

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 26, 1870.

SUNDAY, Nov. 20.—*Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity.* Cape of Good Hope doubled, 1497.
MONDAY, " 21.—Crown Prince of Prussia born, 1840. G. T. R. open to Detroit, 1859.
TUESDAY, " 22.—*St. Cecilia, V. M.* Battle of Breslau, 1757.
WEDNESDAY, " 23.—*St. Clement, Bp.* Battle of Castella Nuova, 1796.
THURSDAY, " 24.—Knox died, 1572. Battle of Fort du Quesne, 1758.
FRIDAY, " 25.—Gen. Sir Henry Havelock died, 1857.
SATURDAY, " 26.—Battle of Beresina, 1812. Capitulation of Kars, 1855.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 1870

The ingratitude of Republics has passed into a proverb, and indeed it is not unreasonable to believe that a wise despot should better know how to reward deserving citizens than even the best intentioned Republican community, whose severe theories of the obligations due to the State imply that the pleasure of serving it is ample compensation for the service rendered. We have not seen in modern times, however, any practical illustration of this "more than Roman virtue" among the generality of public men in the Republics with which this generation has become familiar. On the contrary, an impression has grown up that, with a few notable exceptions, neither the mere vanity of being in public life, nor the single desire to serve the country, has been the ruling motive with many of them, but that in fact they have tried to serve themselves and their immediate personal friends. The effect of such a feeling must be to dry up the well-springs of national gratitude, while at the same time it debauches the public sentiment; and hence, without wishing to make unpleasant illustrations, we may appeal to the extraordinary, undignified, and positively irrational claptrap in which some of the foremost public men of the United States not unfrequently indulge, especially just before election times. Where public characters thus court the prejudices, passions, and follies of the people, so many of whom know well that their course is mere partizan humbug, the public respect for public men is very likely to be diminished; and to reserve itself for some particular occasion—probably the funeral of its object—when the community will

"Help to bury whom it helped to starve," and thus make a cheap display of gratitude when it cannot involve any further obligations. Our recollections of the Republic beside us recall several splendid public funerals almost emulating the Pagan system of apotheosis; but it is not on record that very many generous rewards have been given to the public men of the United States, save those which their own *finesse* has enabled them to carve out for themselves.

Canada, being neither a Republic nor a Despotism, has been saved on the one side from the evils of mob rule, and on the other from the dangers that so frequently overwhelm governments depending for vitality upon the success of the one-man power. It is probable, therefore, that her public men, while saved the necessity of resorting to the use of fashionable Republican weapons to maintain their popularity, have not always received that exact apportionment of reward to merit which scrupulous justice would exact. But in few instances has there been wanting some consideration for public services, and in many they have been substantially rewarded before the time when a magnificent *catfalque* and an imposing funeral procession became the only shapes in which public gratitude could manifest itself. In this respect "Britain in America" but follows the example of the parent State and walks side by side with her sister Colonies in other parts of the world. And it appears that as the country has advanced in wealth and population, the appreciation of public service has not declined, but rather been strengthened with the country's growth. During the three years which have elapsed since the Union, and notwithstanding the temporary discontent in Nova Scotia, the North-West troubles, and the "little difficulty" between Ontario and Quebec over the unjust balances of their late partnership, there has been great progress in the growth of a truly national feeling, and a considerable advance from the pettiness of the small party quarrels that formerly disturbed the relations of politicians and public men under the Provincial *regime*. These healthy tendencies towards a higher public spirit will be further promoted by every fresh recognition of signal services rendered.

