

hundred pounds currency be employed under the direction of Commissioners to encourage and aid Joseph Bouchette, Esquire, to publish the Topographical and Geographical Maps of the Province."

In the summer following, Mr. Bouchette proceeded to England, and commenced the publication of those splendid maps and works which bear his name, and which, even at this distance of time, and in spite of the vast progress of the country, are still referred to as standard authorities. But the fact is, doubt was never thrown on the value of Mr. Bouchette's works, their great utility here, and the credit they reflected on Canada in England has never been called in question. But they were published by Mr. Bouchette, acting on the faith of the resolution just quoted, and, as it turned out, at a ruinous loss to him. The following session, 1815, he received an appropriation of £500 as the work was progressing, and surely he had a right to suppose, as everybody else must naturally have believed, that this payment was made on account of the vote of £1,500 sanctioned, though not passed, the year previous. He continued to prosecute the work so creditable to his genius, and so honourable to Canada, until he brought it to a successful issue; but, as we have said, at a vast drain on his private means. He therefore applied to the Legislature for what everybody would be disposed to call the "balance due." On March 4, 1819, the committee to whom his petition was referred, reported that they found he had executed the maps, &c., "under the patronage of the Legislature," and that he was entitled to be reimbursed for "a part of his loss." Another report, the following year, acknowledges the obligation of the Legislature in the premises, but still no action was taken. In the session of 1819, 15th March, a Special Committee of the House of Assembly reported, at considerable length, on Mr. Bouchette's petition, admitting his claim, but recommending that instead of the money recompense mentioned in the resolution of 1814, Mr. Bouchette should receive a grant of Crown Lands. On the 17th April following, an address was passed to the Governor, praying that such grant should be made. The matter appears to have rested there until 1821, when, on the 28th February, the following message was received by the Legislature:

"DALHOUSIE, GOVERNOR."

"The Governor-in-Chief calls the attention of the House of Assembly to the importance of the Geographical and Topographical Maps, made by Joseph Bouchette, Esquire, Surveyor-General, who states to have sustained a considerable loss in publishing them."

"The Governor-in-Chief is of opinion that Mr. Bouchette's claim is just and reasonable, but does not approve of remunerating him by a grant of land as was proposed by the address of the Assembly of the 17th April, 1819. The Governor-in-Chief therefore trusts the House of Assembly will enable him to meet that claim."

In response to this message the committee to whom it was referred, promptly reported that Mr. Bouchette should receive the sum of £1000, "as well to indemnify him for the losses he hath sustained in the publication of his maps, as to encourage talent and useful undertaking in the Province." On the 14th February, 1827, a Special Committee of the House made a similar report, recommending the payment of the sum named. Yet the Government refused to make the appropriation, and Mr. Bouchette was actually cheated out of his "wages." It is needless to follow the subject further: the Legislature promised Mr. Bouchette £1,500 for a certain work: he performed that work to the entire satisfaction of all concerned, yet he only received £500. The remaining £1000 is a debt due since 1815, and ought now to be paid, principal and interest, to his heirs. On this point, we think, there is no room for discussion.

In spite of all difficulties, Mr. Bouchette got out his works, which were dedicated, by special permission, to His Most Gracious Majesty King William IV; and to this day they endure as a monument of his genius, and a most convenient and reliable authority for reference. Mr. Bouchette continued to hold the office of Surveyor-General of Lower Canada until the Union, and died in Montreal, April 9, 1841, in the 67th year of his age, and was buried in the church of Notre Dame. As Mr. Fenning Taylor says: "Among the peaceful dead who sleep beneath the pavement where the living worship, there are few to whom Canada is more indebted for valuable and meritorious services than the gifted subject of our sketch, the genial, the gallant, the enthusiastic Lieut.-Col. Joseph Bouchette!"

## OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

NEXT week we purpose presenting to our subscribers a DOUBLE NUMBER containing three or four original Christmas tales by Canadian writers, and a profuse display of artistic pictures, grave and gay, after the best masters, suitable to the season. New subscribers for next year will be supplied, on request, with the December numbers of the *News*, including the Christmas number, free of charge; and next month, a handsome presentation plate will be added. The present is, therefore, a very favourable opportunity for subscribing, and we appeal with confidence to our friends throughout the country to aid us in extending the circulation of the *News*. After one year's experience, Mr. Desbarats, the proprietor and publisher of the *Canadian Illustrated News*, has the utmost confidence in its permanent establishment as one among the many institutions of our young and rising country; but to give his hopes the early returns they deserve, it seems proper that the many friends of the paper in all parts of the country should, at this season, make an extra effort to extend its circulation. Both in illustration and letter-press it is intended to make the *News* still more attractive than it has been heretofore; and we are glad to be able to assure our readers that the very largely increased patronage which we have received within the past four or five months, not only warrants us in making the pledge, but will very much encourage us to redeem it, to the full letter of the bond.

