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TEMPERATURE

as observed by Hearn & Harrison, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING			Corresponding week, 1882.				
Aug. 5th, 1883.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Mon.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.	67	53	60	Mon.	80	63	71.5
Tues.	67	53	60	Tues.	80	63	71.5
Wed.	72	58	65	Wed.	82	65	73.5
Thur.	70	56	63	Thur.	80	63	71.5
Fri.	70	56	63	Fri.	80	63	71.5
Sat.	71	56	63	Sat.	81	64	72.5
Sun.	68	54	61	Sun.	80	63	71.5

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, August 11, 1883.

THE WEEK.

THE French are at a standstill in Madagascar. They are unable to advance on account of the smallness of their forces.

THE anti-semitic warfare is still raging in Russia, being more popular than governmental. In one instance, the military had to be called out to quell the riot.

IT need surprise no one to read of a Republican uprising in Spain. If the French Republic maintains itself any length of time, the fate of monarchy among the Latin nations will be sealed.

HANLAN, the Invincible, has again been challenged for very heavy stakes by Laycock, of Melbourne. The Australian has nothing to lose—having already been beaten once by the Canadian—and everything to gain. If by any accident he should happen to win, he would spring into the championship of the world at one bound. All these sports are much the work of chance.

THE sensation of the week has been the murder of James Carey, and the excitement consequent thereupon in Great Britain and Ireland has not yet subsided. The whole drama is exceedingly sad and disgusting, as it reveals the fact that neither religion nor civilization seems to be able to check the course of certain passions.

THE French have a heavier task upon their hands in Annam than they perhaps anticipated. We read the other day of a gallant sortie from Hanoi in which the French garrison caused great slaughter and captured a quantity of artillery, but the latest now is that the Annamites have recovered all the positions lost in that engagement.

THE cholera scourge has not abated in Egypt but there is some reason to believe that the disease is not precisely Asiatic Cholera, but a distemper caused by the filthy condition of the towns and the filthy habits of the people. During the British occupation of Damietta, for instance, many animals and bodies were dumped into the water regardless of consequences. The disease has not spread either with the rapidity of Asiatic Cholera.

ALTHOUGH violence has abated in Ireland, political agitation is still rife. The National League have decided to call a series of conventions in all the counties of Ireland, with a view to choosing a central executive committee. Arrangements are being made to resume the propaganda for securing an Irish Parliament, a peasant proprietary, and the adoption of other measures. It is also intended to hold in the Fall of 1884 a general convention of Irish societies throughout the world.

THE negotiations between the Vatican and France in regard to matters of religious discipline have, through the instrumentality of President Grevy, resulted in accord on the principal questions at issue, and instructions in pursuance of the arrangements made have been sent to the Papal Nuncio at Paris.

THE Australian Agents-General in London have presented a long statement to Lord Derby, Secretary of State for the Colonies, relative to the reasons of the Australians for desiring the annexation of, or the establishment of a protectorate over, the Western Pacific islands and a portion of New Guinea. They point out the state of anarchy existing there, and the danger of the establishment of French penal settlements. The Agents-General give direct assurance that the colonies will recognize the necessity of contributing to the cost of the policy they ask England to pursue, and are willing to place themselves in a position to act unitedly in the matter and in concert with England, although they cannot hastily decide the large question of federation.

THE views of Sir Henry Tyler, President of the Grand Trunk Company, on matters concerning Canada are worthy of notice. He is reported as saying that our credit now stood high on the English market. This had been brought about mainly through the instrumentality of the Grand Trunk, and although the feeling of the London public was not at present very much disposed to investment; still, he thought that opportunities in Canada were looked upon with favor. There were those who said that Canada did not get as large a share of the emigration from the Mother Country as she was entitled to, but in his opinion what was wanting in quantity was made up in quality. Agricultural laborers rather than mechanics and skilled workmen were needed, and it was far better to get a smaller number of the very best class of immigrants than a large number of those whom it was undesirable to have here. The visit of the lacrosse teams had excited a great deal of interest in England, and the members were enthusiastically received wherever they went. In answer to a question as to the probability of a double track between this city and Toronto, Sir Henry said that the traffic was now getting too heavy for one line, and that it was only a question of time when a double track would be laid between these two points. When asked if he thought they would be able to increase the speed of trains in that event, he replied that he did not think it was advisable to run with any greater speed than the present fast train between Montreal and Toronto. He expressed the intention of the company to continue improving their system in order to meet the growing requirements of the Canadian public.

CAPTAIN WEBB DROWNED.

