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TEMPERATURE

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

THE WEEK ENDING

Jan. 28th, 1883.			Corresponding week, 1882.		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon. 15°	5°	10°	Mon. 19°	21°	20°
Tues. 22°	2°	12°	Tues. 32°	25°	28°
Wed. 15°	0°	7°	Wed. 10°	7°	8°
Thur. 23°	17°	20°	Thur. 23°	6°	14°
Fri. 14°	-1°	6°	Fri. 26°	19°	22°
Sat. 20°	10°	15°	Sat. 18°	8°	13°
Sun. 22°	15°	18°	Sun. 27°	12°	19°

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.
 Montreal, Saturday, Feb. 3, 1883.

THE WINTER CARNIVAL.

Last week we gave a detailed account of the many events enrolled on the program of the Winter Carnival in this city, expressing our confidence that the whole would be crowned with success. It is our agreeable duty to chronicle to-day that our most sanguine hopes have not been belied. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that the result has proved even more satisfactory than we had expected. We are pleased at this for two reasons: first, because it has substantially benefited our city, at the same time that it has enhanced its reputation, and next because it has amply rewarded the devoted efforts of the promoters of the enterprise. There were no less than twelve committees all at work in the organization of the Carnival and they all vied together in advancing the common cause. Doubtless some mistakes and omissions, the fruits of inexperience, might be pointed out, but the general effect was triumphantly achieved and a solid foundation laid for future exhibitions of a similar kind. There is henceforth no reason why the Winter Carnival should not be a fixed, annually recurrent institution, which shall give Montreal a name all over the American Continent.

The impression produced upon the thousands of visitors was excellent in every respect. They were agreeably surprised to find that Canadians had such an eye for colors, and could combine, on a blank background of snow, so many brilliant spectacular effects. They were equally astonished to see that most of the amusements were not gotten up for the occasion, but were the usual outcome of the numerous city clubs that count many years of existence. The snowshoes were special objects of attention. Their picturesque costumes, their athletic games and tramps, and their glorious torchlight procession were the themes of universal comment. That procession was a spectacle to be long remembered. For once the old Mountain was Royal in fact as well as in name, being crowned with a golden halo whose reflection reached up to the high heavens. The same remarks may be applied to the masquerade on the ice of the Victoria Rink whose magnificence was a source of wonder and delight. The toboggan had the charm of novelty for most of our Southern friends and this distinctively Canadian vehicle became popular with them from the start. The Bonspiel afforded all the recreation that was expected of it, while the races on the St. Lawrence, and the hockey and other matches were carried out to the satisfaction of all engaged therein. The display of sleighs, in the great drive on Sherbrooke street, was all that we had

anticipated, and so skilfully handled, that it must prove the ease with which an Historical Procession could be organized, if placed in the proper hands, and attended to in time. We trust that this project will be taken into serious consideration.

The general feeling on the part both of strangers and of our citizens is that the Carnival should be repeated every year. We thoroughly concur in the opinion. If the first attempt, at a small expenditure of five thousand dollars, has turned out so well, there is no reason why a second effort should not be even more successful. Apart from the healthful exercise and amusement that the exhibition imparts, there is a broad civilizing influence in the gathering of so many thousands from far and near, and the contact of different nationalities on the common platform of social intercourse. We have every advantage in becoming better acquainted with our American neighbors, and mingling freely with our Canadian brethren from all parts of the country.

The Carnival number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, we are happy to say, had a sale unprecedented in the history of the paper, and we flatter ourselves that its colored supplement will be a lasting souvenir of the festive occasion. In the present number we publish some more sketches commemorative of the principal events—the ball at the Windsor Hotel, the toboggan slides, the torchlight procession, the curling games, the races and the snowshoe concerts. These sketches have been grouped together in two combination pictures so as to place them under the eye at once. This number thus forms a pendant to its predecessor, and, we trust, will be found worthy of public acceptance.

PLAYING WITH EDGE TOOLS.

