

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 1872.

SUNDAY,	Mar. 31.—Easter Sunday. Haydn born, 1732. Battle of Lacolle Mills, 1814. Charlotte Bronte died, 1855. The French entered Puebla, 1863.
MONDAY,	April 1.—Bishop Heber died, 1826. Mdme. Pasta died, 1865.
TUESDAY,	" 2.—Mirabeau died, 1791. Battle of Copenhagen, 1801.
WEDNESDAY,	" 3.—Murillo died, 1682.
THURSDAY,	" 4.—St. Ambrose, Bp. Oliver Goldsmith died, 774. Sir J. Drummond, K. C. B., Administrator, 1815. British Fleet sailed for the Baltic, 1855.
FRIDAY,	" 5.—Plato died, 347 B. C. Canada discovered, 1499. Abdication of Napoleon I, 1814.
SATURDAY,	" 6.—Albert Durer died, 1528. Beginning of the Greek War of Independence, 1821.

TEMPERATURE in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Tuesday, 26th March, 1872, observed by HEARN, HARRISON & Co., 242 Notre Dame Street.

	W.	Th.	Fri.	Sat.	Su.	M.	Tu.
Mar. 20.	22°	17°	24°	32°	24°	25°	26°
MAX.	22°	17°	24°	32°	24°	25°	26°
MIN.	3°	0°	7°5	10°	21°	14°	28°5
MEAN.	9°2	8°5	15°5	21°	29°	30°4	33°5
8 A.M.	29.85	29.95	30.12	29.94	29.83	30.00	30.17
1 P.M.	29.85	29.97	30.09	29.83	29.75	30.15	30.27
6 P.M.	29.84	29.96	30.10	29.75	30.27	30.27	30.25

Our readers are reminded that the subscription to the NEWS is \$4.00 per annum, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE; if unpaid in three months it will be charged at the rate of Five Dollars.

All unpaid subscribers will be struck off the list on the 1st July next, and their accounts [at the rate of \$5.00 per annum] placed in our attorneys' hands for collection.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1872.

THE relations between capital and labour require re-adjustment according to the varying conditions of trade and commerce. Industry is the source of all wealth, and the original foundation of property, for we read that Abraham claimed the well, which Abimelech's servants had "violently taken away," on the simple but incontestible plea that he had "dugged" it; and the King of Gerar willingly acknowledged the patriarch's indefeasible title. This was a full recognition of the right of private property in real estate, but the title was founded on the fact that the property had been created by labour.

Capital is but labour realised and put into an exchangeable form; and it is simply because it is exchangeable, in the shape of money, that it is employed to reward labour for the production of new property. Capital and labour therefore stand in relation to each other much as the pure gold does to the crude ore. The latter produces the former, but the former has to be expended in utilising the latter. Between workmen and capitalists—employers and employed—there must of necessity be very great community of interests. Yet the narrow selfishness on either side, or on both sides, drives them into frequent antagonism, and hence Trades' Unions, strikes and lock-outs. A surplus of labour in the market tempts the employer to grind his workmen down to starvation wages; a scarcity of it tempts the workman to put forward exorbitant claims for remuneration. It is hard to decide whether the workingmen or the capitalists are the more to blame; but where there is the greater room for generosity there we should expect to see it exercised; and that surely is on the side of capital.

The strikes for higher wages; the demand for the adoption of the nine hours' system, now followed in the United States by an eight hours' movement, are all manifestations of the weary struggles between capital and labour; and their baneful influence is that they teach those whose interests are mutual to regard each other as enemies. To get the largest amount of work for the smallest amount of pay is the aim on one side; to get the largest pay for the least work on the other. How much society suffers from this antagonism it would be impossible to estimate; but the movements now on foot, both in Europe and on this continent, presage a serious contest, the end of which may vitally affect the social fabric as it at present exists. The Internationals, or would-be remodellers of European political systems, are closely allied with this labour movement, and their object seems to be to set all ordinary laws at defiance, and to form for themselves a "higher law" by which everybody may make something, through encroaching upon the rights, property, or liberty of everybody else. The end aimed at is Utopian, though the desire which prompts the aim is eminently characteristic, of human nature.

