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TEMPERATURE,

as observed by HARRIS & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, January 8, 1881.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

THE ONLY ILLUSTRATED PAPER IN CANADA.

PROSPECTUS FOR 1881.

With the New Year we present to our subscribers and the public generally the XXII. Volume of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

A new era of prosperity is dawning upon the country. After a long period of depression the good times are close at hand. Through good and bad alike we have not relaxed our efforts to maintain and improve our standard of excellence, and now that prospects are bright once more, we come forward to offer a paper improved as well as the times.

We have made changes in our editorial department, by which we hope to ensure bright, sparkling and original reading matter. The want of a good, readable family paper is widely felt throughout Canada, and this want we are determined to supply. Our paper is to be read, not merely looked at for the illustrations.

With the new volume appears the first chapters of a new and highly interesting tale, entitled, "Against the Law," by Dora Russell, an author whose "Beneath the Wave" was so much appreciated by our readers a couple of years ago.

The illustrations of the paper we propose to materially improve, and shall endeavour to bring them to the highest possible state of excellence. A greater amount of original work is to be introduced than heretofore; and in this department we appeal to our friends throughout the country to send us sketches and notes of such subjects as they may think will interest our readers. Where possible, such drawings should be in pen and ink, but we shall be glad to receive drawings of any kind, or even photographs, where the subject is of sufficient importance.

From our literary friends we ask the same favours. The Editor will be pleased to receive stories, articles, or notes on any subject of interest.

In conclusion, we would say to our present subscribers: If you have been satisfied in the past, you shall be more satisfied in the future; if you were right in subscribing to us last year, you will have double reason for renewing your subscription, while all such as have never yet taken the paper, we would remind that the New Year is the time to turn over a new leaf—and that leaf should be the page of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

THE WEEK.

CANADA is decidedly looking up in public notice as far, at least, as England is concerned. Since the day when the Times described the Prince of Wales as landing at Kingston on his visit to these parts, a change has come over the spirit of our dream. We notice a growing tendency in English papers to multiply allusions to Canadian politics, Canadian news, even be it said Canadian newspapers, albeit Mr. JUSTIN MCCARTHY, if reports are to be believed, has a wholesome horror of our journalistic lines. It is possible that this may be due in part to the appointment of the Marquis of LORNE and the impetus given to the interchange of news by the visit to our shores of a member of the Royal Family, but we may look further yet for the real cause, and congratulate ourselves that our fortunes have awakened a genuine interest in the Mother Country, and that by our energy and perseverance we have forced our country into notice.

THE Canada Pacific Contract will, of course, be a fresh bond of union between the countries. We leave the party organs to quarrel over the pros and cons of this tremendous measure. Editorially we have no politics if the term is to be synonymous with party. But we have always endeavoured to supply our readers with the best information on Parliamentary subjects through our weekly Ottawa letter; and now that the one theme of discussion in social and political circles alike is the Pacific Railway question, we publish this week as a supplement a portion of the debate containing Sir CHAS. TUPPER's explanation of the Government policy. We say nothing as to its merits, but leave our readers to pass their own judgment upon it.

WE are glad to see that the Cork Steam Packet Company are meeting with a rough handling from the London press in the matter of their late refusal to ship Mr. BENCE JONES' cattle. Mr. JONES sent sixty head of stock to Cork for shipment to Bristol by the Company's steamer Xenia, but the Company, alarmed by the threats of other shippers of cattle to transfer their custom in case they received the consignment, refused to take them. It seems hardly credible that the directors of a well-known and respectable Company should lend themselves to such a scheme of persecution; and moreover, we take leave to say, it was a shortsighted measure, since the directors might have seen that had they done their duty not they but the shippers were sure to be the losers in the long run, and, to use the words of the London Daily News, "They might have risked something to preserve their self-respect." It is such servile obedience, not even to terrorism (for no violence seems to have been threatened) but to self-interest of the narrowest kind, that has done much and will do more to alienate the sympathy of all of us.

THE experiments which are being tried in London in the use of the electric light seem to show a complete triumph over the problem of street lighting, and lighting large spaces. The lights on the Thames Embankment, though perhaps not mechanically perfect, may at all events be said to be a pronounced success, while the contrast between the gaslit dial of the clock at Westminster and its adjoining face which has recently been illuminated by electric light is described as very marked indeed. The principal railway stations of the metropolis are rapidly adopting the new system, and the City of London is to be illuminated in three large districts by three different processes.

In the other problem, that of the application of electricity to domestic use, the furthest point seems to have been reached by Mr. SWAN, whose remarkable experi-

ments appear for the present to have distanced Edison, though the latter expresses himself confident of ultimate success. Mr. SWAN, like Mr. EDISON makes use of incandescent carbon; and the light from this is more manageable, and resembles gas very nearly in its effect. A detachable hand lamp seems unlikely to be obtained, but in this respect the same may be said of gas; and the other difficulties, those of subdivision and the providing of a suitable and durable medium to act as a wick, require only the attention which is now being bestowed on them, to yield perfectly satisfactory results.

Even while we write, however, comes the account of a mournful accident on the Livadia, which bids us remember that final success in the matter must depend in part at least upon the degree of safety with which the light of the future is to be handled. One of the men, unaccustomed to deal with the light, was asked to hold the lamp for a moment, and grasped it by the brass knob. This alone would have been harmless had he not happened inadvertently to touch the naked wire by which the connection was made. Instantaneously the circuit was completed, the electricity flashed through the living conductor and the unfortunate victim of his inexperience fell dead to the ground. Of course inexperience is always dangerous in scientific matters, but where the danger is so great as this, and the chances of danger increased by the very invisibility and silence of the terrible agency we read with surprise of the presence of naked wires, where insulation is so easy, and of engines of most tremendous destructive power being given to a bystander "to hold for a minute." We fancy the majority of people will ask about their new light before they try it "is it safe"—as well as "How much light does it give?"

