

# CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1871.

SUNDAY,	Jan. 15.—Second Sunday after Epiphany. British Museum opened, 1759.
MONDAY,	" 16.—Battle of Corunna, 1809. Mrs. Nisbett died, 1858.
TUESDAY,	" 17.—Franklin born, 1706. Hartley Colliery accident, 1862.
WEDNESDAY,	" 18.—St. Prisca, V. & M. Old Twelfth Day.
THURSDAY,	" 19.—York and Lancaster united, 1486. James Watt born, 1736. First Settlement in Hobart Town, 1804.
FRIDAY,	" 20.—St. Fabian, Ep. & M. Garrick died, 1779.
SATURDAY,	" 21.—St. Agnes, V. & M. Australia colonised, 1788. Vaccination introduced, 1799.

## THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1871.

No other international question can possibly interest Canadians so much as that of the relations between Great Britain and the United States. On both sides of the Atlantic the Dominion is spoken of as a "semi-independent State." While on the transatlantic side there are those who would share with us the burthen of the defence of the integrity of the Empire to the last dollar and the last man, there are others who think empire and country and nationality a stupid and irrational, or at least a silly sentimental dream; and on the cis-atlantic side, is a powerful nation, greedy of territory, almost guiltless of principle, which impatiently awaits the day when it can flaunt its flag from every tower in our land, firm in the conviction that that day must soon come, and foolishly believing that every annoyance, every humiliation, put upon us will hasten it! Only Canadians can appreciate the full absurdity of these assumptions; only Canadians can understand the lack of patriotism of those who, on the other side of the ocean, blinded by the spirit of trade, or carried away by some absurd notion of "national brotherhood," see no difference between Canada as a part of the British Empire, and Canada as another half-dozen in the constellation of United States. *In medio* is hardly safety for us. It is rather between two fires, or between the extremes of cold and heat, that this Dominion is placed; but, fortunately for us, the very isolation of Great Britain from the other European nations, and her many and irritating disputes with the only power on the Western hemisphere that has strength enough to make itself felt in Europe, has compelled even anti-Colonial statesmen, as they have been called, to turn their attention to those young nations growing up to power and influence, in allegiance to the British Crown, and to ask themselves whether, after all, these communities were not worthy cultivation and encouragement as friends and allies in the future?

Assuredly, nothing but the manifestation of their own strength has saved the Colonies from the last consequences of the Radical policy which, for the past thirty or forty years, has, more or less, guided all parties in England. Their vigorous growth, their sturdy loyalty, their ready faculty of meeting every danger, and their steady progress under all conditions yet imposed upon them, have made an impression upon every thinking mind in Great Britain, and taught the statesmen of the most opposite schools that in them were the capacity for development, and the latent power that would undoubtedly warm into healthy national life. Thus, though the Colonies are railed at nearly as they were in former days, it is but as the beaten partizans of an abandoned superstition that their enemies speak; they may bring up all their old arguments to sustain their favourite theory, but they no longer say, "Cut the Colonies adrift," they dare not follow their own logic to its practical conclusion, and hence, with the most absurd inconsistency, they proclaim to the Colonists a condition of allegiance that never yet existed outside of Utopia—that of "permissive" attachment to the Empire, with the privilege of desertion at any chosen moment. Let us suppose the unlikely misfortune of war between the United States and Great Britain: The military strategists of the Empire would undoubtedly reason that they had, in the St. Lawrence navigation from the ocean to the upper lakes, a splendid line from which, at a hundred different points, the enemy might be attacked. But at the moment of the declaration of war, let Canada take advantage of the permission accorded by a few optimist politicians, and declare her independence, or union with the Republic, and what would be the position of Britain? The coaling stations on the west coast of the Atlantic closed against her fleet; the St. Lawrence barred; her army shut out from all operations until after an enforced landing in the enemy's country; the war in fact reduced to a maritime guerilla in which the enemy would have everything to gain and very little to lose, and Great Britain exactly

the reverse. With British America annexed to the United States the Republic could withstand for twenty years a blockade by the united fleets of Europe, and that without very serious inconvenience. This fact is so well-known that military writers on the question of war with the United States make an essential point of landing an army upon U. S. territory. From no point can this be so readily and so easily done as from Canada; the only feasible alternative being to invade the Pacific States, but that, as a military manoeuvre, has been partially spoiled by the construction of railways from the North and West.

