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NOTICE.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal Saturday, 8th July, 1876.

A FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

Perhaps the most remarkable circumstance in connection with the present financial and commercial crisis, is the fact that while all the great nations of the globe are seriously affected, France and France alone is in a condition of comparative ease and prosperity. A writer, in a late number of the *Forthnightly Review*, attempts to find a solution for this problem. He says truly that the practical exemption of France from the financial crises which periodically afflict America, England, Germany, and the Scandinavian countries, deserves to be studied and explained. Even the great financial typhoon, of 1857, which swept around the world and across the equator, only skirted the edge of France, causing a few failures in Havre and Marseilles, chiefly in the American trade, and advancing the rate of discount of the Bank of France for a short time to 10 per cent. For all practical purposes France was in the centre of a cyclone, enjoying a calm, while the rest of the civilized world was strewn with every species of commercial desolation. And such has been her position in the crisis of 1873, notwithstanding the payment of the milliards to Germany. Germany, however, the recipient of the milliards, has been convulsed with hard times and mercantile distress. The reason is simply that the Frenchman is very little addicted to going in debt, very little inclined to speculate, and very much given to hoarding his gains. Perhaps he does not get rich quite so fast as his neighbor across the Channel, but on the other hand he keeps what he gets, and generally escapes those terrible financial crashes that smite the Teutonic and Anglo-Saxon countries with such clock-work regularity. The Frenchman seems to have taken to heart the lesson taught by the great Mississippi bubble, to keep out of mad speculations. Neither the Englishman nor his offspring, the American, learned anything of lasting value from the South Sea bubble or the score of bubbles that have since burst at different times on their heads. Nor has the plodding and methodical German, so apt a scholar in many directions, learned this lesson, although commended to him by frequent and severe chastisement. There is no mystery whatever in the healthy condition of the French finances and French trade since the payment of the German war indemnity. France habitually holds not less than £240,000,000 sterling of the precious metals. Such a reserve of the most reliable property known to commerce, coupled with the national prudence on the subject of debt,

and the national habit of putting little or no money into things they know nothing about, very readily accounts for the practical exemption of France from these sore visitations. We believe this reasoning to be perfectly just. The French, fantastic and unreasonable as they are in many respects, cling to the simplest elementary principles of political economy. They literally have a horror of debt, and debt, neither more or less, is the secret of depression and disaster among nations as well as individuals. There is an immensely salutary lesson to be learned from the example of the French, and in this young country of ours where the fever of speculation is just beginning to break out, it is a lesson that ought religiously to be treasured up and carried into practice.

AN ICE STORM.

Scientific men have often called attention to the peculiarities of the Canadian climate. It is remarkable in this that, for the last three hundred years, it has not diminished in severity, while the atmosphere in similar latitudes further west has moderated to a very appreciable extent. Comparing the diurnal tablets and registrations consigned in the *Relations des Jésuites*, written at Quebec, two hundred years back, we find the same temperatures to-day as then, and in many cases where there is a difference, it denotes an increase of cold at the present time. In connection with this subject, and confirmatory of our remarks, we have the account of a wonderful storm which broke over Murray Bay, on Saturday, the 24th of last month. The falling of the barometer until it reached 29.30 foretold the coming of an atmospheric change, but the ice storm which followed surpassed in violence anything ever witnessed. The clouds which had been gathering over the Bonne Femme Charlotte Mountain, known to many as sure precursors of bad weather, had gradually veered round to the mountain above the Chute, and at about six o'clock were observed to have massed and, following the course of the River Murray, to be rapidly descending on the Village of Murray Bay. At seven o'clock the storm burst in its full violence, and it literally rained a shower of ice weighing from a quarter to one ounce each drop—more like a shower of racket balls and large marbles than anything else. This lasted about ten minutes, and extended about a mile in width, but the damage done to the crops in that short space of time was fearful to contemplate. The grain and peas were broken down as if an army had marched across them. Such was the violence of the storm that the ground presented the appearance of being drilled with innumerable small holes, which the heavy rains of the preceding night failed to obliterate. The flowers were broken, the fruit trees and bushes denuded of their leaves, and fruit strewed the ground on all sides.

