

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, NOV. 5, 1870.

SUNDAY, Oct. 30—*Twentieth Sunday after Trinity.* John Adams born, 1755. Lord Dundonald died, 1860.
MONDAY, " 31.—*All Hallow's Eve.* The Reformation begun, 1517.
TUESDAY, NOV. 1.—*All Saints Day.* Normal School, Toronto, opened, 1847.
WEDNESDAY, " 2.—Insurrection in Lower Canada, 1838. Battle of Roan Springs, U. S., 1863.
THURSDAY, " 3.—Bombardment of St. Jean d'Arc, 1840.
FRIDAY, " 4.—Admiral Benbow died, 1702. Lord Teutenden died, 1832. McClellan removed, 1862.
SATURDAY, " 5.—Gunpowder Plot, 1605. Sir J. Colborne, Lt.-Governor, U. C., 1828.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1870

A fortnight ago we hazarded the opinion that the Franco-Prussian war had reached a point from which its further prosecution would prove mutually exhausting. Since that time every event has but tended to confirm the correctness of our opinion. Prussia has, from that time, made no great advances towards the conquest of France; and though France has not been able to achieve any very substantial victories over Prussia, yet her stubborn resistance, getting stronger day by day, as she calls forth her latent vigour, has already begun to damage the Prussian strength. It is now almost a foregone conclusion with every one that Paris cannot be taken. The Prussians have not been able to gain an effective position for their siege guns. Disease is busy with their men and horses; the troops who were the least enthusiastic at the beginning of the war are now all but mutinous; and those who entered the struggle for a heroic and quick march into Paris, would at this time gladly face about and return to the Fatherland, leaving the Capital of France unharmed.

The English Government has taken a most warm interest in procuring peace, from the moment that the Prussians received their first reverse. This is held to be, with some reason, a cause of offence by France. The cordial feeling which once existed between France and England is now in serious danger. The English Government is suspected of lending itself to further the ends of Prussia, by making room for the latter power to get out of its complications. That the Royal family of England should sympathise with Prussia is not by any means unnatural, but it is something strange that a popular Minister like Gladstone should lend himself to the fulfilment of royal behests against the will of the nation. We are rather inclined to believe that the English people sympathise with the policy of the Government; that they have forgotten the more than twenty years of friendship between France and England, and that for reasons which hardly need to be specified the pro-Prussian sympathy controls the Imperial policy. This is a grievous mistake. No two countries have more interests in common than England and France. The foremost in civilization, the first in commerce, and the most capable of either helping or injuring each other, the highest dictates of policy, and the noblest impulses of feeling, alike suggested that they should have gone on hand in hand. Even now there is a question to settle with China in which they have a mutual interest. But that question is indefinitely postponed, and England appears on the scene as a mediator only at a time when her interference must of necessity be a source of humiliation to France. It is hardly possible that the French people can forget this. But they can, at least, distinguish between the people and the Government. They are themselves at this time without an administration that can challenge recognition from any other power; and this, perhaps, is the best excuse that can be offered for the otherwise unaccountable policy of England. Bismarck, it is said, does not recognize the Republic. Trochu is supposed to be an Orleanist. The Committee of National Defence is presumed not to possess the confidence of the nation. There is, in fact, no element of cohesion in France, except the presence of the Prussian foe. May not this fact account, in some measure, for the seemingly hostile course of England?

The latest information to hand as we write indicates that the peace negotiations have completely broken through. This was to have been expected. The quarrel, which first broke out between the Napoleonic and the Hohenzollern dynasties, has become one between the French nation and the Prussian monarchy. The king still pretends that he recognises only the Empire which the bulk of the French people have ignored. England has judiciously refused recognition to the Republic, on

the ground that France has not yet formally acknowledged it. But how can peace be made without a responsible government in France? And how can the Empress, even if supported by Bazaine, and encouraged by King William, sign a peace that will bind the French nation? Whatever terms Thiers may propose or Favre accept, it must be evident that the nation cannot be compelled to submit to them; and for our part, much as we regret the prospect, we must confess that we see no sign of peace until the Prussians have betaken themselves from French soil. There is a question of national pride involved in the issue; and though the French nation may fairly say that the proclamation of war sprung from Imperial rather than national aspirations, they cannot repudiate the acceptance of the issue. They have made the quarrel their own since the surrender at Sedan; and we may be certain that they will not relinquish it until they have cleared their soil of the invader.

