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TEMPERATURE

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

THE WEEK ENDING

Table with columns for dates (June 24th, 1883) and corresponding week (1882), with sub-columns for Max, Min, and Mean temperatures for each day of the week.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, June 30, 1883.

THE WEEK.

THE French Canadian Convention and Celebration at Windsor, on St. Jean Baptiste Day, is noteworthy as being the first event of the kind ever held in the Province of Ontario.

THE notorious and pectiferous Louise Michel has at length been silenced. The ill-favored revolutionist in petticoats has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment and ten years' police supervision.

It were indeed a triumph of upright diplomacy if, as it is stated with some authority, a friendly settlement of the difficulties between France and China were made, on the eve of a military outbreak.

It now appears transparently clear that M. Mousseau cannot maintain himself at the head of the Provincial Government without the introduction of new element into his Cabinet. The disaffected Conservative wing must be placated by all means and at once.

THE Pope has at length thought fit to protest against the course of the French Government toward his Church. The wonder is that he did not do so before. The protest takes the form of a personal letter to President Grévy, and is regarded as a warning of the highest importance.

In answer to a deputation of the U. S. Irish National League, President Arthur very properly stated that, while the existing laws with regard to pauper and other disabled immigrants would be rigidly enforced, great caution should be exercised before pronouncing any opinion adverse to the policy of a friendly nation.

THE idea has been thrown out of a national demonstration next year in honor of Sir John Macdonald, on the fortieth anniversary of his entrance into public life. We highly applaud the project. It is eminently fit and appropriate. There is no man in Canada more deserving of such a compliment, because none has done more for his country. We would suggest, in addition, that steps should be taken to have a new token of Royal favor come in at the same time. Sir John is only a Knight, let him be made at least a Baronet.

We incline to think that Mr. Gladstone was right in not accepting the services of Prince Leopold as Governor-General of Canada. With all due respect for the talents, zeal and patriotism of His Royal Highness, we are decidedly of opinion that the noblest colonial office in the gift of the Crown should be the prize of merit, not of rank. Canadians themselves expect this, and they appreciate talent as well as the work of their Confederation. Canada was the making of Lord Dufferin, and it is men of such ability that we want.

MR. GLADSTONE frankly stated in Parliament that Canada had not been consulted in his choice of a new Governor-General. We wonder that our press has not taken note of this omission. It is the universal rule that when a diplomatic agent is appointed to any Government, that Government is always asked whether the intended individual is a persona grata. The least that could be done in our case would be to make a similar request. This is said quite independently of the merits of Lord Landsdowne who, we have every reason to believe, will make a very creditable Viceroy.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD.

Having read through more than once with great delight the proof-sheets of the "Life and Times of Sir John A. Macdonald," by Mr. J. E. Collins, of Toronto, published by the Rose Company, I should like here to give some slight descriptions of it—no severe and critical review—but a few rambling observations, which may serve to give my readers a general idea of a very able and delightful work. To begin with it is not so much a biography of the great conservative leader as it is a rapid and sketchy history of his times, written in a very clear, nervous, English style, not too crowded with rugged dates and facts, but abounding in vivid picturesque descriptions of scene and event, strong downright painting of character, powerful imagery and apt illustrations. Mr. Collins has done all that a wide acquaintance with general literature and a teeming fancy of his own can do to give interest to a subject which does not afford much to excite the imagination. The calm and peaceful flow of events in our time and country does not offer a very promising field for the power of an imaginative historian and considerable art is required to make such an attempt acceptable to the general unpolitical reader. Ours is too happy a country to have a history.

The main body of the work opens in the second chapter with the story of the family compact and the troublous days, which immediately preceded the first appearance of Sir John upon the political scene. It is told simply and strongly—for one of Mr. Collins' chief merits is the clearness and precision of his narrative—detailing impartially the struggles and misunderstandings, bitterness and heart-burnings of that restless time. He may be said to sum up the differences of party feeling and party illusion in the following plain sentences: "It was a battle between prerogative and the power of the people. In prerogative the times saw the stability of our institutions, and the maintenance of our connection with the empire. In the power of the people they saw a democracy, that to-day might rush into republicanism and to-morrow into chaos. In prerogative the reformers saw the most baleful engine of political oppression, the evil which had convulsed the province in rebellion and blood, a something which was not even a prerogative, but a system by which a large majority of the people were ruled according to the interests of a favoured and irresponsible few. In the power of the people they saw not a privilege but only a birth-right and went to the polls to defend that right." During a stormy transition period like this, the character of a governor-general was a matter of vast importance—and Mr. Collins has drawn with a vigorous hand the portraits of those of four of those rulers who helped either to smooth or foment the disturbances. He speaks affectionately of the "great, the high-minded Earl of Durham" whose name, he says, is one of the foremost in our affections and our history, and describes vividly his brave efforts, his disgrace and death and how in the end "while he lay gasping away his last breath by the seashore at Cowes, came the tidings, but all too late, that even his bitterest foes bore tribute to the wisdom and broad statesmanship in his report." With Sir Charles Metcalfe he deals roughly, but we think fairly. The "man who looks upon reformers as he did upon rebellious negroes," whose "contact with the wiles and treachery of oriental craft," had made him so "incurably suspicious," that he "trusted any man who differed from himself as he would an adder-fanged" who "knew nothing about the governing of a colony under responsible government" was surely but ill-fitted to soothe the heart-burning of a country, suffering under the assumptions of a tyrannical and privileged class. The sanguinary Sir George Arthur suffered under a like disqualification. Armed with the experiences of Honduras and Tasmania, he began to rule Upper Canada. In tumult, he stamped every rebellion splutter out with the

