

caster; Brown, Toronto; Lucas, Hamilton; Wood, Bowmanville; J. Anderson, Montreal; Morrison, Caughnawaga; Nish, Caledonians; Henderson, Toronto; Pearson, Toronto; Powell, Lancaster; Middlemiss, Montreal; Massey, do; R. Mitchell, Toronto.

It was decided that the next annual meeting should be held at Ottawa. Votes of thanks were then passed to the Secretary, President, and other retiring officers, after which three cheers were given for the Queen, and a verse of God Save the Queen sung, and the convention adjourned.

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, SEPT. 3, 1870.

SUNDAY, August 28.—*Eleventh Sunday after Trinity. St. Augustin of Hippo.*  
 MONDAY, " 29.—*St. John Baptist beheaded. " Royal George" went down, 1782. Close of the Spanish Insurrection, 1840.*  
 TUESDAY, " 30.—*Louis XI. of France died, 1483. Convention of Cintra, 1808.*  
 WEDNESDAY, " 31.—*John Bunyan died, 1688.*  
 THURSDAY, Sept. 1.—*St. Giles, Ab. & C. Cartier discovered the Saguenay, 1535. Louis XIV. of France died, 1715.*  
 FRIDAY, " 2.—*Great fire of London, 1666. Howard, the philanthropist, born, 1726. Le Sieur Marquis de Beauharnois, Governor of Canada, 1726.*  
 SATURDAY, " 3.—*Oliver Cromwell died, 1658.*

### THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1870.

A new contribution has been made to the literature of the "secret treaty." It may not, perhaps, attract much attention at the present time, when men's minds are so engrossed with the extraordinary events of the war; but as a scrap which is destined to go down to history and to influence the judgment of future generations, we think it worthy of special mention. Our readers may remember that on the first publication of the so-called "secret treaty" by the *London Times*, and before we had the opportunity of hearing the French version of its existence, we ventured to argue, from intrinsic evidence, that the treaty in question was not a proposal made by France to Prussia, but a Prussian suggestion whispered in the ear of France. It surprised us that any one should have found a difficulty in believing this, for the reason, among others, that already Prussia had gained all the advantages, territorial and material, which were ostensibly proposed to her by France in 1866, whereas France had gained nothing. Another reason led us to the conclusion that Prussia was the aggressor; and that was its utterly dishonest conduct towards Denmark when England, under the cowardly administration of Lord John Russell, refused to join France in maintaining justice in Europe. Prussia's entering into alliance with Italy against Austria, at the same time that it was bound by solemn treaty to the latter power, is enough to show its bad faith; and would, we believe, in a more chivalrous age, have enlisted the arms of England against it without further cause. But at present, "short date" mercantile transactions rule the world, or at least sway the English mind to such a degree that we are somewhat astonished that Gladstone has even promised to maintain the neutrality of Belgium. That the pressure of a not altogether mercenary public opinion has secured this concession from the present government of England, is only another proof that there is something above the influence of the "Manchester School" which pervades England in moments of supreme trial, even if in ordinary times it seems to be lost sight of in the general devotion to *£. s. d.*

The new revelations to which we have referred are contained in a letter from General Tuerr to Count Von Bismarck. The General is a Hungarian of distinguished note, who took an active part in the revolutionary movements in 1848-49, both in Italy and Germany, and who also served the King of Italy with distinction in the subsequent wars for "unification." He entered the allied service during the Crimean war, and having been made prisoner by the Austrians as a deserter, was sentenced to be shot. His sentence was, however, averted by English and French influence, and the milder policy towards its subjects, which Austria learned on the bloody field of Sadowa, led to his reconciliation, as it did to that of others, with the reign of the House of Hapsburg. It may be said that the accident of his marriage to the Princess Adeline Wyse Bonaparte, a cousin of Napoleon III., would make him an interested witness; but nevertheless his statements receive so much confirmation from contemporary history that they carry with them the appearance of being irrefutable.

General Tuerr writes to Count Von Bismarck from Vienna, August 6, and gives his letter to the journals for publication, on the ground that as Count Von Bismarck had made the Benedetti project of treaty public, he

thought it the truest warfare to recall these recollections of their conversation by the same means. The General says:—

"On the 10th of June, 1866, I had the honour of speaking to your Excellency in your study; in the evening, on the 11th of June, I passed with you an hour under the large tree in your garden. Your Excellency was very anxious about the issue of the war which was just on the point of beginning, and you said to me, 'If only the Emperor Napoleon wished it the war would be easy enough for us; the Emperor might easily take Belgium and even Luxemburg and regulate the frontier of France. I have proposed all this to the Emperor Napoleon, but he would not consent to it. If you get to Paris I beg of you to tell all this to his Highness, Prince Napoleon.'