MONTREAL, 15th December, 1870.

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1870.

SUNDAY,	Dec. 18.—Fourth Sunday in Advent. Lord Elgin's Administration closed, 1854.
MONDAY,	" 19.—Pitt, first Premier, 1783. Fort Niagara captured, 1813.
TUESDAY,	" 20.—Gray born, 1716. Hon. John Sandfield Macdonald born, 1812.
WEDNESDAY,	" 21.—St. Thomas, Ap. J. M.
THURSDAY,	" 22.—Pilgrims landed at Plymouth, 1620.
FRIDAY,	" 23.—Newton born, 1642. Abdication of James II., 1688.
SATURDAY,	" 24.—Peace of Ghent, 1814.

## THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1870.

The policy foreshadowed in President Grant's Message, the substance of which we gave last week, is not one with which Canadians have any particular reason to be gratified. It is not alone that the President affirms the Monroe doctrine in its integrity, and suggests several schemes for giving it practical effect in various directions; not alone that he predicts "in the natural course of events" the supreme dominion of the Republic over the whole Continent and the islands adjacent, for with these predictions we have long been familiar, and, to say the most of them, they have ceased either to astonish or frighten us. But when the President assails the Canadian Government for two acts of purely internal policy, with neither of which has he or his Government any more to do than with the police regulations of London or St. Petersburg, it looks as if he had resolved to force a quarrel upon us, or at least to make an occasion which might be used at any future day. It is difficult to judge how much of a President's Message is written for *buscombe*, and how much as an earnest exposition of a policy firmly resolved upon. But of this much we may be certain, that American demands will go the full length of British concessions, so that sooner or later the questions between the two countries will have to be met in some other mode than by the mere temporising which for the past four or five years has been such a notable feature in the diplomatic intercourse between them.

It was supposed that the illustrious General Ben. F. Butler had gained the ear of President Grant, and hence his threatening attitude towards Canada. But apparently Mr. Grant was only trying to steal some of Butler's thunder, for the last-named gentleman is now announced as a candidate for the Presidency on the "Alabama" claims platform, strengthened by a Canada annexation plank, and possibly by another favouring the absorption of "Mexico." To the active politicians, the wire-pullers and partymen, it must be confessed that Butler's programme has several features to commend it. The "Alabama" claims have been a standing grievance for several years; and the rumoured project of England's sending Mr. John Bright to Washington to settle these and other matters in dispute, is not likely to be productive of satisfactory results. A statesman Mr. Bright may be, but there is very little reason to believe that he would make a successful diplomatist, especially when dealing with the American Government, which, whatever may be its shortcomings in other respects, has always been able to outwit England in treaty negotiations. There is little hope that any initiatory steps taken by England towards bringing about a settlement will lead to a satisfactory result; for American politicians have a personal interest in the preservation of such live issues, and the danger is that each party in trying to outbid the other for the popular favour may commit the Republic to a course which, though all parties might deplore, none of them would be strong enough to change.

A noticeable feature in the President's Message is the tone of reproach in which he speaks of Canada, both with respect to the fisheries and the navigation of the St. Lawrence. On the former subject it is quite likely that a mistake was made by Canada in failing to enforce its full rights when the Reciprocity Treaty was abrogated; but its title was promptly asserted to the fisheries, and the Americans were invited to share in them upon terms which were certainly far from burthensome, which were in fact scarcely just to our own people when the American tariff was taken into the account. The other grievance, that of the navigation of the St. Lawrence, is purely sentimental. Canada claims only the right to her own canals, and has never refused the passage of an American vessel through them. It is to the interest of this country that the trade of its canals be as large as possible, and though it cannot be expected to abandon its right to its own property, nor even to conceal its knowledge of the advantage which the use of it may be to its neighbours, still there is no danger that any foolish policy will be adopted, whereby only mutual injury would be inflicted.

