restorer of the north porch by any other name than the vague appellation by which alone he has chosen to be known.

The iron hinges here are a very elaborate piece of work, and were executed by Messrs. Hart, of London. The cost of the restoration of the south porch was afterwards undertaken by the Commercial Society, mainly through the exertions of Mr. George Hatherly. The south transept and the greater part of the south side of nave and chancel have been restored by the Restoration Committee, aided by the Canynge Society. Much of the exterior, however, remains in a ruinous, and some of it in a dangerous, condition; but this, it may be hoped, will

now soon be remedied. The present churchwardens, Mr. W. Powell and Mr. W. Proctor, are earnest in their desire to carry on the good work, and the prospects of aid are encouraging. They may be justified in looking beyond their own city for subscriptions; for, using the words of the architect on the occasion of laying the first stone, "St. Mary Redcliff, belongs not simply to Bristol, but to Europe."

#### MASONIC CEREMONY AT ST. MARY REDCLIFF CHURCH.

On Wednesday week there was a Masonic ceremony in connection with the restoration of this time-honoured structure. The Masonic body here, it is stated, contributed a sum of £800 towards the restoration, and it was resolved to celebrate the work by an appropriate ceremonial, in which the brethren in the adjacent provinces were invited to cooperate. A grand lodge was opened at the Masonic Hall, Bridge-street, and a procession of the various lodges was organised at the Exchange, the Mayor and Corporation being also present. The procession on leaving the Exchange proceeded to St. Mary Redcliff Church, attended by a vast concourse of spectators. The scene in the churchyard of St. Mary Redcliff was, perhaps, among the most striking and characteristic observed on the whole line of march. The band of the rifles, on reaching the door of the venerable structure, halted and commenced playing the National Anthem. Simultaneously the brethren fell back bareheaded and formed a passage, up which the Grand Lodge, in their purple and gold collars, stars, diamonds and glittering insignia, jewels, and tokens of their high and sublime branch of the mysterious order. Divine service was impressively performed in the sacred edifice, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Watson, Curate of St. Andrew's Undershaft, in the city of London, and Chaplain to the Grand Lodge. After the service the ceremony of placing a stone at the north-east corner of the Lady Chapel took place with all the imposing Masonic accompaniments incident to such special occasions. The Rev. Chaplain offered up another prayer and the Grand Master pronounced the benediction. The procession then returned to the Exchange, where some appropriate speeches were made by members of the order, the Mayor and the High Sheriff, after which the members dined together at the White Lion Hotel, when Mr. Godwin, the architect, congratulated them on the success of their endeavours as



RESTORATION OF ST. MARY REDCLIFF CHURCH, BRISTOL: PLACING THE FIRST STONE AT THE NORTH-EAST CORNER OF THE LADY CHAPEL WITH MASONIC RITES.



MASONIC DEMONSTRATION AT BRISTOL IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESTORATION OF ST. MARY REDCLIFF CHURCH: ARRIVAL OF THE PROCESSION AT THE CHURCH.