"Your Excellency thus spoke to me on the days of the 10th and 11th of June, 1866. When, after the war, returning from a mission in the East, I saw you again in February, 1867, I expressed the opinion that Germany could only be united if Prussia decided to follow the example of Charles Albert, who, in 1848, unfolded, not the banner of Savoy, but that of Italy, and who gave liberal institutions to his country, while Prussia unfurled everywhere only the Prussian banner, and gives a constitution to the Bund, which is less liberal than any other constitution in Germany.

"Your Excellency replied that this was all true, and the Prussianizing tendencies which distinguished the Government of King William were indeed to be regretted, but that it was not in the power of your Excellency to make good what the King and the great Prussian party had done.

"Talking of Austria I said that Power might, after all, make such concession to Hungary as might satisfy the country. Your Excellency replied that this was very doubtful indeed, and added: 'Austria works always for Prussia. Look at the Treaties of Gastein and Nikolsburg. Austria left her allies in the lurch, and gave me an opportunity to conclude an alliance with them. You may be sure that if the Austrian concessions should not satisfy Hungary I will do everything to help your country that it may regain its full independence—indeed I shall ever favour an extension of Hungary towards the East.'

The rest of his letter is of exactly the same tenour, showing that Bismarck's policy was to aggrandise Prussia at all hazards, and to that end he was quite willing to sacrifice Belgium to France, if the latter would but consent to the spoliation of Austria for Prussia's benefit. The story is certainly not a very edifying one, but in these days, when peoples have so much to say respecting the manner of their government, it is well to know how kings and diplomats plot and scheme for their own interests. Present indications are that the European powers begin to distrust the lamblike professions of the Prussian Cabinet, and that both Russia and England may have occasion to interfere in the pending quarrel, unless the French profit sufficiently by recent military movements to enable them to repel the invaders single-handed.

Another proof of the peculiar character of Prussian honour may be found in the fact that with the progress of the Prussian arms there came the demand for the cession of Alsace and Lorraine, though the king had distinctly declared at the beginning of the war that he did not desire, nor would he seek, territorial gains. Events have not yet been sufficiently developed to warrant the assertion that Prussia has positively resolved upon this demand; but the king's letter to the Pope, coupled with the well developed anxiety of the courts of London, St. Petersburg, and Vienna, indicates pretty certainly that, with the progress of the Prussian arms, fresh notions of conquest were entertained. That these will be realised is exceedingly doubtful, for, apart from the prospective hostility of powers at present neutral, there is a strong probability that the Prussian armies have been led into a dangerous position; and that instead of attacking Paris, they will have to fight for their own existence. They are, at the time we write, in about the same position as described by us last week, and the many engagements that have since taken place—bloody and destructive battles as they have been—have not prevented the French from retrieving, in great part, the blunder they made at the commencement of the war of allowing their forces to be separated. With the union of the armies of McMahon and Bazaine, which now seems to be assured, the Prussians unquestionably occupy a very critical position; and as unquestionably, recent revelations concerning Prussian diplomacy will do little towards sustaining that outside sympathy which Prussia has heretofore somewhat undeservedly received.

#### MONTREAL WATER SUPPLY.

We have learned that an investigation of considerable public importance is now going on by several members of the Montreal Microscopic Club as to the nature of the organic impurities found in the water as delivered to the public.

In reference to hygiene some discoveries have already been made of a serious character. Worms, and the ova of worms, are by this means distributed to the public. We have requested Dr. Baker Edwards, who has called our attention to this subject, to give us a general report thereon, which will be illustrated by our special artist from microscopic observation.

Public attention has just been called in New York to the development of fish in household cisterns from ova carried down from the Croton Water Works. The propagation of

Cestoid Entozoa by this means is, however, of more serious importance, and in the interest of the public we shall give a due consideration to the evil and to its remedy.

#### LITERARY NOTICE.

THE FENIAN RAID OF 1870. By reporters present at the scenes. Montreal: Witness Printing House.

This little pamphlet of some eighty pages gives a full and connected account of the Fenian raid in the latter part of May last, with the proceedings on the Missisquoi and Huntingdon borders. It contains portraits of Gen. Lindsay, Cols. Smith, Chamberlin, and McEachern, and Capt. Westover, besides illustrations of the several scenes of action. Doubtless this pamphlet will be duly appreciated as a record of events in which Canadians have a special interest.