Captain Matthew Webb, the famous English swimmer, lost his life in an attempt to go through the Niagara whirlpool rapids on July 24th. The course he sought to go over was the same as that which the *Maid of the Mist* ran many years ago. No craft but this has ever survived the perils of that terrible channel, and no human being, save the members of her crew, ever passed alive through the rapids. The announcement that Captain Webb proposed to attempt the foolhardy feat was not generally credited, but the few hundred spectators who gathered found that it was indeed true. Shortly after four o'clock he was rowed to the centre of the river about a mile above the railway suspension bridge, took off his clothes and jumped in. He soon entered the rapids, in which he was plainly seen by those standing on the bridge, swimming determinedly. At times he plunged out of sight and then again could be seen on the top of a huge wave. It was a thrilling spectacle and a brilliant performance. The struggle in the rapids lasted thirteen minutes, by which time Captain Webb had reached the whirlpool.

Here he was seen to throw up one of his arms, as if to signal some unforeseen danger. A second later he was buried in the foaming billows, which dash upwards forty or fifty feet, and whirl and seethe as if lashed by a thousand furies. This was the last seen of the intrepid swimmer. The search continued until dark, when his manager gave him up as lost and returned to Niagara falls.

Captain Webb was a native of Shropshire, England, and the son of a physician. He went to sea at an early age, and became the captain of a merchantman. He first attracted public notice by jumping from the Cunard mail steamer *Russia*, during a storm, to save a sailor who fell overboard. For this he received at the hands of the Duke of Edinburgh the first gold medal given by the Royal Humane Society. In 1875 he accomplished his greatest feat, swimming across the English Channel from Dover to Calais. The trial took place August 24th and 25th, and after a desperate struggle with the choppy sea he accomplished the distance of twenty-five miles in 21h. 45min., the best time on record. He has visited this country several times. On August 13th, 1879, he swam from Sandy Hook to Manhattan Beach, Coney Island, a distance in line of ten miles. Owing to the tides and the fact that his contract would not permit him to land at the island before five p.m., he was in the water eight hours and swam in all about sixteen miles. He was a man of powerful physique, being six feet one inch tall, finely proportioned and weighing about two hundred pounds in condition. He was forty years of age. He leaves a wife and two children in England. He had accumulated \$15,000 by his exhibitions.

AN OLD CANADIAN LANDMARK.

In the early summer of the year 1666 there landed on the spot where the foundation of the city of Montreal had been laid some 25 years previous, a youth, from Old France, in his 24th year, of manly form and noble bearing, whose calm exterior bespoke one who would shrink from no danger, and who would cling with unflinching tenacity to any cause he might espouse. This youth was Robert de la Salle, who, for 21 years, acted a most conspicuous part in the early history of Canada. In quest of new discoveries and with the hope of finding a water way through Canada to China, he travelled and re-travelled over the then unbroken forests of the great West, and traversed and re-traversed, in his frail Indian canoe, all of our vast inland lakes, and southward and westward by the Ohio, the Mississippi, and the then other unknown rivers, in search of the great object of his ambition, until he met his death in March, 1687, somewhere, we believe, on the banks of the Missouri. He was, without question, one of the most remarkable explorers recorded in history.

The present is not to deal with his discoveries or explorations, these are matters of history, but simply to point out a spot, an old landmark, nearer our own home, of which, or even of its actual existence, few, probably not one in a thousand of the present inhabitants of Montreal, is aware. It is the Canadian home of Robert de la Salle, the home in which he lived for some four years of his early Canadian life, and in which he concocted and matured the great schemes which engrossed the last sixteen years of his life.

La Salle, shortly after his arrival, acquired from the Seminary of St. Salpice, a grant of land at Lower Lachine, on which he erected a home to serve a triple purpose, viz: A signiory house, a fur trading post and a fort.

THE BUILDING.

On the Lower Lachine Road, one mile and a half above the Lachine Rapids, just at the head of the new inland cut of the Montreal Water Works, on the "Fraser Homestead Farm," adjoining the old "King's Posts," (which was also part of the La Salle estate) stands an old stone building, about sixty feet fronting on the road and some thirty feet deep, one story and a half high. The inside has a cellar, two floors and a garret, the walls are pierced with over thirty gun holes, which are quite perfect inside but the outside of them has, from time to time, been plastered over to keep out the cold to protect it for the uses to which this old building has been turned in later years. The outside still presents a fair appearance except the east gable end which is separated a little at the top from the main building. This was the home of Robert de la Salle, a name dear to all Canadians, but few now know of its existence, and fewer still of its whereabouts. Its walls have withstood the rough blasts of over two hundred years, the waters of the St. Lawrence still glide quietly by it as of old, but the rich fur-laden fleet of Indian canoes no longer visits that spot, nor is the merry song of the Canadian voyageur now heard there; those days are gone!