There is a bad feeling creeping through this community that ought to be checked before it is allowed to consummate its work in lasting mischief. The ugly national cry is being raised once more, and on the strength of it our municipal affairs are in danger of being very much disturbed. The population of Montreal is an heterogeneous one, presenting special difficulties of government and requires, for the maintenance of harmony, that no one class should lord it over the other. The spirit of conciliation and concord has always been fostered by the best men among the French and English, and spite of occasional manifestations of narrowness and bigotry, a *modus vivendi* has been kept up between the different races. But of late this good understanding has been impaired by an attempt to enforce the plea of numerical majority in municipal representation. Now this question of majority should be well explained. In merely political matters, it is well that the majority should prevail in pursuance of the cardinal principle of British Constitutional Government. But in municipal affairs the case is slightly different. A city ought to be administered like a bank or other monied institution. In such institutions it is not the number of shareholders, but the number of shares that rules. And very properly so. Now in a city, the shareholders are the taxpayers, and they should be allowed a voice in proportion to the amount of their taxes. It is perfectly well known what class of the community pays the most taxes. The English people do not, of course, insist upon the literal application of this rule, which would virtually give them the control of our Corporation, but they recall it in order that their claims to fair play should not be entirely ignored.

By rights there ought to be no question of nationality, language or creed in the City Council, and Aldermen should be elected on their individual and private merits, irrespective of any other consideration. This is rather too much to expect, at least for the present, but in the meantime, there might be a graceful attempt at compromise on both sides. If our French friends insist on their numerical majority, the English might as well give up all effort to be heard in the City Council, as they would have no chance whatever. If, by the same process, the tacit understanding existent for many years, of an alternative in the office of Mayor—is broken, no Englishman need ever aspire to the honor of filling the Civic chair. How such a system would tend to further the commercial and other interests of Montreal it is not difficult to foretell.

This is a disagreeable subject and we will not dwell upon it. If we have alluded to it, it is only to express a hope that the more enlightened and liberal of our French friends will unite to prevent this morbid spirit from spreading. Having to live together, let us do so in peace and harmony, as men that respect one another and recognize the merits of each. Having to work together toward a common object, let us throw no obstacle in the way of the prosperity of our beautiful city. Rather let French and English unite together, and, with the inherent qualities peculiar to each, we need fear no competition from any quarter.

A PUBLIC LIBRARY.

At last Montreal is moving in the matter of a public library. Some years ago, an observant visitor made the remark that this city was wanting in three things—hotels, theatres and libraries. Since then we have made considerable advance. The Windsor Hotel has been built in a style unsurpassed by any town in America, and it is ably seconded by several other of our houses that provide for the comfort of travellers. With the Academy of Music, the Theatre Royal and three or four handsome halls, we are quite well off in the way of places of public entertainment. But it has been different with libraries. Until now nothing has been done to supply the popular need in that respect. There are indications, however, that a change is about to be effected. At a meeting of prominent citizens steps were taken pointing to the establishment of a public library. Hon. Mr. Abbott, M.P., offered to subscribe \$4,000 to that end, and Judge Torrance and Mr. David Morrice expressed their willingness to give \$1,000 each. This is a nucleus of \$6,000 which is likely to prove the mustard seed that will develop into a substantial growth.

There is no need to dilate upon the advantages of an institution of the kind. The matter is too elementary to require any elaboration. Montreal has a duty to fulfil in that regard, which should no longer be neglected. There is not a small town of the United States, even in the Far West, but has a library of its own, while cities of the size of Montreal boast of two or three. Now that the subscription list has been opened, committees ought to be formed and names obtained all over the city. Our men of wealth cannot invest their money in a more praiseworthy undertaking, and there are hundreds of persons of moderate means who should make it a point of honor to assist in the good work.

