

PRESENTATION PLATE.

In the Press and will shortly be distributed to all paid-up Subscribers for one year to the

"CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,"

A Leggotyped Copy of LEFEBVRE'S Splendid Engraving of CORREGGIO'S celebrated Painting (the original of which is now in the Dresden Gallery) entitled,

"THE NATIVITY."

It will be printed on a large sheet of fine plate paper, the exact size of the Engraving being 14 by 19 inches, and care will be taken to make it in every respect as attractive and artistic as the original. All parties subscribing to the News, and paying for one year, any time before the first of July next, will be entitled to a copy of this magnificent Plate, the value of which may be inferred from the fact that the Engraving, of which it is a facsimile, sells in New York at ten dollars per copy.

Montreal, 26th March, 1870.

CALENDAR FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 16, 1870.
(Holy Week.)

SUNDAY,	April 10.— <i>Palm Sunday.</i> Louis Napoleon enrolled Special Constable in London, 1848. Abyssians defeated at Arogee, 1868.
MONDAY,	" 11.—Peace of Utrecht, 1713. Canning born, 1770. Napoleon signed his first abdication, 1814.
TUESDAY,	" 12.—Henry Clay born, 1777. Rev. Rowland Hill died, 1833. Bombardment of Fort Sumter, and commencement of American Civil War, 1861.
WEDNESDAY,	" 13.—Edict of Nantes, 1598. Handel died, 1759. Capture of Magdala by Lord Napier, 1868.
THURSDAY,	" 14.— <i>Mundy Thursday.</i> President Lincoln assassinated, 1865.
FRIDAY,	" 15.— <i>Good Friday.</i> Great inundation at Montreal, 1861.
SATURDAY,	" 16.— <i>Holy Saturday.</i> Battle of Culloden, 1746.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1870.

In the early part of next week, Mr. A. P. MORAY, duly accredited from the publisher of the C. I. News, will leave on a visit to the towns and cities of the Province of Ontario, for the purpose of appointing local agents and otherwise promoting the circulation of the News. We hope the friends of Canadian enterprise throughout the country will lend him a helping hand. The News aims to be a Canadian paper—representing pictorially the natural beauties and industrial progress of the country—and has already exhibited a degree of artistic excellence that entitles it to the patronage of the public. Almost every succeeding number has shewn signs of improvement, and efforts are now being prosecuted which will place it in the front rank among the illustrated papers of the world. This result cannot be reached without enormous expense, and therefore we make no apology to our readers for asking them to lend their assistance in securing for the News a generous public patronage. Subscribers, or those intending to become so, have already been notified that they will receive a premium plate, which will be worth more than a whole year's subscription to the News. The local agents to be appointed will be furnished with specimen numbers of this plate, so that the public may be able to judge of its merits.

The confirmation of the news of the execution of Scott at Fort Garry, on the 4th of last month, casts a dark shadow over the prospect of a peaceful settlement of the Red River troubles. Playing at Government when the Hudson's Bay Company was powerless, and when Canada had no authority to step into the Company's place, might have been pardoned, and the courts of law and equity might have been left to deal with the plunderings, confiscations, and false imprisonments perpetrated by Riel and his associates during the winter. When, however, the highest function of executive authority is exercised—that of consigning a fellow-being to a sudden and ignominious death after a form of trial before a sham of the most arbitrary court known to modern Government—then, indeed, there is an end to paltering with the perpetrators of the crime. The execution of Scott is a cowardly murder, and was performed in a most barbarous manner. The *New Nation*, whose account we quote, refrains—perhaps from a sense of shame—from describing the closing scene; it merely says: "he fell," but does not add that he was laid alive in his coffin and remained there for an hour before death put an end to his sufferings. Other parties from Fort Garry give fuller particulars; but the incidents connected with the melancholy tragedy need not here be dwelt upon.