In 1866 the public came forward with great zeal to sup-
p[le]me at the by no means illiberal provision of the Govern-
ment for the relatives and dependents of the men who

fell at Ridgeway in defence of their country. About two years later, a tragic calamity aroused a feeling of sympathy from one end of the country to the other, and again the people and the Government moved in concert to aid the bereaved ones. Only a few months ago we were threatened with a renewal of the scenes of 1866, but this time, happily, the danger was averted without personal loss, and the public gratitude was no less gracefully and appropriately manifested by securing for those of our defenders who merited special distinction, such marks of the royal favour as patriotic men feel honoured in wearing. But "peace has its triumphs," if, indeed, the field of public life may be called a peaceful one; and at the present time there are two, if not three, movements on foot for the purpose of raising a substantial testimonial to as many of our public men. We do not purpose to contrast these projects, or to discuss which and how many of them are at present opportune, though the one which has excited the greatest degree of public notice—that to Sir John A. Macdonald—cannot be called ill-timed, as it is already an assured success. The point to which we desire to direct attention is that Canada is not ungrateful. Her merchants, her wealthy manufacturers and business men, her mechanics, artisans and agriculturalists, flourishing as they are under wise laws and liberal institutions, do not forget those who, voluntarily surrendering the advantages of a professional or business career, have devoted themselves to the study of public affairs, and the arduous duties of statesmanship. The services thus rendered may be either measured by their value in the interests of party, or in the wider light of national advantage. But it frequently happens that the mellowing influences of time remove the traces of party strife from measures that were hotly contested on the narrowest party lines; and that the political measure which at first wears the character of the mere triumph of a faction, becomes, in the light of experience, a truly national benefit. Thus the British people have learned to regard nearly all the great legislative changes effected within the present century, whether by Whig or Tory, Radical or Conservative administration; and Canada, so far, has had no occasion to go back upon any one of the many important alterations that have been made in her constitutional and administrative systems. It is only right that those who have been the leaders in these great steps of advancement should be made sensible of the popular gratitude and esteem.

Affairs are now progressing satisfactorily at Manitoba, and as a consequence trade and general confidence are reviving. The *Manitoban* of the 29th ult. speaks in hopeful terms of the future of the new Province. It says that though Manitoba has just emerged from an almost unparalleled discord of elements, yet men can still be found, of every shade of politics and every section of party, to come forward and coalesce for the common weal. The Lieutenant-Governor has discharged the duties of his office nobly, and with the greatest ability, in reconciling disturbance. The conduct of the people now shows that they can support him, unbiassed by petty jealousies. The Government at Ottawa and the people of Canada may see that the inhabitants of the newly established Province have a sound, substantial substratum of common sense and loyalty, and are willing to work right heartily in carrying out the principles of Confederation. The *Manitoban* supports Mr. Donald A. Smith and Dr. Bird as representatives of the Province in the House of Commons. Mr. Smith is a financier, and a sterling man of business, and is, besides, one of the most influential men in the Territory. Dr. Bird it describes as a native of the country, universally known and respected; a gentleman, a scholar, and a man of sound sense, who will be able to show the folly of raising objections to natives of the North-West.

The scientific societies in England are adopting the postage cards and the half-penny envelopes for cards of meetings. Many small societies will, it is said, by this means save fifteen or twenty pounds a year out of their scant revenues. Would it not be well to introduce these postage cards in Canada? Their success in Austria, where they were introduced a little more than a year ago, has been extraordinary; and during the first day's operation of the law authorizing them in England, no less than 250,000 of them passed through the London post-offices alone. We hope our Postmaster-General will favourably consider the advisability of adopting them in Canada.

THE FILTRATION OF WATER.—To those of our readers who have had their attention drawn to our remarks on the impurities to be found in water, we cannot do better than recommend a means of obtaining pure and wholesome water, free from all animal and vegetable deposit. The Silicated Carbon Filter has already been known for some time in England, and has invariably been favourably spoken of both by the press and by trustworthy medical authorities. Its operation is perfect. It filters in such a manner as to remove all colour, taste and odour, furnishing pure and sparkling water, free from all poisonous matter, and without sediment or deposit of any

kind. A filter has now become a necessity in every household, and the Silicated Carbon Filter will be found to be the most effectual, the most economical, and in every way the most satisfactory. See advertisement in another column by Mr. J. V. Morgan, the agent of the Silicated Carbon Filter Co., 304 Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

LITERARY NOTICES.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC, SESSION OF 1869-'70. Quebec, Middleton and Dawson.