Scarcely a house escaped the visitation of this fearful storm. Some had not a pane of glass left in them, especially those facing the north, from which point the storm came. Many had from thirty to 100 panes broken, and the gardens were utterly demolished. The new convent suffered greatly, and scarcely a window was left on the north side. Horses and cattle rushed in terror to seek shelter. Many of the ice stones measured from 1½ inches to 2½ inches in diameter, and were much larger than a hen's egg.

IMPENDING WAR.

At the last moment we learn by telegram from Belgrade that a council of war was held at which it was decided that Serbia should declare war against Turkey at once. And we are further informed that the Servians have actually crossed the frontier. On the other hand, it is stated that Turkey has issued a circular to the great powers, throwing the entire responsibility of the war upon Serbia, and declaring Prince Milan a rebel because he seceded from

the union of vessels. The following is an extract from the Servian manifesto. It commences by describing the insupportable condition in which Serbia has been placed since the out-break of the insurrection and declares that Serbia has done nothing whatever to hinder the work of pacification, whilst on the other hand Turkey has surrounded Serbia with a belt of iron. It is impossible, therefore, to remain longer within the bounds of moderation, and the Porte is responsible for any eventual bloodshed. The Montenegrins will be on their side, and it will not long before the Herzegovinians, Bosnians and Greeks co-operate with them. Prince MILAN concludes his manifesto by exhorting the troops to respect the frontier of Austria, which he says has a claim upon their gratitude, because of the benevolent protection extended to their Herzegovinian brothers. A despatch says it is reported that Roumania has decided to co-operate with Serbia. Advices from Belgrade state that a proclamation will shortly be issued, informing the Bosnians of the approaching appointment of new officials throughout the country in the name of Prince MILAN.

The Greek Government, in accordance with its policy of peace, has ordered the arrest of any emissaries on the frontier endeavouring to foment the insurrection with the Turkish Provinces, or to enlist any recruits. Magaziniawich, the Servian representative at Constantinople has been recalled. England last week proposed to an intermediary power—probably France—a meeting of the six powers in a neutral town near the seat of war with the object of watching mutually the progress of the war, reporting to various European Governments, and preventing the conflict from degenerating into a war of reprisals.

LACROSSE IN ENGLAND.

With respect to the game of Lacrosse of our Canadian Teams at Kennington Oval, which we reproduced lately, our special correspondent sends us the following:—

On Whit Monday, the teams played at Kennington, but a drizzling rain set in, and kept the holiday-makers away, and the match was commenced to a "beggarly account of empty benches." Under these depressing circumstances, it is not surprising that the play was a little tame, and when time was called each side had scored two goals. The weather looked a little more favourable in the afternoon, and by four o'clock upwards of 2,000 spectators had assembled. The play, to our mind, was, on the whole, perhaps superior to that exhibited on Saturday. Some of the catches, both by Canadians and Indians, were simply marvellous, and splendid throws were made, the ball often going upwards of 100 yards without touching the ground; all idea of exhibiting individual prowess being merged in a united effort to effect the downfall of the enemy's goal. One of the Canadian team being hors de combat from the effect of a slight accident sustained in the game on Saturday, his place was taken by T. B. Sachs, about the best lacrosse player of the Thames Hare and Hounds, who made a very creditable show under the trying circumstances. The first goal fell to the Indians; but the Montreal men gained the next two, and a heavy shower of rain coming on shortly afterwards, play was abandoned. In a few minutes it cleared up again, and the Indians came out to give us a specimen of the "Green corn dance." Prior to this performance the chief, Scattered Branches, made a very eloquent speech; but as, unfortunately, it was in the Iroquois language, the spectators remained in complete ignorance of its purport, though it seemed to give them the greatest satisfaction. Of the dance itself we cannot speak in high terms, as it is singularly monotonous, and much resembles part of the first figure of a quadrille. The war whoop, moreover, has by no means that awe-inspiring sound that we have been led to expect. The two teams appeared again on Tuesday at the Old Deer Park, Richmond.