We contend, for these special reasons, as well as for the general dignity of the Empire, that Britain cannot forego her Colonial appanage in North America without loss of power as well as of prestige, while in regard to the interests of commerce, so powerful in England, one has only to look at the proportion, per head, as between the population of Canada and the United States, of British imports, to convince himself how disastrous would it be to British industry did the Morrill tariff gird the Northern half of the Continent. Yet the *Pall Mall Gazette*, speaking of the awkward position of the Home Government with respect to the existing "situation," says:

"The hostility of the United States is the true key to the position occupied by Great Britain, and we should stand a great deal better with the world if we honestly acknowledged it. Those among us who are striving their hardest to put some other construction on Russian and Prussian diplomacy than that which every organ of opinion outside England has placed upon it would most of them admit, if they would speak frankly, that the consideration would reconcile them to turning the other cheek to Count Bismarck after one has been smitten by Prince Gortschakoff is their conviction that if we made a bold step forward on the European political stage the Americans would take us at a disadvantage. The great error of English statesmanship is unquestionably its tendency to tide over the difficulties which arise with the United States by the help of the expedient which comes first to hand. But it is labour lost, and an ultimate rebuff invited, when the Foreign Office meddles with European politics, so long as any American question remains unsettled. No greater blunder was ever committed than the postponement of the "Alabama" grievances. It is true we can never be sure what complaints the Americans will advance. Even the English Foreign Office might be forgiven for not having looked forward to a renewal of the Fishery dispute. The true policy is nevertheless to solve all American controversies as rapidly as possible, and by any issue rather than none. The policy actually followed has been the very worst conceivable. When the "Alabama" claims had been postponed—when the Dominion of Canada had been established—when our American territories were virtually garrisoned by a weak militia, there remained, as M. Thiers put it, not another fault to be guilty of."

It is not difficult to conceive that this feverish anxiety to settle with the American Republic at almost any cost may work serious mischief for Canada in respect of the fisheries or other matters of dispute that will possibly arise hereafter; but if Britain undertakes to shake the United States off her back before resuming her former place in the councils of Europe she will assume a task of extreme difficulty. The *Pall Mall Gazette* itself, in a preceding portion of the article from which we have quoted, gives the most rational explanation of the continued existence of the Anglo-American "difficulty" when it says:—"The truth is that the sentiments of the American people towards the British are like the sentiments of the Athenians towards tyrants. They are the legacy of the past, not the product of the present; and they are kept alive by a series of commonplaces which are of perpetual recurrence in the themes of schoolboys and in the perorations of grown politicians." Now these very facts prove, if they prove anything, that the settlement for which the *Gazette* so earnestly pleads would by no means relieve Britain from the danger of American complications were she to be engaged in a European war. Nobody can have forgotten how American sympathy went out towards Russia during the Crimean war. Nor need we doubt that if the Czar forces a renewal of the struggle the current will again flow in the same direction, and that, too, utterly independent of "Alabama" claims or fishery disputes. The conclusion is obvious: Britain has no motive for making concessions to the Republic that ought not to influence her in dealing with every other power. Dignity, firmness, fair play, and liberality in the interpretation of treaties, are all qualities the Americans can appreciate, and would, from their very nature, be compelled to respect. But concession; the abandonment of clearly defined rights; a retreat before the battle; will only earn for Britain stronger feelings of antagonism and incite to fresh demands. The fact is that abuse of the British Lion is a Fourth of July theme and a Congressional and Presidential election card. It has been used for these purposes heretofore when the present grievances had no existence; it will be used again long after they have passed into oblivion; and it would be used none the less were Canada ceded to the Republic to-morrow. Britain has but to maintain the strength, naval and military, which her greatness demands, and the policy which knows neither concession to the great nor oppression of the small, and she has very little to fear from the United States, among whose people the political

value of anti-British sentiment is perhaps more truly gauged than it can be by any outsiders, and who, as a rule, regard a war with their own kith and kin as a calamity to be avoided, however much they may feel tickled by abuse of England in stump speeches or Independence Day orations.