One of two plans may be pursued—either to establish a literally free library, or a public library where a nominal fee is charged for the use of books. If Montreal is not quite ripe for the former, the latter may surely be attempted. We can take an example from the Mercantile Library Association of the United States, which carry on their libraries as corporations, on the joint stock principle. In Chicago, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati and other large towns of the West, these Associations yield large profits to the stockholders, and are conducted on the broadest and most liberal spirit. They possess spacious buildings, with splendid lecture halls, reading rooms and night schools, and in many instances have galleries of art, or museums of natural curiosities. These libraries are among the chief objects of interest shown to strangers. And deservedly so. There is no better proof of the culture and enlightenment of a community than its encouragement of literature in the purchase and dissemination of good books. The better classes are usually able to take care of themselves, but it is the middle class and the artisans that ought to be provided for. Whenever the latter have books put within their reach, not only is their general condition improved, but it is remarkable that they become perceptibly more efficient in their particular trade or avocation. This is an economic fact of the greatest importance that ought not to be overlooked in a growing manufacturing centre like Montreal.

Our school system is managed well enough to afford instruction to even the poorest, and our young people have little to complain of. But it is the youth who has left the school-room, and begun to work for a living, that should be supplied the means of continuing the cultivation of his mind. Newspapers are a help to such, but they are not sufficient, and more special

reading is required. That can be obtained only from the free or public library.

Montreal is not wanting in money nor in public spirit. The generosity of our citizens is proverbial, and some of the public donations that have lately been made, are such as any city might be proud of. Let us hope, therefore, that the foundation just laid may be built upon, and that the year 1883 may be signalized in our local history by the establishment of a public library commensurate with the wants, and proportioned to the opportunities of our noble metropolis.

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK.

The result of the elections in Manitoba is very significant and satisfactory. The issue turned directly on the Disallowance Acts of the Dominion Government and brought out the whole question of the relative rights and prerogatives of the Provincial and Federal authorities. While the principle of Manitoba autonomy was maintained on all hands, the majority of the people recognized that the building of the Transcontinental Railway must not be interfered with, and in this they gave signal proof of political wisdom.

There is every likelihood that the present session of the Quebec Legislature will be an harmonious one, and that the strife of parties will give way to a practical treatment of the financial situation of the Province. The new Premier has an opportunity of distinguishing himself by a thorough business administration, and he may rest assured of the cordial support of the best men of all parties in that direction.

The death of Gustave Doré at the early age of fifty is a lamentable event. He was an extraordinary man—a genius of rare creative power. His influence on the art of the period has been very marked and will endure. He worked on bold broad lines, and was unexcelled in the drawing of the human face divine.

There appears to be a panic in the political world of France. The death of Gambetta, followed by the manifest of Prince Napoleon, and a stir among the Legitimists, has brought about a Ministerial crisis. But there need be no fear for present institutions, if a little prudence and firmness is displayed. Let some of the old Roman spirit be shown, and let no true Frenchman despair of the Republic.

Now that the Princess Louise has sailed for Bermuda, the Governor-General loses no time in returning to his official duties at Ottawa, and his presence will be hailed with pleasure at the Capital, where he will be in time to open Parliament on the 5th inst.

SIR ALEXANDER GALT has so far modified his former views, as to discountenance, in a public speech, delivered at Edinburgh, last week, all movement in the direction of our premature independence, and he even went so far as to express the hope that a Federation of the Empire may yet be accomplished. There is no doubt that this question must engage general attention in the near future.

With the New Year the crisis is deepening in Ireland. Agitation is on the increase, and the incarceration of such leaders as Davitt and Healy, on refusal to produce bail, will add fuel to the flames. It is greatly to be feared that matters must grow still worse in the Green Isle before they can grow better.

It is very mischievous on the part of some thoughtless journals to hold the whole class of immigrants responsible for the crimes of a couple of their number. Such a course might have the tendency to injure the vitally important cause of immigration, on which we absolutely depend for the development of our country. It is an established fact, borne out by the testimony of the agents, that the class of people coming over to us from the old countries, is very good as a rule.