HON. P. FORTIN, Speaker of the Quebec Legislative Assembly, and well-known for his active labors in regard to the navigation of our inland waters and the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, transmits us the third supplement to the catalogue of the Library of the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, comprising marine charts and books in relation to navigation, shipping and naval architecture. And he informs us that captains, mates, mariners and others interested in the study of navigation, foreign as well as British, are at liberty to come and study these charts and books, subject to the rules and regulations of the Library, where they will find measuring instruments and the necessary materials for taking notes.

In another column will be found an official statement of the ratio of increase in the circulation of the *Evening Star*, of this city. We take great pleasure in calling attention to these figures which testify, as nothing else can so well, to the substantial worth of the paper, and the successful character of its management. The *Star* is a credit to Canadian journalism by its independence, its justice to all parties, creeds and nationalities, its abundant newness, and the literary finish of most of its original matter. It stands as a living proof of the fact, often ignored, that the Canadian people are as ready as any other to encourage a paper that is edited with ability, courage and enterprise.

THE COPPER LIGHTNING ROD.

On presenting a view of the Factory and Offices of this Company in our present issue, we may add the following to the information given last week. On the 27th, a practical test was made by Mr. F. H. Badger, one of the most scientific electricians in this Province, of the Ontario Lightning Rod Company's lightning conductor at St. Patrick's Church, and in presence of a number of prominent citizens. The trial was a most thorough one, excited great interest and gave entire satisfaction to all engaged in the test, as well as to the spectators. The comparisons between the iron rod heretofore used on the church and the new system, as developed by the Ontario Copper Company, demonstrated at once the immeasurable superiority of the latter in conducting capacity. When it is considered that these tests, conducted with the greatest skill and on behalf of Mr. Choquet, Secretary of La Fabrique, go to prove that the new copper rod equals about one hundred of the iron rods in conducting capacity, an estimate of the immense value of the new invention may be correctly formed. Mr. Badger's intelligently written analysis of the test, which appears elsewhere, should be read with care, as it places fairly, and with the judgment of a man who knows what he is writing about, the merits of a very wonderful improvement in what is absolutely essential to the safety of our buildings, both public and private. The company give a guarantee policy to the purchasers of the lightning rod to pay back the amount paid them with seven per cent interest, in the event of an accident happening from lightning to a building on which their rod is erected.

We append Mr. Badger's testimonial entire:

A system of continuous copper lightning conductors having been recently applied to St. Patrick's Church, in this city, by the Ontario Copper Lightning Rod Company, and having been requested both by Mr. Choquet, Secretary of La Fabrique, and Mr. Schoonmaker, President of the Company, I, this day, made an electro-metric test of the capacity of the conductors. The instruments used were a differential galvanometer and rheostat, a quantity galvanometer, and Bunsen cell battery of the usual capacity, passing the current through a single coil of galvanometer (for quantity), and with differential coil for comparison with an iron rod upon the Church, erected some years since. The ground connection for circuit was made on a lead water pipe connecting with main system of street water main, an arrangement considered as forming a perfect "ground." Comparisons were made with the iron rod ½ inches in diameter, which has heretofore been the only protection of the Church from lightning. The iron rod gave a resistance of 50.5 ohms for the earth contact, while the copper conductor gave a resistance of less than 0.01 (one hundredth) of an ohm, proving the conducting capacity secured to be as nearly perfect as possible to attain. Considered in toto, for practical purposes, this copper conductor, approximately estimated in this particular instance, equals about one hundred of the iron rods in conducting capacity. In case of a very heavy lightning discharge, the difference might be still greater. In the case of the iron rod, the earth was evidently made by inserting the lower end of the rod a few feet below the surface of the ground. In the case of the copper conductor, a large diffusive surface was secured by inserting a liberal quantity of the conductor below the surface far enough to secure permanent moisture,