

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, OCT. 29, 1870.

SUNDAY, Oct. 23.—*Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity.* Irish Rebellion, 1641. Lord Monck arrived at Quebec, 1861.

MONDAY, " 24.—Sir J. H. Craig, K. B., Governor-General of Canada, 1807. Daniel Webster died, 1852.

TUESDAY, " 25.—*St. Crispin, M.* Battle of Balaklava, 1854.

WEDNESDAY, " 26.—Battle of Chateaugay, 1813.

THURSDAY, " 27.—G. T. R. Montreal to Toronto section opened, 1856.

FRIDAY, " 28.—*S. S. Simon and Jude, App. & M. M.* Alfred the Great died, 900.

SATURDAY, " 29.—Battle of Fort Erie, 1813. Bristol Riots, 1831.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1870

THERE is no other institution of comparatively modern growth that has risen so rapidly to power as the press. Its achievements in the cause of human progress have been the theme of unlimited praise by men of the highest genius in all walks of life; and its privileges have been won, or rather wrung, bit by bit, from Legislatures and from Society, by the gradual assertion of its power, until throughout the civilized world, with very trifling exceptions, the journal enjoys all the freedom and personal immunity attaching to the individual. What the individual may say, the newspaper may say; and even what the individual may not, with impunity, whisper to one neighbour concerning another, just-minded interpreters of the law have declared that the newspaper may proclaim to the whole world, if in so doing the journalist is free from malicious intent, and has a colourable pretension that thereby he is serving the public interest. The law of libel has thus received a very wide interpretation in regard to the press; and this not merely because of the public motives which ought, and which therefore are supposed, to inspire its conductors; but because with its elevation to such great power and influence its weak points have been made manifest, and its sins written upon its forehead even by its own hand; hence a statement, in itself libellous, is not always deemed punishable, for the reason that it brings no injury to the subject of it. This considerate application of the law, though not very flattering to the press, is of immense advantage to its least worthy members, who, under cover of this immunity, often inflict needless pain upon the feelings of an opponent without doing the slightest substantial harm either to his character, or property, or prospects in life. In fact, it is notorious that many distinguished politicians have valued the personal attacks made upon them through the press by their opponents as little less flattering than the warmest praises of their friends; and much in the same light does public opinion view the generality of "newspaper attacks" of a purely personal character, when directed against public men.

If the foregoing remarks contain a fair statement as regards the more recent opinions of the Courts in respect to the law of libel, and of the public opinion regarding libel suits against the press, the indifference with which the result of the latest one, tried at Toronto on Saturday last, was regarded, may be easily understood. The case referred to, that of Hon. Col. Gray vs. Hon. George Brown, was virtually settled, when the affidavits of the complainant and Hon. D. L. Macpherson were filed in Court and an order issued thereon for the trial of the defendant. The alleged libel consisted in a "playful" statement, saddled upon the shoulders of a gentleman, very high in political life in this Province, but published in the *Globe*, that Col. Gray had borrowed money from Senator Macpherson, and would therefore, perhaps, be biassed in his judgment as Arbitrator between the two Provinces! This statement was utterly untrue in so far as it related to Col. Gray; and upon it he based his ground of action. The article was a political diatribe insinuating the charge by putting it in the mouth of a third party, and though according to the views already stated, we do not think it was calculated to do material injury to Col. Gray, there is no doubt that it must have galled his feelings exceedingly. But on the other hand if personal torture—and it surely accomplished nothing else—was aimed at, the crime could not have been the Hon. George Brown's, for he knew nothing of the article until after its appearance; and we believe had no fair opportunity of retracting or explaining the libellous part of it until after he was served with notice that a criminal prosecution had been entered against him. Under these circumstances Mr. Brown declined to make apology, on the plea that such apology would be made to cover more ground than

that traversed by the original offence. The manager of the *Globe* may well be supposed to have been convinced that no jury would bring him in *criminally* guilty in such a matter, especially with respect to a public man who is expected to take all the blows he gets, when he (Mr. Brown) was personally ignorant of the affair, and *a priori*, innocent of any malicious intention towards Col. Gray. The punishment in case of conviction under a criminal action for libel is a personal degradation such as public opinion in Canada, under the education it has received from the press, would hardly have approved in this particular case; and in the embarrassing circumstances in which the jury found themselves, we think they did the best thing they could by agreeing to differ. It was due to Col. Gray that the facts should have been authoritatively stated; and though we think the affidavits put in to initiate proceedings did this sufficiently, yet perhaps the case coming before the court as it did gave them a wider prominence, and thereby furnished a more complete refutation of the charge made on hearsay authority. The lesson of the case is, however, that criminal prosecutions should not be instituted without clear proof of the criminal intent of the party to be proceeded against; and that if libel suits, growing out of political discussion in the press, are to be persisted in, the better course would be to proceed by the ordinary action for damages, which most people know is usually instituted, not for vindictive purposes, nor to make money, but to compel a statement of the truth by convicting the libeller of falsehood or malicious intention.