THEATRE ROYAL.—The manager of the Theatre Royal deserves great credit for his enterprise in catering to the amusement of the theatre-going public of Montreal. His efforts should meet with every encouragement. Week after week produces some new star on the Montreal boards, and hitherto, it must be said, the management of the theatre has not met with the success it deserves. Mr. Vining Bowers has, for the past week, appeared in his favourite comic characters, making his last appearance to-night. He will be succeeded on Monday night by Miss Kate Reynolds, in "Fernande," an adaptation of Victorien Sardou's great play, that attracted such large crowds in Paris during the past season.

#### THE WAR NEWS.

The operations of the past week have very materially changed the aspects of the war. The Prussians, although they had carried off numerous victories, paid heavily for their success, and by the time they had reached the critical point their forces were so terribly crippled as to render any further important success on their part extremely problematical. The battle of the 14th, before Metz, appears to have been the turning point of the contest. Bazaine had commenced to retreat across the Moselle, intending to follow the ordinary high road towards Verdun, thence to proceed to Châlons, and effect a junction with McMahon's army, and the troops under Trochu at the latter place. When half of his army was across the river, he was surprised and attacked by a large force of the enemy, who, after four hours' hard fighting, was repulsed with great loss. It would appear, however, that the Prussians out-generalled the French, and got around in great force to the side of the river by which Bazaine meant to retire, and checked his retreat. The German official reports claim a victory on the ground that the French were prevented from continuing their retreat. French reports, on the other hand, say that the army of Bazaine continued its march, and may be considered as certain to effect a junction with McMahon's and Trochu's corps. The fighting was continued on Monday and Tuesday. On the latter day Marshal Bazaine was again attacked near Pont-a-Mousson by the 5th Prussian division, under Prince Frederick Charles. After fighting for six hours, sustaining the attack of four French corps, among them the Imperial Guard, the Prussians were reinforced by a Hanoverian corps, with the 22nd and 25th divisions. The French, finding that a prolongation of the contest against such odds would be impossible, retired upon Metz, with a loss of 200 prisoners, two eagles, and seven guns. Gen. Sheridan was present at the King's head-quarters. The losses on both sides were very heavy; two Prussian generals were killed and two wounded. Later on in the afternoon another engagement took place between Gondrecourt and Thionville, in which the Prussians, under Prince Frederick Charles and Gen. Steinmetz, were driven back, the French afterwards occupying their position. On the morning of the 17th, Wednesday, several combats took place in the neighbourhood of Gravelotte, a town situated a short distance west of Metz, in which the French held their ground, but suffered heavy losses. Another engagement took place later on in the day at Mars la Tour, west of Gravelotte. The victory was claimed on both sides. The following is Marshal Bazaine's official despatch:—

VERDUN, Aug. 17, 8 o'clock p. m.—This (Wednesday) morning, the army of Prince Frederick Charles commenced a sharp attack on the right of our position. The cavalry division of General Fortun and the second corps under General Frossard made a firm resistance. The divisions of another corps, which were at Rhezon to the right and left of Rezonville, came up successively and went into the action, which lasted till night-fall. The enemy deployed considerable forces and made repeated endeavours to resume the offensive, which were vigorously repulsed. A Prussian corps d'armée endeavoured to turn our left. We have everywhere held our positions, and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. Our loss is serious. General Bottville was wounded. In the heat of the action a regiment of Uhlans charged on the staff of Marshal Bazaine, and 20 of the Marshal's escort were placed *hors de combat*. The Captain commanding the escort was killed. At 8 o'clock the enemy was driven back along his entire line. It is estimated that 120,000 Prussians were engaged.

The telegrams from Berlin state that the French army was separated by the Prussian victory at Mars la Tour. The main body was forced back on Metz and brought to a stand by the first and second German army corps, under Prince Frederick Charles and General Steinmetz. On Thursday, the 18th, another engagement took place at Rezonville, in the same neighbourhood, of which the issue is thus announced by the King in a despatch to Berlin:

"We have defeated the French under Bazaine after a battle which lasted ten hours. There were forty thousand killed and wounded. The garrison were taken prisoners. I commanded. The defeat of the French was complete."

Another despatch from Pont à Mousson, *via* Berlin, says of the same engagement,—"the Prussians won a brilliant victory near Gravelotte. The French were expelled from every position they held, thrown back upon Metz and confined to a narrow territory around that fortification. They are completely cut off from Paris. The twelfth Prussian army corps holds the railways from Metz to Thionville. The Prussian losses have been heavy."