heel of a Claverhouse; in peace he was busy with the halter." Sir Francis Bond Head, who "came among us with the pomp of an Alexander and the attitudes of a Garrick," is not very highly spoken of.

The brave and clear-sighted Lord Elgin, Mr. Collins calls the "greatest of Canadian governors up to that day, Durham excepted." "He had studied carefully the doctrines laid by his illustrious father-in-law (Lord Durham) and found they were good. He frankly and heartily assisted the effete and unrepresentative body he found in office, but plainly told them that he should as cheerfully and not less heartily assist their opponents. The Governor was doubly tied to his duty. Canada had long been looked on as a stormy sea, studded with breakers, where administrators were as likely to meet with shipwreck as to win laurels and he was determined to avoid the rocks. Then as dear to him as his own success was the reputation of his father-in-law, Lord Durham, which still trembled in the balance, and must so remain until the principles he had laid down had been worked out for weal or woe. He was here to win a reputation for himself by following out the principles laid down by the father of his absent bride. We may be sure most earnestly did he set himself to his duty. His manly form was seen at several public meetings, exposed to the fierce winds of our Canadian winters, and he had not appeared upon many platforms before it was learnt that he was the most eloquent speaker in Canada."

It was in the latter days of Metcalfe's government that Sir John A. Macdonald first appears upon the scene—and our author vigorously describes the circumstances attending that stormy election, which but barely supported the "Government of Sir Charles Metcalfe" by a majority of three votes, the questionable success which made him a peer. "There was an intensity and coarseness of party violence which Canadians have now happily forgotten. "Some of the most brazen demagogues had gone about the country for two years before the election pluming themselves on their disloyalty and the aid they had given to rebellion. They openly declared that henceforth the Government should consist of men who had been either rebels in act or sympathy."

"It was not unusual to see proceeding to these meetings, a hundred teams, each carrying a dozen stalwart voters, to stirring music with flags flying and every man armed with a club. Violent collisions often occurred, and the polling places were frequently the scenes of the maddest and most brutal party strife. In the midst of the tumult of this election we find the future premier face to face with the bullies of Mouahau in Kingston. Mr. Collins describes one of Sir John's first speeches, one of those simple genial bits of straightforward talk, which have gained for the great leader the peculiarly affectionate place which he holds in the hearts of most Canadians. He addressed meetings, "composed of riotous men inlamed with whiskey and the worst passions of party. At one of these meetings he had much difficulty in getting an opportunity to begin his speech. \* \* \* When silence was restored he said he knew most of the electors and they were all manly fellows—too manly, indeed, to refuse another fair play. They were opposed to him, he said, and they had a right to be and he would not give much for them if they would stand not up for their own candidate; but if they had a right to their opinions—and he would be glad to listen to them at another time—he had also a right to his. He only wished to present his side of the case, and if his hearers did not agree with him, they might afterwards vote for whom they choose. Here was something more than soothing speech; here, indeed, was the genius of a Mark Antony—that could by the very force of subtle knowledge of character turn a hostile mob into friends on the spot."

We have a fine description of the young member's first speech in the House—a calm and masterly one, unlike the speeches of most young aspirants, and involving a daring passage of arms between a novice and the long-lived leader for form. "It is not to be wondered at that the austere reformer glanced darkly from under his brows at this young man whom he had not seen till yesterday, who now stood up coolly rebuking him and exposing his errors as if the ex-minister were the novice, and the novice the veteran. But the speaker spoke on indifferently." Here we may take the opportunity of quoting a few sentences from our author relative to the many contradictions, which are to be found in the public life of Sir John. After making a brief extract from one of his early speeches on behalf the law of Primogeniture, he adds: "How ashamed of him his party would now be to hear him from his place in the Dominion parliament defend what Gibbon calls the "insolent prerogative of primogeniture." How ashamed of him his party and the country now would be to hear him oppose a measure here" for the very reason that it was adopted in the States. But these openings, held for some years later, were as the vapours which hung about the face of the morning, but which are hurried away as the strength of the day advances. We know that Mr. Macdonald's public life has been described as a series of contradictions, but in what statesman do we find the morning song and the evening song always correspond? and instances startling changes of view in the careers of Gladstone, Beaconsfield and Peel. "A man who first sets foot in the bewildering paths of public life is like one who has just begun to learn a trade. Experience is his school and there must

be many a defective blow dealt, many a wrong step made before the apprentice comes out a master of his craft."