The aspirations of the so-called working classes are to be applauded so long as they are directed to their own elevation in social enjoyment and moral culture. But when they aim at bringing employers under a cast-iron rule of subjection to some central committee; when, in effect, they decree that they shall dictate the terms on which all labour is to be employed by capital, they strike a blow alike at the individual freedom of the labourer and the capitalist. This has been the fatal mistake of the Trades' Unions. They fix a price by which the most deft mechanic must work alike with his bungling neighbour. They block the road to preferment and make mediocrity equal in value to superior skill. They disorganise production at a time when the demand is the greatest, and create fluctuations in prices that react injuriously upon all classes of society except the middlemen who hold the goods and regulate their prices, not according to the value of the article, but according to the relation of supply and demand. Already it is beginning to be talked of over the counters that this, that and the other article has been advanced in price because of the "nine hours movement" in the factory districts; and the prospects are an enhancement of the cost of living to all classes, which will undoubtedly act as injuriously upon the working classes as upon any other.

There is no disputing the honesty and justice of paying a "fair day's wage for a fair day's work;" and the frequent changes in the relative values between money and articles for personal or household consumption render necessary a readjustment of the rate of wages. But if workingmen combine, at the instigation of a foreign association, for the purpose of imposing upon Canadian employers the terms that such association may dictate, they should see that they are practically destroying Canadian industry. The operatives in this country are quite free to fit from one establishment to another; many of them have the opportunity, and not a few of them take it, of working but five days in the week. Still, it does not appear that the manufacturers or other employers of labour whether skilled or unskilled, can afford to surrender ten per cent of their productive force and yet compete successfully in their own markets with the products of other countries. There are doubtless many instances in which a man may, day by day, do as much in nine hours as he could in ten; out as manual labour is now so much engaged in supplementing the work of machinery the argument of accelerated speed cannot be accepted as a fair return for the loss of time.

But the "nine hours' movement" by itself is not a very alarming affair. We believe that the development of industrial intelligence has made it quite practicable in many branches of trade without injury to the employer; and that probably the hour thus gained by the employed might be turned to good account. Our objection to the movement is that a foreign organization—the National Labour League of the United States—should be able to set the workingmen of Canada in motion against their employers and against the industrial interests of the country. But this, it appears, is really what has happened, and it is really worse than the *Imperium in Imperio*, for that League is an external governing body unfamiliar with the affairs of Canada and having its interest in the destruction of its industry. That Canadians should listen to such counsels; that they should place themselves under foreign dictation, surrendering their own independence in the regulation of their business affairs, is a spectacle that does not challenge admiration. Relative values may have changed and the time may come when the rate of wages should be advanced in justice to the workmen; and employers, to meet the extra charge, must do as they have done before, increase the price of their commodities to the public. But the communistic or socialistic theories upon which the "National Labour League" of the United States is founded should find no favour among the people of Canada.

LITERARY NOTICES.

OTTAWA, PAST AND PRESENT, by Charles Roger, author of "The Rise of Canada from Barbarism to Civilization," &c., Ottawa Times Printing and Publishing Co., 1871.

This is a tersely written pamphlet of about 130 pages, giving a full account of the Settlement of old Bytown and the adjacent townships; and bringing the history of the city of Ottawa up to last year. Mr. Roger is well known as a vigorous writer, and this little brochure will not only be esteemed a worthy addition to his former literary labours, but a valuable contribution to the literature of the country, presenting as it does, in a brief and attractive form, the history of that part of Canada which is now the political centre of the Dominion; and which may be destined, both politically and commercially, to be the heart of a great North American nation. Mr. Roger's book will doubtless find many patrons.

THE EXPEDITION AGAINST QUEBEC IN 1759.

We had promised not again to afflict our readers with effusions concerning the authorship of the "Narrative" which we unfortunately published in January last, relating to the Expedition against Quebec in 1759. But we are again solicited to give up nearly two columns of our space to the unseemly wrangle. We decline. The letter of Mr. Walkem, senr., has already been published in the Quebec Gazette, and instead of wasting our space upon it, we give an extract from a letter which he quotes, and which, if authoritative, is equally damaging to the claims of Moncrief and Thompson as to the authorship of the document. The following is the extract referred to:—

"Horse Guards, 8th Feb., 1872.