THE RECEPTION OF THE R. C. BISHOP AT OTTAWA.—On the occasion of the return of Bishop Guigues from Rome, the Roman Catholics of the Capital tendered His Lordship a most hearty and enthusiastic reception, between five and six thousand persons having met him at the station and escorted him to the Cathedral, where addresses were presented from the several societies, &c. The decorations of the Cathedral were elaborate and profuse. We have to acknowledge the receipt of a photograph of these, executed by Messrs. Henderson & Fraser, and considering the extreme difficulty of making a good picture of the interior of so large a building, we must congratulate these gentlemen on their extraordinary success. The photograph is an admirable one in every respect, and reflects the greatest credit on their skill.

The consent of Her Majesty to the marriage of the Princess Louisa with the Marquis of Lorne has excited no little comment, as the matrimonial alliance of any member of the Royal family with a person not related by blood to some other Royal House is a departure from long-established precedent. In the case of the Princess Mary of Cambridge it is generally believed that the Queen was not quite so gracious; but nevertheless, the departure from the established custom, even though coming somewhat late, is regarded with general favour. The happy and expectant couple are both young, the Princess being twenty-two, and the Marquis (eldest son of the Duke of Argyll) twenty-five. The marriage is fixed for February next.

Cols. Smith, McEachern, Chamberlin, and Fletcher were on Tuesday last invested with the insignia of the Companionship of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, by His Excellency the Governor-General at the St. Lawrence Hall. We shall probably give an illustration of the ceremony in our next.

OBITUARY.

ARCHBISHOP BAILLARGEON.

The Archbishop of Quebec, Most Rev. Francis Charles Baillargeon, who has been very ill for several weeks past, died at the Archiepiscopal residence, Quebec, on Friday, the 14th inst., at the age of 72. In our next issue we shall give a portrait and biographical sketch of this distinguished Primate of the R. C. Church in Canada.

VERY REV. E. GORDON, V. G., HAMILTON, ONT.

The Very Rev. E. Gordon, V. G., died at the Bishop's Palace, Hamilton, Ont., on Saturday last. He was born in Dublin, Nov. 1st, 1792, and had, therefore, almost completed his 78th year. He came to Canada in 1817, and, after some time, entered St. Raphael's College and was ordained Priest by the late Bishop McDonnell, in 1829. For forty-one years he has been one of the most widely known and most highly esteemed among the Clergy of the R. C. Church in Upper Canada. In Hamilton, where he was sincerely beloved by all classes of the community, his death, though not unexpected, has inspired a feeling of universal regret.

SMITH'S AMERICAN ORGANS.—Messrs. S. D. & H. W. Smith, of Boston, the enterprising manufacturers of American Organs, have an agency in this city at 225 Notre Dame Street,—Messrs. Laurent, Laforce, & Co. The firm have been over twenty years in business and have sold about thirty thousand instruments. By recent improvements to their great manufacturing establishment in Boston, they are now able to turn them out at the rate of one hundred per week. It is claimed

for the "American Organ" made by the Messrs. Smith, that it is the very best reed instrument as yet manufactured, and the extraordinary patronage they receive is no bad evidence of the justice of the claim. Many of these instruments have found purchasers in England, and have there given the greatest satisfaction. Circular and price list will be forwarded on application either to the firm in Boston or to their agents in Montreal.

THE WAR.

The news from Paris this week has been extremely contradictory. One day we are informed by the telegraph that the preparations for the bombardment of Paris are complete; the next day that the Prussians are in full retreat from Paris and that great excitement prevails in the city in consequence. No reason is given for the retreat, and before we have done surmising as to the cause of this sudden abandonment of the siege, we are informed from the same source, without explanation or apology for the previous rumour, that the Prussians are actively engaged in preparations for the bombardment of the city. With such contradictory data to go upon it is not easy to form an idea of the position or condition of the invading army. The French, we know, are cooped up in Paris, at Tours, at Metz, Rouen, Lyons and Lille; but the Prussian armies appear to be scattered over the whole face of the country in a manner that would certainly imply their being four times as strong in numbers as they really are. And, moreover, these same despatches place them in various towns and villages that certainly are not to be found on the map, but which it is more than doubtful were ever known to geographers.

