

and silent contemplation; and so the widow, full of dash and daring, resolved upon a sensation of her own, by inscribing her name on the ledge. Accordingly she approached the crown of the precipice, despite the remonstrances of some of the party who were near, and—oh horror!—the cry was raised that Mrs. ——— had fallen over!

The bride, standing at some little distance, and supposing she had seen the last of her dear friend, fainted away; the young ladies screamed; and the hitherto scattered party were brought together almost instantly in the wildest consternation. But the widow had not fallen; she had only seated herself somewhat suddenly on the ledge, and an intervening bush gave to that motion the appearance of a descent over the precipice into the yawning gulf below. The alarm lasted but a few seconds when she reappeared, apparently the least concerned of the party. It was some time, however, before the bride revived, and longer still before the bestirled nerves of the ladies and gentlemen were calmed again. Not till after the return drive and the genial influence of a private dinner at the ——— Hotel; and not till many severe reprimands had been administered to the daring transgressor, did the party resume their former hilarity. It was noticeable, too, that the barrister laughed nearly all the time, after the bride's fainting fit was over; and that the merchant and the bashful young man were almost as indignant with the widow as the excited and deeply agitated groom.

"But what has all this to do with the whirlpool?" you say. Why, everything to be sure! Is it not an incident on the surface of the great whirlpool of life, of which that of Niagara is but an imperfect type? Nay; wouldn't you like to hear whither the ceaseless, ever-turning, eddy of human fortune has carried the participants? Well! The widow did not catch the barrister, if she ever tried; they are both yet whirling along in the circle of single blessedness. The merchant, after careering round and round for several years, was "drawn in" at last, and now glides smoothly along the matrimonial current. The bashful young man took courage after a time, but only to carry disappointment to the hearts of those of his fair companions of that day, if any, who hoped to share life's fitful voyage with him. Some of the ladies sought escape from the troubled waters in the calm of the cloister. But all the party, both ladies and gentlemen, are still, we believe, "rotating" in the great whirlpool of life, though the eddying currents have brought some of them sharply up by times against varying fortune, and it has been the lot of more than one of them to see the waters close for the last time over those very near and dear to them. What a whirlpool is life!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEB. 12, 1870.

SUNDAY, Feb. 6.—*Fifth Sunday after Epiphany.*
MONDAY, " 7.—Charles Dickens born, 1812.
TUESDAY, " 8.—Mary Queen of Scots beheaded, 1587. Indo-European Telegraph opened, 1865.
WEDNESDAY, 9.—Canada ceded to Great Britain, 1763. Great fire at Cape Colony, 1869.
THURSDAY, 10.—Queen Victoria married, 1840. Sir David Brewster died, 1868.
FRIDAY, 11.—Great Earthquake at Naples, 1692. Descartes died, 1650.
SATURDAY, 12.—Sir Astley Cooper died, 1841.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

We beg to state that our canvassers are furnished with a document, under sign manual, defining their powers, and limiting their sphere of action. Payments made to others, not duly authorized, must be at the risk of parties making such payments. Several cases of this sort have already been attended with inconvenience, travelling agents having received subscription money, and not having accounted to us for the same.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1870.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"ACADEMICUS," TORONTO.—Your letter would have been published had it been accompanied by your real name and address, as a guarantee of good faith. Might you not have sent us a copy of the calendar from which you quote?

The Minister of Finance has addressed a circular to the several banks in the Dominion, asking their co-operation in a proposed policy for the final extinction of the "silver nuisance." Sir Francis Hincks proposes: 1st, that a proclamation should be issued declaring that, after a day to be fixed, American silver shall be legal tender in amounts not exceeding \$40—the half-dollar at 40 cents, the quarter at 20 cents, the dime at 8 cents, and the half-dime at 4; 2nd, the Government to receive three millions of dollars in American silver—the first at 5, the second at 5½, and the third at 6 per cent discount; 3rd, that a penalty may be imposed by legislation upon all parties paying, or attempting to pay out American silver at higher rates than those named in the proclamation, after the same goes into force; 4th, in order to supply the void which will be caused by the removal of the American silver, it has been determined that a new Canadian silver coinage should be struck at the Royal Mint, and application has already been made for the coinage of 50 and 25 cent pieces to the extent of a million of dollars; 5th, the temporary issue of fractional Dominion notes, redeemable in gold when presented in sums of not less than five dollars. No effort will be used to force these notes into circulation, but every facility for obtaining them will be given.

