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TEMPERATURE

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

Table with columns for dates (Nov. 10th, 1883, and Corresponding week, 1882) and rows for days of the week (Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun.) with sub-columns for Max., Min., and Mean values.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. Montreal, Saturday, Nov. 17, 1883.

THE WEEK.

By bungling and narrow-mindedness the City Council have lost a second opportunity of obtaining a first-class station for the Canadian Pacific at Dalhousie Square.

The agitation of a certain section of the press against General Leard is a source of regret. The Commander of Militia is palpably wanting in tact, but his principles are sound, and we believe that he is sincerely anxious to work for the advancement of our volunteers.

There is another election contest in the County of Levis. In the nature of things, by-elections are inevitable, but it is a mistake to make them consequent on cases of political elevation. Let us hope that, after the excitement of Levis, the Government of the Province will settle to real work, as there is abundant work for it and the sorest need.

An important order, intended to maintain the active militia in a state of efficiency, regulates that henceforth lieutenant-colonels that attain the age of 59, majors the age of 55, captains the age of 50, and lieutenants the age of 45, may be placed on the retired list. This regulation will apply also to regimental staff officers according to their relative rank.

The result of the elections in the United States last week was not quite so favorable to the Democrats as had been expected, chiefly on account of intestine divisions among the members of that party in the State of New York. The defeat of General Butler, in Massachusetts, has more a personal significance than anything else. In New Jersey and Maryland, the Republicans lost where they expected to win.

A MEDICAL contemporary publishes some sensible and, we fear, only too opportune observations on what it calls the "habit of hurry" in modern business life. The modern man of business dresses in a hurry, he breakfasts in a hurry, he is in a hurry to catch his train, he is in a hurry to get out of it. It is with hurry that he proceeds to his office, in a hurry he reads

his letters, that he answers them, that he passes his day, and that he returns to the station to catch his homeward-bound train. One hurry has been forgotten in this catalogue—he is not in a hurry to pay.

IN spite of statements to the contrary and the sneers of Free Traders, the cause of Protection continues to be agitated in Great Britain. The Earl of Dunraven is attracting attention by his earnest efforts in the cause of protection. He presided over the Fair Trade Congress at Leamington on Saturday, and his remarks, which were largely drawn from American experience, were all strongly in opposition to the present free trade policy of Great Britain and in favor of the protective system in operation in the United States. Mr. Porter, of the recent United States tariff commission, also delivered an address before the congress, advocating the adoption of the American system.

IN view of the situation in Europe, the speeches made at the Lord Mayor's late dinner are of special importance. M. Waddington's speech, which Mr. Gladstone described as the speech of the evening, contained little but vague assurances of good will. Equally sincere and uncompromising was M. DeLessep's declaration that he had come to England prepared to anticipate the reasonable demands of the English merchants. It is not regarded in London as pledging him to one single important concession. Gladstone's speech was adroit and conciliatory, but has occasioned general complaint because it contained no disclosures of policy and absolutely no indication of the programme of the session beyond an explicit denial of the repeated newspaper assertions that everything will have to give way to the Franchise Bill. There was a renewed pledge of the speedy withdrawal of a large portion of the English troops from Egypt, and this was received with marked disfavor by the audience. There are renewed protests from most of the journals, except the radical press. There is much discontent also with what people think an excessive defence on Mr. Gladstone's part of French susceptibilities, the inference including alike the Madagascar incident and the Suez Canal. His critics complain that he has laid more stress on obtaining justice for Ireland than on maintaining the union, avowing that the latter is conditional on the former.

THE VATICAN LIBRARY.

The Vatican Library may be considered to have been founded by Nicholas V. (1447,) who transferred to his new palace the manuscripts which had been collected in the Lateran. The library at the death of Nicholas is said to have contained nine thousand manuscripts, but many of them were dispersed by his successor, Calixtus III. These losses were not repaired until the time of Sixtus IV., whose zeal in restoring and augmenting the library is celebrated by Ariosto and by Pladeletina, who was appointed its librarian about 1480. The present building was erected by Sixtus V. in 1588, from the designs by Fontana, a new apartment having become necessary to receive the collection made by his immediate predecessors, and particularly by Leo X., who, like his father, Lorenzo the Magnificent, had sent agents into distant countries to collect manuscripts.

The celebrity of the library dates properly from the close of the sixteenth century, when the munificence of the popes was aided by the acquisition of other important collections. The first was that of Fulvius Ursinus in 1600, followed by the valuable collections of the Benedictine monastery of Bobbio, composed chiefly of palimpsests; that is, manuscripts which have been written upon twice, the first writing having been erased to make place for the second. The library then contained 10,660 manuscripts, of which 8,500 were Latin and 2,160 were Greek. The Palatine Library, belonging to the Elector Palatine, captured at Heidelberg by De Tilley, and presented to Gregory XV., in 1621, by Duke Maximilian of Bavaria, was the next accession. It contained 4,388 manuscripts, 1,956 of which were Latin and 432 Greek. In 1658 the Vatican received the library of Urbino, founded by Duke Federigo, whose passion for books was so great that at the taking of Volterra, in 1742, he reserved nothing but a Hebrew Bible for his share of the spoil. This collection enriched the Vatican with 1,711 Greek and Latin manuscripts. In 1600, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the collection of Christina, queen of Sweden, was added to the library; it comprehended all the literary treasures taken by her father, Gustavus Adolphus, at Prague, Wortzburg and Bremen, and amounted to 2,291 manuscripts of which 2,101 were Latin and 190 Greek. Clement XI., in the beginning of the last century, presented fifty-five Greek manuscripts to the col-