Scott's "crimes," as set forth in the *New Nation*, were such as would hardly send a prisoner for twenty-four hours to "the black hole" in any civilized country. He was made a prisoner in December last, and after some weeks, along with several other prisoners, made his escape. When the *portage* movement took place, Scott was among the Boulton party, forty-five strong, who were captured and committed to the Fort. From this time he was "violent and abusive in his language and actions," and had the unspeakable effrontery to "annoy and insult the guards." He is also said to have threatened Riel's life, and to have stated that he had formerly looked for him with the intention of killing him. Taking all these statements as true; and even were it to be admitted for the sake of argument that Riel had authority to set a court-martial in motion against Scott, his condemnation to death for such offences is an act of outrageous barbarism. The Queen of England, the Emperors of France and Russia, and other crowned heads of Europe, have not only had their lives threatened, but actually been fired at; yet they took not the blood of the criminals. If Scott were to use such threats towards Riel in Canada, though utterly without provocation, all the satisfaction the law would give would be to have the offender bound over for six or twelve months to keep the peace.

But the form of trial was little less extraordinary than its result. The "tribunal of Adjutant General Lepine" conducted the trial in the French language, of which the prisoner was ignorant, and it was only on the evening of the 3rd that he was "informed of the sad result," that he was to be shot next day at ten o'clock. Clerical and lay influence, including that of Commissioner Smith, was brought to bear upon Riel to obtain a pardon, or even a reprieve of a few days till the arrival of Bishop Taché; but Riel refused. He, however, granted a reprieve of two hours and "ordered that all the soldiers should be assembled before the execution and that prayers should be offered up for the condemned man." It may be charitable to offer or "order" prayers for the man whom one is about deliberately to murder; but surely it would be no offence to religion or morality to spare the victim's life and let him work out his own salvation.

This affair will very much embarrass the carrying out of the conciliatory policy heretofore pursued by the Government and generally approved by the Canadian people. It has already proved that the Commissioners sent to Fort Garry from Ottawa have done little or nothing towards bringing about a settlement; and if it should turn out, as probably it will, that Riel has cunningly detained the deputation appointed at the Convention of the people's representatives, for the purpose of commissioning them as agents on behalf of his government, we do not see how Ministers at Ottawa can receive them. Any act on the part of the Dominion authorities that would bear the construction of a recognition of Riel's government would not only be derogatory to the honour of Canada, but might prove exceedingly embarrassing in carrying out the measures which must ultimately be resorted to for the restoration of the Queen's authority in the North-West. The execution of Scott has complicated these matters to a degree that hardly appears on the surface. Many of the things done by the insurgents might have been passed over in spite of their illegality, because of their being comparatively trivial and easily condoned by submission to the Queen's authority when the proclamation annexing the territory to Canada shall come in force. The civil proceedings growing out of personal transactions in the territory during the winter need not have entailed political disabilities; and the peaceful solution for which all hoped would have been quite possible of accomplishment. But Riel will not quit the President's chair for the criminal's cell if he can help it, and the Queen's Government cannot tolerate the killing of her subjects without due form of law, so that there seems nothing for it now but a military expedition in the spring; and the formal union of the Territory with Canada by the Queen's proclamation, followed by such a display of force as will guaranteed respect for authority. It is said by those acquainted with the population, that Riel's party is still a minority, but that the others having no means of organization or legally constituted executive officer to lead them, are unwilling to provoke a civil war; and in this they are surely right. The few counter-attempts that have already been made—just as illegal as Riel's—have only borne mischievous fruit; and we earnestly hope, in spite of the irritation caused by Scott's execution, that no more will be attempted until somebody with the Queen's commission in his pocket is there to direct it.

It is reported with some foundation that Lieutenant-General Hastings Doyle, K. C. M. G., Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, will succeed Lieutenant-General Lord William Paulet, K. C. B., in July, as Adjutant-General of the Army.—*Court Journal*.

OBITUARY.

REV. MICHAEL O'BRIEN.

The Catholic Church in Montreal sustained a great loss last week by the death of the Rev. Michael O'Brien, one of the priests attached to St. Patrick's Church. Father O'Brien, though a man of great parts and scholastic attainments, had distinguished himself chiefly since his arrival in Canada by his unwearying devotion to the interests of the poor, which endeared him not only to his parishioners but to thousands of the poor of the city.