Such is a summary of the measures proposed, after consultation with Mr. Weir of Montreal, for the restoration of the small currency of the country to a par basis. The merchants and business men of Montreal held a meeting on Tuesday last to consider this scheme; but while approving in general terms of the desirability of getting rid of American silver, the meeting, by a small majority, withheld its assent to the details of the scheme proposed by the Minister of Finance, taking especial objection to the penal clause and the issue of fractional currency. But upon these two clauses will depend the success of the whole scheme. The Governor-General's proclamation creating a legal tender value for American silver at least thirteen per cent below its actual value as an article of commerce, will not be worth the paper on which it is written, unless enforced by some penalty; and there is no other mode of affixing a penalty except by Act of Parliament prohibiting the payment or receipt of such silver at a higher value. On the other hand, the single million of silver coinage will hardly fill the gap created by the withdrawal of the American silver in circulation; and even if it did, as it will not be ready for some time the fractional currency seems a necessity if the American silver is at once to be withdrawn from circulation.

The offer of the Government to receive the silver at 5, 5½ and 6 per cent. discount is worth very little. So long as there is no penalty attached to its circulation in Canada it will command a higher rate in commercial transactions, so that the Government scheme, if eliminated, as some of the Montreal merchants appear to think it ought, would be worth next to nothing. Without the fractional currency, the sudden withdrawal of the silver would be a great inconvenience; without the penalty, the legal tender proclamation would be a dead letter. But the whole scheme, if put in motion, would undoubtedly be successful in ridding the country of American silver.

In the Maritime Provinces there has been no such trouble about American silver. There, the people, without other law than that of common consent, fixed the American quarter dollar at twenty cents, and thus rendered the importation of American silver an unprofitable speculation. At Halifax, and probably at some other seaports in Nova Scotia, American silver generally passes for its face value; but as the Nova Scotia dollar is worth only 97½c. Canada currency, that is practically equivalent to a discount of nearly three per cent. on American silver, at which rate it will be readily taken here. It is because of the local character of the grievance that the General Government may well be excused from assuming any responsibility which would entail expense in the removal of the depreciated currency. But if it only receives American silver at the rates already mentioned, there can be no danger of loss. The fractional currency, to the extent to which there will be a demand for it, will repay the Government for its issue and management, because the amount in circulation will represent so much of a loan to the Government, bearing no interest. It will be a public convenience, however, especially in the transmission of small sums of money by mail, for which, at the present time, postage stamps are generally used.

THE Americans, despite their devotion to Republican institutions, have no personal objection to Princes. On the contrary, they like to see them, to look upon them well; whether in the railway carriage, at church, hotel, or public parade, in ball-room, or theatre, a Prince is a welcome sight to them. Of course they administer a little abuse now and then to us poor Britishers for our supposed flunkeyism, or something worse, because of our respect for hereditary rank. But even a sham Lord—Lord Hubert Ainslie "of England," to wit—can excite among them a degree of curiosity and enthusiasm which is quite surprising to those who make no profession of despising rank and dignity of birth. How enthusiastically the Prince of Wales was received by the Americans nearly ten years ago! Canada with all its loyalty was then outstripped by New York, even as Washington threatens now to outshine Montreal. Prince Arthur has had a right royal reception from our Republican neighbours. Though going amongst them simply in the character of a private gentleman, desirous of seeing the country, or of spending a few days with Mr. Thornton at Washington, the Prince has been everywhere treated with the most marked distinction.

At Boston only, if we except some newspaper vulgarisms, did the American taste for giving unprovoked, and perhaps in this case unintended insult, display itself, for there the Common Council resolved that H. R. H. should not receive a public reception! This silly resolve was so generally laughed at, that it is not likely even Boston itself will care to repeat the proceeding. To inform a man that you do not invite him to dinner does not yet rank as an act of social courtesy; and beyond the limits of the Modern Athens, Boston's resolution not to give the Prince a public reception, was generally regarded as having that meaning.