The ready acceptance of the new French loan by London capitalists is a significant fact. France has not, heretofore, gone beyond herself to borrow money. But despite the doubtful character of her present government, a loan on her credit finds ready takers in the London money market at par, or beyond it. It will thus be seen, that despite the policy of the Imperial Government, the English people have a strong sympathy with France; and from the Royal autographs said to have been lately passed, we judge that even Kings and Queens are beginning to be convinced that this war is likely to prove very damaging to their order. In this direction we have expected the most serious consequences of the war, ever since Napoleon's surrender. Already it has cost the Emperor and the Pope their crowns; may it not possibly prove equally disastrous to King William? At all events, it is now evident that Prussia is suffering rapid exhaustion; that the national strength is being frittered away, and that the war has become almost equally destructive to both the parties engaged in it. The world will not, however, be the ultimate loser if both the belligerents receive such a lesson as will compel them to keep the peace for a few generations to come.

The other day our neighbours of the *Gazette* found one of their water taps mysteriously obstructed. A brief examination proved that a fish, four inches long, had audaciously left the Reservoir to visit that famous seat of learning. Being a perch, and in an advanced stage of decomposition, it could not get through the tap, hence the obstruction. The *Gazette* does not tell us how the man felt who took the last drink from that tap. By the way, we hope that the report we heard lately was correct, that, agitated by the revolutions made through our columns, with the help of Dr. Edwards, the Corporation had seriously resolved on cleaning the Reservoir.

ON THE ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

B. J. BAKER EDWARDS, PH. D., F. C. S.

"He that will have a cake out of the wheat, must tarry the grinding." SHAKESPEARE.

It is now nearly twenty years since this subject was brought prominently before the British public by the exposures of the "Analytical Commission" of the *Lancet*; and in July, 1856, a Committee of the House of Commons reported thus:

"Your Committee cannot avoid the conclusion that adulteration widely prevails, though under circumstances of very various character."

"Not only is the public health thus exposed to danger, but the public morality is tainted, and the high commercial character of this country lowered, both at home and in the eyes of foreign countries."

"Without entering into voluminous details of the evidence taken, your Committee would enumerate the leading articles proved to be more or less commonly adulterated. These are—

Arrowroot, adulterated with potato and other starches.
Bread, with plaster of Paris, alum, and sulphate of copper.
Bottled fruits and vegetables, with certain salts of copper.
Coffee, with chicory, roasted wheat, beans, and mangold wurtzel.

Chicory, with roasted wheat, carrots, sawdust, and Venetian red.

Cocoa, with arrowroot, potato flour, sugar, chicory, and some ferruginous red earths.

Confectionary, with plaster of Paris and similar ingredients, coloured with various pigments of a highly poisonous nature.
Cayenne, with ground rice, mustard husks, and coloured with red lead, Venetian red, and turmeric.

Gin, with grains of paradise, sulphuric acid, and cayenne.

Lard, with potato flour, mutton suet, alum, carbonate of soda, and caustic lime.

Mustard, with wheat flour, and turmeric.

Marmalade, with apples or turnips.

Porter and Stout, with water, sugar, treacle, salt, alum, cocculus indicus, grains of paradise, sulphuric acid, and nuxvomica.

Pickles and preserves, with salts of copper.

Snuff, with various chromates, red lead, lime, and powdered glass.

Tobacco, with water, sugar, rhubarb, and treacle.

Vinegar, with water, sugar, and sulphuric acid.

"The adulteration of drinks deserves special notice, because your Committee cannot but conclude that the intoxication so deplorably prevalent, is, in many cases, less due to the natural properties of the drinks themselves, than to the admixture of narcotics, or other noxious substances, intended to supply the properties lost by dilution."

This enquiry resulted in the passing of a permissive Act "For the Prevention of the Adulteration of Food and Drink," which was adopted by many of the large boroughs in England, but neglected by others, and the result of its working shows that a great deal of apathy on the subject still exists on the part of public communities. And the adage has been fully illustrated that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business." Within the last year or two, public attention has been again directed to the subject, and the Act has been revised and rendered more workable.