lection and in 1746 it received the splendid library of the Ottoboni family, containing 3,862 manuscripts, of which 3,391 were Latin and 474 were Greek; about the same time it was augmented by 166 manuscripts from the library of the Marquis Capponi. The last addition of importance was that of 162 Greek manuscripts from the convent of San Basilio, at Grotto Ferrata. At the peace of 1815 the late king of Prussia, at the suggestion of Humboldt, applied to Pius VII., for the restoration of some of the manuscripts which had been plundered from the Heidelberg Library by De Tilley. A more favorable moment for this request could not have been chosen; the service rendered to the church by the restoration of the pope to his throne was acknowledged by that enlightened and virtuous pontiff on all occasions; and in this instance the request of the king of Prussia was immediately answered by the restoration of many manuscripts of great importance to the German historian. At the present time—for we do not know of any additions certainly since twenty-five years—the Vatican Library contains in the Oriental collection 590 Hebrew, 787 Arabic, 80 Coptic, 71 Ethiopic, 459 Syriac, 64 Turkish, 65 Persian, 1 Samaritan, 13 Armenian, 2 Iberian, 22 Indian, 19 Chinese and 18 Slavonic manuscripts. The amount of the whole collection of Greek, Latin and Oriental manuscripts is 23,580, the finest collection in the world. The number of printed books is estimated at 30,000, and includes the collection of Cardinal Mai, a magnificent donation of Pius IX., to the library of the Vatican.

The principal manuscript treasures of the library are the following:—The celebrated "Codex Vaticanus," or "Bible of the End of the Fourth or Beginning of the Fifth Century," in Greek, containing the oldest version of the Septuagint and the first Greek one of the New Testament. The most important document in biblical literature was published by the late Cardinal Mai in 1857. The "Virgil" of the fourth or fifth century, with fifty miniatures, including a portrait of Virgil, well known by the engravings of Santo Bartoli; the "Terence" of the ninth century, with miniatures; a "Terence" of the fourth or fifth century, the oldest known; "Fragments of a Virgil" of the twelfth century. The "Cicero de Republica," the celebrated palimpsest discovered by Cardinal Mai, under a version of "St. Augustine's Commentary on the Psalms." This is considered the oldest Latin manuscript extant. The "Palimpsest of Lamy, lib. 91," from the library of Christina, Queen of Sweden. The "Plutarch," from the same collection with notes by Grotius. The "Seneca" of the fourteenth century, with commentaries by the English Dominican monk Triveth. A "Pliny" with interesting figures of animals. A "Menologia Græca; or Greek Calendar of the Tenth Century," ordered by the Emperor Basil; a fine example of Byzantine art, brilliantly illuminated with representations of basilicas, monasteries, and martyrdoms of various saints of the Greek Church. The "Homilies of St. Gregory Nazianzen" of the year 1063, and "Four Gospels" of the year 1128, both Byzantine manuscripts of great interest. A Greek version of the "Acts of the Apostles," written in gold, presented to Innocent VII. by Charlotte, Queen of Cyprus. The large "Hebrew Bible," in folio, from the library of the Duke of Urbino, for which the Jews of Venice offered its weight in gold. The "Commentaries on the New Testament," with miniatures of the fourteenth century, by Nicola da Bologna. The "Breviary of Matthias Covinus," of the year 1492, beautifully written and illuminated by Ailvanti. The parchment scroll of a Greek manuscript of the seventh century, thirty-two feet long, with miniatures of the history of Joshua. The "Officium Mortis," with beautiful miniatures. The "Codex Mexicanus," a calendar of immense length. The dedication copy of the "Assertio Septem Sacramentorum adversus Martinum Lutherum," by Henry VIII., printed on vellum at London in 1521 with the king's signature and the autograph inscription on the last page but one, "Finis, Henry Kex."

"Anglorum, rex Henricus, Leo Decimo, mittit. Hoc opus et fidei testis amittit."

Letters from Henry VIII. to Anne Boleyn, seventeen in number; nine are in French and eight in English. The "Dante" of the fifteenth century, with miniatures by Guillo Clovio. The "Dante del Boccaccio" in the very beautiful writing of the author of the "Decameron," to which the signature of Johannes de Cortaldo is affixed, and with notes said to be by Petrarch. Tasso's autographs, Petrarch's autographs. Several manuscripts of Luther, and his principal part of the "Christian Catechism," translated into German by Melancthon, 1566; the Latin poem of "Donizo, in honor of the Countess Matilda," with her full-length portrait, and several historical miniatures of great interest, which represent the repentance of the Emperor Henry IV., his absolution by Gregory VII., and similar subjects.