Father O'Brien was born on the 6th May, 1810, at Aughnagar, County Tyrone, Ireland. After having completed his classical studies he entered Carlow College, and subsequently, on the advice of his friends, entered Maynooth for the purpose of completing his studies in natural science and theology. He was ordained priest, having previously passed through the minor orders, in September, 1835, and was appointed to a curacy in a native county. Two years afterwards he was removed to Armagh, as a curate attached to the cathedral. During his seven years' stay in Armagh, Father O'Brien laboured unceasingly in the sacred work of his profession and succeeded in gaining the esteem and confidence of his whole flock, who felt the deepest regret on his leaving them to take charge of the parish of Aughnacloy, in Tyrone. While stationed at the latter place he so distinguished himself during the famine of 1847, as to receive the most flattering acknowledgments of his services even from those most opposed to him in his priestly character. After six years spent at Aughnacloy, Father O'Brien sought and obtained the permission of the Primate to enter St. Sulpice. Having passed eight months' novitiate he was admitted a member of the Company and sent to Montreal, where he arrived in the fall of 1849. On the opening of St. Ann's Church he was appointed pastor of that populous district, in which he laboured with untiring zeal and energy until his health began to give way, and he was removed at his own request and attached to St. Patrick's. Father O'Brien will long be remembered in Montreal for the interest he manifested in the welfare of the poor and the care and ability which he displayed in the management of St. Patrick's Orphan Asylum, of which he has been the Director since 1860.

THE OTTAWA FESTIVITIES IN HONOUR OF PRINCE ARTHUR.

During the festivities at Ottawa in honour of H. R. H. Prince Arthur in February last, there were some of the entertainments of a character so private as to have escaped the keen eyes of the newspaper-men gathered at the capital, yet, nevertheless, sufficiently public to have deserved notice. Among these was a charade party at Rideau Hall, at which about a hundred guests were present, and an evening of rare enjoyment was passed. The performances were opened with a wittily composed original prologue, most happily rendered by a distinguished military officer, the climax of which was reached when H. R. H. "cut in" upon the speaker with a clever personal hit creating the most hilarious mirth. The following named ladies and gentlemen took part in the two charades which made up the histrionic performances of the evening:

Mrs. Stuart, Miss A. Himsforth, Miss King, Miss R. May, Mrs. Glyn, Miss Allan; H. R. H. Prince Arthur, Lieut.-Col. Stuart, Mr. E. Kimber, Mr. A. Pickard, R. A., V. C., Lieut.-Col. McNeil, V. C.

The acting was very effective and the different characters represented portrayed to the life. Though not among the most imposing this entertainment was undoubtedly among the most enjoyable given at Ottawa in honour of His Royal Highness, who, as on every occasion, bore himself with that modest suavity and polite sociability of manner which have won for him such a high degree of personal esteem. The hospitalities of Rideau Hall were, as usual, dispensed in generous profusion.

"AMERICAN ENTERPRISE" is a wondrous publication. It gives eight pages of "classical" beautifully executed; and a supplement of two pages containing a key to the "Illustrated Advertisements." Just think of that; an illustrated advertising sheet selling for ten cents, and containing many woodcuts costing several thousands of dollars. We are indebted to the local agent of the Traveller's Insurance Company for the copy now before us, and it surely shows how much the Yankees can do in the way of advertising. When will Canada be able to imitate their example?

THE EUROPEAN MAIL, a newspaper intended for colonial circulation exclusively, supplies an excellent medium of communication between the parent State and its colonies—that of an ably-edited and well-compiled summary of European news. There are eight distinct issues of the *Mail*, each one containing all the principal items of interest for the colony for which it is published. Each number gives a full legal, commercial and general news summary, together with shipping and market reports and the stock and share lists. To commercial men the *European Mail* is especially valuable, as it gives the latest and most reliable information as to the state of trade and the condition of the markets throughout the world.