During the two weeks the Prince has spent among the Americans, his popularity has grown amazingly. This is not surprising. The Prince has the easy grace of a gentleman, and such a pleasing, unaffected manner, that he could not but captivate the Americans, who, while affecting a fondness for *brusquerie*, are, nevertheless, quick to discover and as quick to appreciate good-breeding. They are fond, too, of overdoing each other; if Washington is grand, New York resolves to be magnificent. The dinners at the British Legation, at the President's, at Secretary Fish's, &c., at all of which the Prince was the honoured guest, have been descanted upon by the American papers to an extent which only American papers go in noticing private dinner parties; while of so much importance was the ball at Mr. Thornton's—"the Prince's ball,"—that the New York morning papers devoted some three or four columns to a description of it. One writer thus describes the arrival of the principal guests:

"The arrival of Mrs. Thornton, escorted by Mr. Trench, the Private Secretary of the Legation, at 9:15, found about fifty guests assembled. Mrs. Thornton received alone at first everybody who entered the ball-room, and it must be said that she received with exceeding grace. All had not assembled when the Prince arrived, at 9:40, to the music of the coronation march. He was attired in the full uniform of his regiment, and wore the Order of St. Patrick and the Garter. Lieut.-Col. Elphinstone and Lieut. Packard, of his suite, wore also the military uniform. It was nearly 11 o'clock, after the Prince had stood at the side of Mrs. Thornton and received the people who thronged in, when Ulysses S. Grant, President, accompanied by his wife and several members of the Cabinet and their wives, entered the ball-room. The band played "Hail Columbia," in honour of the President, who marched up along the middle of the ball-room, with Mrs. Thornton, followed by Prince Arthur with Mrs. Grant. The Cabinet, gorgeous diplomatic corps, the Justices of the Supreme Court, Senators, Members of Congress, and divers dignitaries of some note, followed in the procession to the upper end of the hall. Here steps arose to a platform extending across the extreme farther end. There the President, the Prince, and most of the others comprising this august procession posted themselves within view of the now altogether magnificent assemblage, whose devoirs they received.

"The guests are supposed to be the elect of society. Not only Washington, but Philadelphia and New York have sent their dignitaries and choicest beauties to honour Minister Thornton's reception. Few hosts have gathered such a company of station, notoriety, and beauty successfully since the war. On the whole, the Prince of Wales did not meet so well-chosen people at the large parties made at his visit. The first officials of the nation are there; for the President has set aside his reception to see the Minister's decorations, and enjoy once more the freedom of a guest instead of an entertainer. Congressmen of eloquence and influence, the aristocratic admirals and generals of the army, the brilliant diplomatic corps, men selected for their social talents as well as their ranks, the most noted scientific men of the city, whose presence adds as much dignity to a reception as a score of decorated attaches, are the darker side of the reception list; while scarce a woman enters without prestige of fashion, wealth, or beauty."

QUITE an unexpected change of affairs is reported from Red River. It is now positively stated that the Hudson's Bay Company has reasserted its authority, quelled the insurrection, and made General Riel a prisoner. What has become of President Bruce is not reported, nor is it very clear whence the new strength of the Company had come. This turn of affairs is said to be due to a compromise between the English and the French half-breeds, but it implies a little more than that. Riel must have been deserted by his subordinates, otherwise it is quite inconceivable that the Company so powerless against him before would have been able to turn the tables so completely upon him.

It will be seen by advertisement on our last page that the Life Association of Scotland is doing a large and safe assurance business in Canada. The Company has erected a fine block of buildings on St. James street, near the Place d'Armes.

THE CANADA HEALTH JOURNAL, Edited by C. T. Campbell, M.D. London, Ont.: John Cameron & Bro. No. 1 Vol., January, 1870.

This small periodical, to be issued monthly at the rate of 50 cents. per annum, is devoted, as its name implies, to the dissemination of correct ideas on the laws of health. To teach men how to live so as to preserve the vigour of their physical constitutions, is a noble mission, and none should miss the opportunity of acquiring this valuable information, when it is placed within their reach for such a modest annual disbursement. The *Journal* is intelligently written, and has in its first number developed no undue leanings towards any particularism.

The Year Book and Almanac of Canada, 1870, Arthur Harvey, Esq., F. S. S., Editor. John Lowe & Co., Publishers, Montreal.

This valuable annual has now entered on its fourth year, and from the variety and accuracy of the information it contains is well deserving the very general patronage it receives. Mr. Harvey is one of the ablest and most painstaking statisticians in Canada, and the *Year Book* places the result of his labours in this department within easy reach, at a trifling cost. Not only in statistical information, but as to the legislation and the general condition and progress of the country the *Year Book* is a reliable authority.