WE know little of the difficulties and dangers of dramatic criticism it seems. To see the real thing one must go to Paris where Mr. SARCEY, the veteran critic of the Figaro, and his colleagues have recently had a somewhat unpleasant experience. The gods objected to the want of appreciation of some of the press at the representation of the play called "Garibaldi" some days since, and the cry was raised "Kick out the Journalists." In all military operations at a theatre persons in the gallery have an advantage, and this the democrats appear to have used rather unfairly on the occasion in question. It is delightful no doubt, or seems so to the outsider, to go to all the first nights of new plays; but it is less pleasant to have to subordinate artistic judgment to popular taste at the risk of being pelted with cauliflowers, carrots, orange peel and other vegetable missiles, and to feel, as Mr. SARCEY feelingly complains, that it is impossible or useless to reply.

WE are not without a nobility of our own it seems. The Queen has been graciously pleased to recognize the claim of CHAS. COLMAN GRANT, Esq. to the title of Baron DE LONGUEUIL, of Longueuil, P.Q. The Barony dates back to the year 1700, when CHARLES LE MOYNE of whom Mr. GRANT is the lineal descendant, was created by LOUIS XIV. Who shall say that Canada is not an aristocratic country now! A few more such discoveries and the vexed question of the Senate will be set at rest forever. We shall have a House of Lords of our own. Je vous salue, M. le Baron.

THE news of the late melancholy accident at Southampton has, as might be expected, made a point in favour of those who condemn football as a dangerous amusement. It is a not uncommon fault with such partisans to generalize from insufficient data. A man has been killed at football; the death of a man under such

circumstances is undesirable: ergo football is undesirable. So runs the syllogism of these would-be logicians.

Let it not be thought that we do not deeply deplore the mournful accident which carried off young Mr. GIBBS in the fulness of his youth and strength. But it would be unjust to condemn a game on account of the results in a single instance. The fact is that football, partly from its comparatively late introduction, partly from the division of its votaries into at least two antagonistic bodies, has never taken quite a firm hold of the public affections. Cricket is so thoroughly a national and representative game that all its shortcomings are forgotten in its intense popularity. And yet it is not so many years ago that young Mr. COTTERELL met an even more awful, because more sudden, death at the hands of a school-fellow while engaged in a match at Harrow. And it may be reasonably doubted whether, of the smaller accidents, injuries to arms and legs and eyes, a greater number are not attributable to the older game.

CRICKET will always be the favourite game with the ladies, who, after all, are the final judges in the matter of popularity. It is played to begin with in warm weather when we may sit at ease to watch the game, without stamping our feet and blowing our fingers to restore a faithless circulation. Cricket too is more sociable; we may chat as to the merits of the game with our friends on the inside; we may even, if we are not afraid of speaking to the man at the wheel, steal a furtive conversation with "long leg" in a propitious interval. And lastly cricket is clean and pretty, and associated with pleasant days at Lords and luncheons on friendly drags. But football if it wear less of a holiday dress than its sister, is none the less, under whatever rules it be played, a thoroughly manly, healthy game, and one which we should be slow to neglect or condemn upon the unproven presumption of its danger. We have no space for a eulogy of this or that code of rules, but we are ready to enter our protest against the comments of our contemporaries on the game itself.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

THE LEGISLATIVE AND THE SESSION—THE RESULTS AND COMING SITTING—HIS EXCELLENCY RECEIVES.

From Our Special Correspondent.

OTTAWA, NEW YEAR'S DAY, 1881.

The object of these letters being to give you a short history of our Parliamentary proceedings, the recess necessarily makes my letter this week short. There are, however, some points in the recess having relation to the session, which call for notice. Parliament was called at the early date of December 10th, for the avowed purpose of having the Pacific Syndicate agreement ratified before the Christmas holidays. Of course there was ample time for thorough discussion of the measure and its passage before Christmas; but the Opposition determined that this should not be, and it was quite within their power to prevent it. They also gained their point, contrary to the first announcement of Sir John Macdonald, of obtaining a continuous recess long enough to allow meetings to be held in the country, at which the orators of the party could appear, instead of an adjournment from Thursday to Tuesday over both holidays, with sittings between. These gentlemen, however, do not appear to have found exactly what they wanted, and the friends of the Government in their turn are jubilant over what has actually happened. The Ministers determined that the opponents of the measure should not have the field to themselves, and when, on two occasions, it was found that Mr. Blake found reasons for declining to meet Sir Charles Tupper before open public meetings, a pretty rough shock was given to confidence in what some men, at least, would fain believe, the supremacy of his powers as an orator, with such a cause as his friends said he had in hand. Then, too, Sir Richard Cartwright appears to have received a check at the hands of Mr. Kirkpatrick, the report, according to the Government papers, being that a resolution at the meeting was carried against him. But whatever may be the contention on this head by the friends on his side, it is undoubted that his meeting was far too hopelessly divided to enable him to take from it any ammunition for Parliament. Then, again, and last and greatest wonder, after what we have been led to suppose, Mr. William Macdougall, at a very large meeting of his con-