In its earlier days it was the resort of the Indian tribes from their far distant hunting grounds to exchange their furs with La Salle, and it is on record that a band of Seneca Indians, with their chief, spent a whole winter with him at his home. The tread of passing armies, French or English, westward or homeward to Montreal, was a familiar sound and of frequent occurrence; this was the point of embarkation by batteaux or canoe westward, and resulted in the establishment of the "King's Post" in later years. Connected with his home La Salle reserved 420 acres as a homestead for himself, this comprised the present "Fraser Homestead" and the two adjoining farms, he also reserved a common of 200 acres, this com-

mon remained intact until the year 1835, when it was divided among the neighboring farmers.

As a protection from the Indians, La Salle built a stone wall from 10 to 12 feet high, about eight acres long on the front and east sides of his home, the remains of this wall can yet be seen. Within this inclosure he planted an orchard of the choicest pears and other fruits from Old France. This orchard only fell into decay within the past forty years, its final destruction occurred in 1859, during the intense cold of that winter.

The above is a short account of one of the most interesting old landmarks of Canada. The writer's grandfather visited this old place about one hundred years ago, and twenty-five years later, became the purchaser of the "Fraser Homestead Farm," on which the old home of Robert de la Salle still stands and may be seen.

THE ONEIDA COMMUNITY.

John Humphrey Noyes, the founder of the Oneida Community in New York, who fled the State about a year since to escape indictment, is now an exile. The last heard of him he was at Clinton, Canada, near Niagara Falls, living with his wife, although three others of the Community women went with her when she joined him. The Community at the time furnished him with a home and funds. Noyes was the autocrat of the Community. His word was the law from which there was no appeal. Since the departure of Noyes the "Family," or Community, has been governed by a committee of ten men and ten women, who consider all questions arising and direct all business. They have abolished the mixed-marriage system and adopted the monogamic relation. Many wedding ceremonies have been performed, and those who were married previous to entering the Community are again living together. The functionary who links the couples is an ex-Episcopal minister, who has for fifteen years been a member of the Community.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

The Library of Congress now contains, as nearly as can be ascertained, 649,076 books and pamphlets, an increase of about 87,000 last year. More than 130,000 volumes of the books are now "necessarily stored in heaps in various rooms connected with the library or are placed in double rows on the shelves." Of the 59,984 volumes of books added to the library last year, 11,260 were bought, 12,297 were copyright deposits, 27,045 were presented by Dr. Toner, of Washington; 6,712 were received from other donors, and 2,770 were received from exchanges and from the Smithsonian Institution. Within the year \$18,554 was received on account of copyright fees, the whole number of copyright entries being 22,918.

In the year the fifth volume has been published of the original documents in French, relating to the French discoveries and settlements in the Mississippi Valley and the north-western parts of America. One more volume will complete this series, and it will be finished this year, together with an atlas of maps.

ROYAL CRADLES.

The lately born Infante of Spain, Mary Isabel, sleeps, wakes and cries in a cradle shaped like a conch-shell, and lined with the palest of pink satin. Her tiny form is covered with point d'Alençon lace, specially made from a pattern designed by the Queen of Spain's mother, in which the arms of Spain and Austria are gracefully blended. She has a *coussin-pied* and tiny pillow, on both of which the lines of the House of Bourbon and the Y of her pretty name, Ysabel, are lined and interlaced. The other new royal baby, the young Hereditary Prince of Sweden, has a much less delicate cradle, as becomes a hardy young Norseman. It is shaped like a swan, the wings coming up, if wished, and sheltering the little prince, and is well provided with down-stuffed accessories.

THE ILLNESS OF THE COUNT DE CHAMBORD.

The illness of the Count de Chambord has been as painful to the illustrious sufferer as it has proved a puzzle to his physicians. Though not yet out of danger, there are indications of a favorable turn in the malady, and we may yet have to chronicle the complete recovery of the hope of the French Legitimists. During the earlier days of his illness, the Count, who pined for the open air, was taken daily, on a carefully prepared bed-stretcher, to a favorite spot in the private gardens, where if the sun proved too warm or too glittering, he would be placed under the shade of a *marquee* and permitted to enjoy the view of the long, flower-bedecked, tree-shaded alley, in which he loved to saunter alone, forming a thousand plans for his beloved France when the white flag should again float over the gilded roof of the Tuileries. On the 7th of July the Count was able to receive a visit from the Count de Paris, the Duc de Nemours and the Duc d'Alençon. They were received in the "Gray Chamber," and the scene is described as being singularly impressive, the man "sick unto death," propped up with pillows, meeting his blue-blooded kinsmen with all the superb courtesy of the *ancien régime*. While there is life there is hope, and the Count de Chambord may yet live, if not to see the white flag float over the Tuileries, at least to enjoy a longer evening of life in the peaceful pleasure of the chateau at Frobsdorf.