As far as can be gathered from the obscure despatches in which Transatlantic correspondents delight, it would seem that the Prussians surround Paris in two distinct lines, of which the outer is at some distance from the inner. Thus the inner circle would be by the way of St. Denis, Bondy, Ville-neuve, Meudon and Versailles; while the outer line would pass by Dreux, Fontainebleau, Chateau Thierry, Compiègne, Clermont, Beauvais and Gisors. In the interior line, immediately before Paris, the Prussians have, within the last few days, generally met with reverses. The condition of the besieged appears to be all that could be wished for those in their position. They are represented as steadfast, quiet, and orderly, but evincing great impatience at the inaction of the Prussians, and desiring above all things to be attacked, and preparing quietly for a formidable assault on the besiegers. In the meantime they have not been inactive, and in a number of well-executed sorties have driven back the Prussian line in several places. Towards the east they have recaptured Creteil, Joinville and Bobigny; to the north, towards St. Denis, they compelled the Prussians to withdraw to Enghien, Pierrefitte, and Dugny, and westwards they have thrown back the enemy from Meudon and St. Cloud on Versailles; and this notwithstanding that the Prussians are receiving heavy reinforcements from Strasburg, Baden, and Silesia, and are opposing their well-trained men to the raw recruits of the Garde Mobile and the National Guard. The last despatches state that the Prussians threaten immediate bombardment, but this would be impossible, as the French forts outside are so well served that the enemy cannot approach near enough. The French fire from these outside forts, especially from Mont Valérien, is so tremendous that the plains in front are swept and laid bare by it. From the latter fort the fire sweeps the country for a circuit of six kilometres—nearly four miles. The Prussian works have been destroyed, and all the batteries they sought to erect against the fort have been annihilated. The Prussian engineers have also been driven out of Clamart and Villejuif. In fact the whole of the Prussian inner circle is daily expanding. On Saturday last a brilliant sortie was made under Trochu, driving the Prussians from their investing positions south and west of Paris. The French advanced under cover of a tremendous cannonade in three columns upon Chevilly, Sèvres, and Bougival. The latter was a most serious attack and resulted in the defeat of the Prussians under Von Kirchbach; this compelled the Bavarians to retreat from Bagneux and Chatillon. A division of Gen. Tann's troops held stubbornly Chevilly and l'Hay. The Germans lost over 8,000 killed, wounded and prisoners, with a great number of cannon, flags, ambulance, and commissary teams.

In the eastern provinces of France the Prussians are occupied in reducing several of the larger fortresses which they left behind them in their hasty march on Paris. An army of 50,000 men is besieging New Breisach, but a late despatch says that they were dispersed with great loss in a vigorous sortie made by the garrison. The Prussians occupy the country in the neighbourhood of Bruyères and Colmar, and are levying heavy contributions on the inhabitants. They have also entered Epinal, notwithstanding a vigorous resistance made by the inhabitants and a body of Franks-Tireurs. The bombardment of Verdun still continues, but Soissons, after a four days' resistance, has capitulated. Montmédy still holds out, and it is reported that the garrison, in a recent sortie, recaptured Stenay. It is reported that Bazaine has escaped from Metz, after driving the besieging German force back to Pont-à-Mousson; and that he is now at Thionville, preparing to advance to the relief of Verdun.

In the north the Prussian have entered Gisors and Breteuil, with the intent, evidently, of marching upon Rouen and Amiens. Small bodies of Prussians have been defeated in this section at Les Andelys, Montdidier, and La Ferte St. Aubin. It is said that Gen. Bourbaki has gone to Lille, for the purpose of taking command of the army of the north. In the west the Prussians have been repulsed at Cherisy, near Dreux.

In the southern provinces the Prussians gained a great victory on the 11th at Orleans, but a few days after they were compelled to evacuate the city, and to retreat in order to reorganize their forces previous to making another attempt upon the city. It appears that Orleans was occupied by the army of the Loire, who were in smaller force than the Prussians, and on being attacked were compelled, after nine hours' fight, to retire before the heavy artillery of the enemy, and were driven back into the suburbs of Tours. The Prussians then opened the gun on the city, and owing to the heavy bombardment several fires occurred. During the week the Germans advanced as far as Beaugency and Meung, fifteen miles south of Orleans, but during the last few days they have evacuated these two places in order to concentrate their forces in Orleans, as the French troops are collecting in the neighbour-