"C. Walkem, Esquire: Dear Sir—I have to thank you for two copies of the *Canadian Illustrated News*, containing an account of the Siege of Quebec. It turns out to be that written by one P. McKellar, and has already been published in the R. E. corps papers. . . . I have given one copy of the paper to Lieut.-Col. Murray, R. E., D. W. (B.), whose grandfather commanded the Louisbourg Grenadiers at the siege.

"Dear Sir, yours truly,
"WALTER H. TRIGELLAS."

This, we trust, will end the matter in so far as this paper is concerned. The question is not likely to excite the same interest as that of the authorship of the "Letters of Junius."

How true it is that "misery makes strange bed-fellows." The printers' strike in Toronto has evoked a manifesto from the master printers, to which are attached the signatures of George Brown, John Ross Robertson, James G. Moylan, and Patrick Boyle—the four points of the political compass for once in unison!

The Directors of the Provident and Savings Bank at Quebec have disposed of their surplus cash, amounting to \$82,800, to charitable institutions.

The Prince Edward Island Legislature decided by a majority of one in favour of joining the Confederation, but as a new election is about to be held, it is expected the decision will be reversed.

The annual University boat race was rowed on the river Thames on the 23rd, when the Cambridge crew came in the winners by a length and a half. The enthusiasm over the race was much less than usual.

A false alarm of fire was raised in the French Cathedral at Quebec on Saturday evening last. Many of the congregation rushed from the building notwithstanding the assurance of the Archbishop and Curate that there was no danger.

At a meeting of the Toronto Typographical Union on last Saturday, it was resolved to make a general strike on Monday, 25th inst. The different newspaper proprietors made arrangements to assist one another in successfully resisting the strike. The *Leader* has acceded to the printers' demands.

An elegant new Pullman car left Montreal on the 22nd inst., for Springfield. This makes the sixth car built for the Vermont Central Road. Since the Pullman cars have been placed on the Springfield line, the travel has considerably increased. Passengers going to and from New York via Springfield, have the comfort of a Pullman car to and from Montreal, instead of having to change at St. Albans.

AN INCIDENT IN THE LIFE OF MENDELSSOHN.

Prof. Zelter, with whom Felix studied counterpoint, was his most eager auditor, and at the same time his most severe censor. More than once after the performance I myself have heard Zelter call out in a loud voice to his pupil that several alterations were necessary, whereupon, without saying a word, Felix would quietly fold up the score, and before the next Sunday he would go over it, and then play the composition with the desired corrections. In these rooms also, before the family removed to Leipziger Strasse, a three-act comic opera was performed, all the characters being apportioned and the dialogue read out at the piano. The libretto for "The Uncle from Boston" was written by a young physician, Dr. Caspar, who afterwards became a famous man. Every one who came in contact with him had something to relate of his wit, and I remember even now Holtei telling me, when I was at Riga, of the sparkling witty farewell speech addressed by Caspar to the Councillor Nernst, on the removal of the latter as Postmaster-General from Berlin to Tilsit. He finished with "Depart, and the peace of Tilsit be with you!"

Although the musical compositions of this "American Uncle" pleased all the parties connected with it extremely, the subject of it was, nevertheless, very weak. Devrient, and his fiancée, Therese Schlesinger, Johanna Zimmermann, the Drs. Andriessen and Dittmar, all took part in this opera. I was also a chorus-singer in it, and from one circumstance this evening will never be forgotten by me. When the opera was finished, there were the regular slices of bread and butter, with the usual addition of anchovies, cold meat, cheese, &c. Edward Rietz and myself were enjoying our portion, when Felix, who was going the round of the room to thank all the singers personally, stopped before us to ask how we were faring in the way of refreshment. I showed him my share of the spoil.

"And which do you consider your *dux*?" (the leading, principal subject,) he asked; "and which is your *comes*?" (the secondary theme.)

"Well, of course, I consider my bread and butter my *dux*."

"Oh, no," said he, "a guest must always regard his bread and butter as only the *comes*."

Just as he had uttered this little sally, Zelter's voice resounded the room:

"Felix, come here."

The old gentleman stood in the middle of the room with a brimming glass in his hand, and while every one was listening intently, he said: "Felix, you have hitherto only been