The last number of the "Transactions"—being Part VII. of the new series—contains, in addition to the annual appendix, five papers on various subjects, read before the Society at different periods of the Session. The first of these is a paper by the President, Dr. W. J. Anderson, entitled "Evangeline," and "The Archives of Nova Scotia," or, "The Poetry and Prose of History." Of this we shall at present say nothing, as it is our intention to refer to it in a future number. The second paper is an essay by the Lord Bishop of Quebec on the "Literature of Queen Anne's Reign," written in an easy, attractive style, and giving evidence of a thorough acquaintance with the authors of the period of which he treats. His remarks on Addison and Steele, and their joint work, the *Spectator*, are especially interesting. Throughout the whole of the paper his reflections are keen, brief, and to the point. A far better general idea of the works and styles of the writers of Queen Anne's reign may be gathered from a perusal of this brief paper, than from a careful study of many of the trashy Histories of English Literature which have lately made their appearance. Lovers of science will also find a treat in these pages in the shape of a paper, by James Douglas, Esq., Junr., on "Recent Spectroscopic Observations of the Sun and the Total Eclipse of the 7th August, 1869," and an account, by Commander Ashe, of "The Proceedings of the Canadian Eclipse Party, 1869." Dr. Anderson gives a valuable addition to the historical literature of Canada in his paper on the "Military Operations at Quebec, from Sept. 18, 1759, to May 8, 1760." With such evidences of Canadian literary ability as are offered in the pages of these "Transactions," we can only regret the absence of any Canadian publication in the form of a Magazine or Review, which would serve for the propagation of knowledge on literary and scientific subjects, and tend to foster a taste for such matters among the people of the Dominion.

THE CANADIAN LITERARY JOURNAL.—A monthly magazine devoted to original Canadian literature. 75 cents per an. Flint & Vannorman, Toronto, Publishers.

We have received the November and several previous numbers of this new candidate for popular favour. Its aim, to encourage Canadian literature, is a worthy one, and we wish it every success. It contains 24 pages 8vo. in each number, and is therefore excellent value for the very small subscription price.

FABER'S POEMS.—On page 335 of this issue we commence the publication of a review of Faber's poems by Mr. John Reade. It will, no doubt, be read by the the lovers of poetry with great interest, especially as Faber's poetical works are comparatively little known in Canada.

RURAL LIFE, Described and Illustrated in the Management of Horses, Dogs, &c., &c., by J. Sturer, F.R.G.S. James Thompson, Agent, Montreal.

We have to acknowledge the receipt of the remaining parts of this valuable and interesting work. This latter portion of the book is even more varied and interesting in its information than the former, as it treats of a great variety of domestic animals, among some of which everybody is almost certain to find at least one favourite, while many will discover information as to the purity of breed, the best mode of treatment, &c., of domestic animals, that will not only interest them, but be of substantial profit. The book is, besides, beautifully embellished, and may be had in parts, or bound in one volume. In the latter way Mr. Thompson will furnish the book on receipt of the price, \$11, free by post or express to any part of Quebec or Ontario. It is not a book for the farmer's fireside merely, but for all who take an interest in rural life, or of the many useful animals which add so much to its pleasure and profit. Mr. Thompson's address is box 390 P. O., or 41 St. Urban Street.

THE WAR NEWS.

The great event of the past few days has been the defeat of the Prussians and the occupation of Orleans by the army of the Loire—that phantom army that has been reported at all sorts of impossible places, and which has at last turned up at the nick of time and acquitted itself in a way that has definitively set aside all the doubts that had arisen as to its existence. Paris and Tours—in fact all France except such parts as are not more immediately occupied in mourning over their losses and attending to the imperious requisitions of the Prussian victors—are in a delirium of delight over the news. And well they might, for the victory at Orleans has been the first substantial success with which the French arms have met since the beginning of the war, and one which, in the present condition of France, was especially needed to inspire her armies with new vigour for the task of expelling the invader.

After two engagements which occurred on the 8th and 9th