REMINISCENCES OF ASIATIC CHOLERA IN CANADA.

BY JOSEPH WORKMAN, M.D., TORONTO.

The following details of the visitations of Asiatic cholera since its first appearance on this continent in 1832, up to its last arrival in 1866, have been hurriedly brought together, with the intention of presenting them to the Medical As-

sociation of Canada, during its session in September, at Kingston. Owing, however, to the too great length of the paper, despite my desire to compress the facts into more limited space, and to my present equivocal state of health, I have, with much reluctance, been constrained to deny myself the pleasure of taking part in the proceedings of the Association, and I cannot think of trespassing on the kindness of any professional friend to read the paper, as my representative, nor indeed am I free from the apprehension that it might exhaust the patience of the audience.

The parts relating to the cholera of 1832 and 1834, are drawn chiefly from the inaugural thesis presented by me to the Medical Faculty of McGill College, on the occasion of my graduation in the year 1835. I have no hesitation in pledging myself for the perfect accuracy of my notes, as they were written by me, from day to day, as the events occurred; I have also every reason to consider the subsequent details as quite truthful.

It is not the unanimous opinion of medical writers that the disease now known under the various names of Asiatic Cholera, Spasmodic Cholera, Malignant Cholera, and Cholera Asphyxia is a new disease. Hippocrates, Aretæus, Sydenham and Huxham, are said to have distinctly treated of this malady. We are told that in 1669 and 1676 it prevailed in London, and in 1730 and 1750 in Paris. In 1762 we are informed it raged extensively in Hindostan, and that in each successive season an epidemic, showing the principal characters of Asiatic Cholera, prevailed more or less epidemically throughout India. But we have no reliable records of its extensive prevalence before the year 1817. It is true, many have been inclined to believe that the terrible pestilences which the Indian historians have recorded as having made extensive devastations in that part of the world, at various periods, were no other than the disease in question; yet when we consider the vague and unscientific manner in which both historians in general, and some early medical writers were accustomed to describe diseases, we may feel inclined to question the identity of the disease now known as Asiatic Cholera with any of those recorded by writers of past times.

Asiatic Cholera presented itself in the year 1817, at Jessore, a large and populous town, about 80 miles north-east of Calcutta, in that part of the province of Bengal, which is called the Sunderbunds or Lowlands, which constitute the extensive district lying between the numerous mouths of the river Ganges. It is stated to have appeared simultaneously at several other places in this part, and to have radiated into the surrounding districts. In July it reached Patna, on the Ganges, 300 miles north-west of Calcutta. In the middle of August it appeared in Calcutta. In the month of November it carried off 5000 victims in the camp of the Indian army. During December it abated in every part of India; but in February 1818 it sprang up with renewed violence, and assumed the dread character which it has ever since retained. Stretching towards the south it attained the southern extremity of Hindostan, and passed over to the adjacent island of Ceylon in December. In November of the following year, (1819) it was carried to Mauritius, and thence in January 1820 to the Isle of Bourbon. To the eastward we have it advancing with persistent pace, and devastating the populous countries in that direction, between the Altai mountains on the north and New Holland on the south. It appeared in Aracan in 1818, in Java in 1819, Canton 1820, Peking 1821, and in the island of Timor, which lies about 450 miles from the most north-western point of New Holland. To the west northward we trace it to Bombay in 1818; to Muscat, near the mouth of the Persian gulf, 1821. Passing up the gulf it visited the towns on each side. It reached the city of Bagdad in 1821, and before the end of 1822 it had reached Antioch and Diarbekir. During the winter it did not advance further westward; but from the north of Persia it passed to the borders of the Caspian sea; and in September 1822 it had reached Astrachan, near the mouth of the river Volga. The cold of a northern winter seemed, at this time, to prove unpropitious to its existence, and the western nations were relieved from their apprehensions of its further progress. From this time till 1829, we know little of its movements; but it had never ceased to exist in Persia, where it prevailed yearly with more or less violence. In the summer of this year it raged with increased fury in the eastern provinces of Persia, and passing down the river Jihun (Oxus), and across the steppes of the Kirghis Kossaks, it reached the province of Ohrenburg, on the frontiers of Tartary in the month of August. It continued here until the following February, (1830), when it gradually subsided.

In the summer of 1830 it passed out of Persia in another direction; and skirting the western coast of the Caspian sea, we find it once more in Astrachan on 19th of July. From Astrachan it now passed up the Volga, and by the middle of September it had reached the city of Moscow. In April 1831 it reached Warsaw, and in May it entered Riga and Dantzic on the Baltic. In June it reached St. Petersburg. We then trace it southward to Berlin in August, and to Vienna in September. In October it appeared in Hamburg, and near midwinter it crossed the German ocean to England, appearing first in Sunderland. From this starting point, despite the opposition of winter cold, it spread in various directions, and before the spring it had shown itself in all the principal towns of Great Britain; by the end of March it had crossed over to Ireland, and