### CHRONICLE OF THE WAR.

The past fortnight has been one of great importance in the history of the war, and one which, following a season of great inactivity on the part of both the hostile armies, makes the opening of the new year as the beginning of a new era in the course of operations in France. The attack upon and capture of Avron was the signal for the besiegers around Paris to wake to new activity. The position, one of but small value it is true, had hardly been occupied when a determined effort was made all along the besieging line, from Aubervilliers to Issy, to destroy the forts whose continual and well-directed fire harassed the operations of the Germans, and prevented them from planting their guns in suitable positions to commence the bombardment. In the north-east the bombardment of the forts was commenced immediately after the occupation of Avron, but in the south, in the neighbourhood of Issy, Vanves, and Montrouge, operations were delayed until the 5th, when, all being ready, the attack was commenced and continued with considerable success. The casemates of Fort Rosny were destroyed shortly after the commencement of the bombardment, and those of Issy and Vanves after being shelled for forty-eight hours. The two latter forts were bombarded from the batteries at Clamart and Ville d'Issy, throwing shot weighing twenty-four pounds, and shells weighing sixty-five pounds. For some time the fire was vigorously returned with shell of a much greater weight, but the casemates being destroyed, and the barracks being discovered to be on fire, the return fire became less frequent, and finally ceased on Saturday last. Forts Rosny and Nogent, in the east, have also suffered severely, and it is believed that in this direction there is no French infantry outside the fortifications. Paris dates to the 3rd inst., say the damage from the bombardment has been slight. The French losses thus far had been 20 killed and 200 wounded. The citizens and army were clamorous for offensive action.

In the north a great battle was fought on the 3rd, on the left bank of the Seine. The result of this, however, is unknown, both sides, as usual, claiming the victory. Manteuffel, in his despatch announcing the affair, states that three cannon, three flags, and 500 prisoners were captured by Gen. Bouthheim, the officer in command. Faidherbe has made no public announcement of any victory, but in a recent proclamation to his army he thanks his soldiers for the victories gained both at Pont Noyelles and at Bapaume. The army under Manteuffel has again resumed its march on Havre. On the 7th 10,000 Germans belonging to this army were defeated by General Ray. The Prussians still hold Rouen, the garrison there having been strongly reinforced. They have also made their reappearance at Yvetot and St. Valery. Gen. Bourbaki is marching towards Nancy, and Faidherbe is making every effort to break through the Prussian line and effect a junction with him at that place, for the purpose of cutting off the Prussian supplies. In the south it is reported that Gen. Chanzy is again marching forward to the relief of Paris. In the west the Prussians have occupied Vendome, and are pushing on still further. A great battle is shortly expected in the east between Von Werder and Garibaldi.

### OUR WAR ILLUSTRATIONS.

Our full page illustration shows the attack made by the Prussian guard on the 30th of October upon the French at Le Bourget. The regiment which made the attack is that known as the Queen Elizabeth's Own, and formed part of the command of Gen. Von Budritzki, who led the attack in person, on foot, and himself carrying the regimental colours. On the opposite page an illustration, from a sketch taken from the Prussian look-out post at the Marly aqueduct, shows the striking effect produced by casting the electric light over the western side of Paris, behind Mont Valerien, which rises darkly frowning in the middle of the view. Another illustration shows a party of Prussian soldiers in comfortable quarters on the outskirts of Paris, in the country-house perhaps of some comfortable, steady-going old *propriétaire*, with whose collar the intruders are making particularly free, judging from the occupation of the couple in the left-hand corner of the illustration. The self-constituted cook is busy at work at the fireplace, over which, on the marble mantelpiece, stand some cups and pots that make an odd contrast to the ornate clock on one side. The room is littered with baggage and bedding, and the handsome walls are disfigured with nails on which hang the soldiers' accoutrements. On the same page another illustration shows how provisions for the expected siege—consisting mainly of flour and rice—are stored in the theatre of the Casino des Arts at Lyons.

### THE HOLMAN OPERA TROUPE.

This troupe commenced an engagement at the Theatre Royal on Tuesday last. The house must have presented a most satisfactory appearance to the lessee, the manager, and all those monetarily interested. The Boxes were resplendent in their array of fashion and beauty, while the Dress Circle was brilliant with youth, age, and elegance. The Gallery was full and the Pit also. The Opera presented was Offenbach's "Grande Duchesse"; all Opera-goers are familiar with the libretto, and therefore it is unnecessary to narrate the story. Offenbach's music has that light and sparkling vivacity of style that always delights a Parisian audience, and it would seem to have a reflex here. Miss Sallie Holman is deliciously pretty, and her abandon of style both in acting and singing impressed the audience very perceptibly. Some of the company were unfortunately labouring under severe colds so common to the season; but the performances nevertheless were such as gave the most gratifying satisfaction to the auditory. The house was cold, and the draughts from open doors (which ought to be remedied) were chilling to those on back seats. The seats for the second night were nearly all secured before the first performance was over, which is sufficient evidence that the Holman Troupe must be immensely popular, and that the manner of interpreting and rendering Operatic music by them is appreciated by the Montreal patrons of the