In describing the riotous and disgraceful scenes which accompanied the furious discussions on the Indemnification bill, brought in by the the Baldwin and Lafontaine ministry of 1849, Mr. Collins has done some of his best work. He makes a glorious quotation from Mr. Blake's speech against the Tories in the House, "the long pent-up stream of manly wrath and contempt" under which the unfortunate Sir Allan writhed, tortured to the quick and which nearly produced a collision between the two gentlemen. The disgraceful sack of the Parliament buildings is described with great strength and vividness. In his chapter on the "Lights of '44" our author gives us brief, rapid descriptions of his chief heroes of the Compact troubles, affixing to each in a few downright touches, strong and impressive sketches of character. We must quote his sketch of Dominick Daly, that "political Norman," perpetual secretary under Metcalfe and one of the fantastic figures of the period. "If ever benchman deserved reward at the hands of his Crown, Dominick Daly did. His idea of political duty was to show unswerving fealty to the Crown and support every government that came to power. He was a body upon which the political sun never set. When a government of which he was a member waxed strong, Dominick became full of party sinew and vitality; but as that party waned and the end drew near, the colour faded out of him; he became a sort of political jellyfish, and calmly awaited the change of parties, when he developed new affections, a new frame and fresh marrow and muscle. \* \* \* In the best of nature he assisted the successor of Burton and his clique to thwart and oppress the French majority; and he aided Durham in laying the broad foundation of an enduring liberty. He strove with Sydenham to found the bases of an equitable political system; and he aided Metcalfe in struggling popular rights. \* \* \* He would be an odd figure upon the scene now and even in his own day was a curiosity. He was the Anseramhis of the Cabinet, its never-fading flower. \* \* \* His presence in after days to high place and title, is an eloquent commentary on the wisdom and discrimination of Downing street." After this Mr. Collins traces clearly and racy the struggles of the reform ministry, its decline, the deflection of the Globe and the clear-grits, the retirement of Lafontaine to Baldwin, the final collapse of the weak and ill-supported ministry of Francis Hinks, the leadership of the now incompetent Sir Allan McNab, whom Mr. Collins compares to the asbatross, hanging about the neck of the Tories, and the final triumph of Sir John, with the first loose formation of the modern liberal conservative party. During these changes we catch the first glimpse of the political character and influences of Mr. George Brown. Mr. Collins' description of the many sturly efforts of the great reformer to gain firm ground in the Cabinet, his vigorous wheeling charges on the various ministers who ignored him, his luckless one day's administration under the Globe-hunted Sir Edmund W. Head, form very amusing passages in his book. Let us quote a few sentences from his estimate of George Brown, in which he endeavours, as he says, though little admiring the sturly man, to do him simple, naked justice. "He never moved without noise; and whether it was his entry into the legislature, or that he addressed a meeting in a school-house; introduced a bill or presented a medal to a school girl, the fact was announced by a clatter of kettle-drums and a bray of bugles." "He was ambitious, and had a great deal of honest, worthy ambition too, we may be sure, but under his brusqueness, which was the result of a lack of refined atmosphere. During the formative period of his character and manners, he was inordinately vain of his powers and his position." His first speech in the House revealed all his strength and not a few of his defects. He had a prodigious capacity for getting facts together, and these he flung with tremendous force in the face of his audience. Only the one qualification of an orator had he, however, and that was this force, a quality which was, perhaps, made better by having to it a nervous side. It was a homely, blunt speech, strongly made, and that was all." "Duty to some men is as the fixed star, that the mariner sailing over the unknown main, follows with unflinching faith till it leads him to his heaven; but it is clear in the record that with all the robust honesty and sense of right which Mr. Brown possessed, this higher and moral duty was not to him a constant star." We leave these extracts in the hands of the reader, as he will probably in any case judge of them in the light of party prejudice. Mr. Collins vigorously condemns Mr. Brown's onslaught upon Roman Catholicism, which was, to say the least, intemperate. His chapter on the "Ruining Questions" of clergy reserves and seigniorial rights is well worth reading as it contains an uncommonly clear and succinct estimate of the question in issue. Sir Edward Head's treatment of the great Brown ministry is ably and justly defended from the assaults of the Globe and Mr. Mackenzie. We do not so thoroughly sympathise with our author's justification of the famous "double shuffle" manœuvre, which facilitated the conservative return to power, though it is done with much skill. The movement was not a strictly honourable one. In the question of "representation by population" the position taken by the ministry, is, we think, justly and logically upheld. "The very virtue of the union consisted in the quality of political power held by each section of the