In New York the civic authorities have adopted stringent measures which have resulted in the disclosure of a large amount of fraud—visited by severe penalties, and by the publication of the names and addresses of the offenders. In most of the large cities of the States similar provisions have been adopted. Such *exposés* are extremely useful, as nothing is so dreaded by the adulterator, (who is always a sneak) as detection,—the dread of which will often keep a man honest, in spite of his cupidity. And as "prevention is better than cure," a proper system of inspection and of penal publicity in case of detection, is the best safe-guard to any community. In the case of Bread and Flour, I have reason to believe that this country has not yet fallen into the bad customs of the large cities of England and America. Competition is not so excessive, and the crowd of the "unwashed" is not so great as in London or New York. Less wheat is spoiled by damp harvests, and the demand for unnaturally white bread is not so general.

This demand leads bakers and millers to mix alum and salt with the flour to an injurious and reprehensible extent.

The consumer must share the responsibility of this tendency, as he has long been instructed by medical authorities that the brown bread is more nutritious than the white bread, and if, to please the eye, he indulges in the finest of the flour, he omits albumen and alkaline phosphates; which, being necessary diet, he must seek to find in some other form of food; he therefore, probably, adds to his breakfast a boiled egg to replace the bean which he has thrown away. The man who carries the grinding has the best chance of seeing that no alum nor plaster of Paris is mixed with his flour, and if he carries till the process is complete, he will get the most nutritive portion last—and will get the best of "cakes." But we may trust our Canadian millers and bakers if we are content to eat our "whole grist" loaf like men.

In the articles of milk and butter, on the other hand, our climate and the seasons are against us, and the temptation of the dairy-man to "stretch" his commodities up to the demands of the market is something almost beyond human nature to resist. These are the natural zoological products of grass and succulent leaves, after the ruminations of the grass-fed "Graminivore." But, alas! we have not here the perennial and evergreen shamrock, nor the green dairy meads of Derry or of Devon.

Our grass is burnt up to hay in summer-time, and under snow or water one-half of the year. Our poor ruminants have, therefore, to ponder over hay, oil-seed, grains, mash, turnips, beet, and mangold, &c., and no doubt find their studies hard and dry. No wonder, then, that our butter has all sorts of flavours, and our milk lacks cream. How much better might the public be supplied by large country or suburban dairies, where diet, exercise, cleanliness and system might be applied to attaining the highest state of health and condition of the milk cow, instead of by a few scattered owners of ill-fed and ill-housed animals, which yield, as a rule, an uncertain supply of poor milk.

It is, however, amongst the grocery articles and the liquors that the largest amount of fraudulent adulteration exists—frequently without any knowledge on the part of the retailer, except that such articles are often supplied at a less price than the genuine article would cost. Importations of worthless articles find a market at some price which ought to be seized and destroyed by the public authorities, and the public can only protect themselves by an organized and official civic system of detection and of exposure.

"Werry good thing is a weal pig," says Sam Weller, "when you know the lady as made it, and is quite sure it aint kittens."

To be continued.

THE WAR.

The position of the Prussians around Paris appears to have become extremely perilous. In the centre of a strange country, with a force three times decimated, and harassed continually by watchful bands of citizen soldiery roused by continual defeat and by danger, they hold their victorious position by a very uncertain tenure. Hitherto all their efforts to place their guns in a position to command the city have been futile; their batteries have been destroyed by the fire of the French forts, and their ranks thinned by disease. Disaffection has also made its appearance. The discontent of the men is so great that their commanding officers are obliged to go often among them in order to keep up their morale. Sickness is increasing to a fearful extent in the camp, not more than half the men in some of the regiments being reported for duty. The whole force now investing Paris is placed at 26,000 men, including the sick and wounded. These are grouped in four masses, one on each side of the city. Every effort is being made to throw up offensive works, but the fire of the marine gunners within the forts is so perfect that it immediately levels or renders them untenable. The first circle of Prussian entrenchments therefore extends only just beyond the fire of the forts, but in front of this line they have detached forts occupied by strong parties. Only four encounters