It does not seem, however, that President Grant is disposed to recommend an equally liberal course. In fact he argues that unless the Canadian "pretension" (to the enjoyment of her own property) is surrendered, then the existing bonding regulations for the transit of dutiable goods through the United States to Canada should be abolished. This would be a great inconvenience undoubtedly; and to certain important enterprises a very heavy loss. But it would be a far greater blow to Portland and some other of the Atlantic cities of the Republic than to any portion of Canada. Even now it is to be remembered that this country possesses several sea-ports open throughout the year; and that the means of communication between them and the most inland points will soon be ample. Every day, therefore, lessens the danger to be feared from the threatened policy of President Grant in this particular, and it is to be hoped that time will be at least equally efficacious in proving its folly. The Canadian authorities have had the merit of moving very slowly in the matter of the fisheries, and of not even moving at all regarding the navigation of the St. Lawrence. Four years have passed since the abrogation by the United States of the Reciprocity Treaty. By that act they forfeited the privileges which, for eleven years previously, their fishermen had enjoyed in our waters; yet a petty license, which American fishermen disregarded, was all that Canada sought to impose in lieu of the continuance of these privileges, and it was not till this year they were withheld. It is also well known that the Dominion Government took no step in this important matter without being advised by the Imperial authorities; and that even in the interpretation of the regulations the utmost liberality has been shown to the Americans.

In the face of these facts it is difficult to believe that the President was doing more than speaking at his party when he spoke of Canada, but if Gen. Butler goes into the market against him, and each tries to outbid the other in anti-Canadian threats, it is not difficult to believe that a somewhat unpleasant state of feeling might be excited. So long, however, as President Grant adheres to his pledge of "honest and fair dealing," there is nothing to fear from him, and as for Gen. Butler, there is yet a long way between him and the Presidential chair. He has no hope of a nomination except from the Republicans, and they will hardly put him forward as their standard bearer.

## THE WAR NEWS.

The operations during the week have been slight, and up to the time we go to press there has been no news of any serious engagement. It would appear from recent despatches that the defeat of the army of the Loire was complete. Gen. de Paladine's army of 200,000 men was utterly routed and compelled to retreat upon Tours, leaving in the hands of the Prussians 10,000 prisoners and 77 pieces of artillery. The Prussians are marching in the direction of Blois, with the intention of surrounding Tours and already the *Gazette* has announced the removal of the Government to Bordeaux. Yet entirely ignoring these plain facts, M. Leon Gambetta, in accordance with his usual policy of withholding the truth, has issued the following circular:—"The situation of the army is good. Heavy reinforcements of artillery are arriving, and the forward movement will soon be resumed. The opposition are attempting the circulation of false rumours to discourage and demoralize but their assertions may be confidently denied. After their defeat the army of the Loire moved along the left bank of that river in order to meet the army of the East, 60,000 strong. The two will then combine and march upon Fontainebleau. During the retreat the rear guard was considerably harassed by the Prussians, who attacked in force on the 6th, and compelled them to hasten the retreat. On the following day, Wednesday, the 7th Prussian division attacked the French near Meung, and beat them after a sharp fight in which they captured 250 prisoners, one gun and a mitrailleuse. On the 8th the Duke of Mecklenburg defeated the 3rd French army corps in the same neighbourhood, and again on the 10th."

Within Paris matters remain *in statu quo*. Ducrot and Trochu are both outside the walls, and it is said that preparations are being made for a grand sortie. Ducrot's army occupy a position between Meisy, Creteil and Charenton, protected by the guns of Fort Charenton.

In the north Manteuffel has been pushing forward to Havre with a view to occupying the city, in order to be able to obtain provisions by sea. Late reports state that the rumour is afloat to the effect that the seaport has already been occupied. In the south west the siege of Belfort is progressing vigorously. The Prussians attempted to storm the place, but were driven off with great slaughter, one regiment being entirely cut to pieces in the attempt.

There have been reports of negotiations pending for an armistice, but these have been contradicted by Gambetta. Some other members of the Government who are violently opposed to him and anxious to conclude the war, have been, it is true, attempting to make negotiations, but discovering the scheme Gambetta threatened them with arrest, when they promised to abandon the undertaking.

## THE RIGI RAILWAY BRIDGE.

One of the grandest triumphs of mechanical skill ever chronicled in the annals of engineering has been achieved during the past year in Switzerland. Some three or four years ago three engineers of Zurich conceived the idea of constructing a railway up the rocky sides of the Rigi-Culm, for the purpose of conveying tourists to the summit of the mountain, 5500ft. above the level of the sea. The idea certainly was not a new one among the scientific community, for it had already been started by Mr. Marsh, of Chicago, the originator of the Mount Washington railway, and already in 1866, about the time