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TEMPERATURE

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

THE WEEK ENDING			Corresponding week, 1882			
July 29th, 1883	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.	86	64	76	75	68	71.5
Tues.	86	64	76	75	68	71.5
Wed.	86	64	76	75	68	71.5
Thur.	86	64	76	75	68	71.5
Fri.	86	64	76	75	68	71.5
Sat.	86	64	76	75	68	71.5
Sun.	86	64	76	75	68	71.5

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, August 4, 1883.

THE WEEK.

The terrible death of Captain Webb in the Whirlpool of Niagara, is an example of rashness which it is almost impossible to explain outside of insanity. It was a moral obligation on the part of the local authorities to prevent the desperate attempt, and the only excuse is that they were either unaware of the unhappy man's intention or did not believe that he would be so foolhardy as to attempt carrying it into effect.

The beautiful island of Ischia, scene of so much classic romance, and celebrated in our day by the adventures of DeStael's Corinne, and Lamartine's Graziella, has been well-nigh destroyed in the convulsions of an earthquake. The dangerous proximity to Vesuvius renders the catastrophe easily explicable on geological and mineralogical grounds.

CHOLERA has not abated in Egypt, but so far there are no indications that it will spread beyond the Mediterranean. A medical commission has been sent out from England to take measures to prevent the further progress of the dread disease, and the illustrious Pasteur is going to Cairo for the purpose of investigating the parasitic nature of the malady.

THE Post Office Savings Bank statement for the month of June shows a balance in the hands of the Minister of Finance on the 31st May, 1883, of \$11,433,937.92; deposits in P.O. Savings Bank during the month, \$566,665; interest allowed to depositors on accounts closed during the month, \$5,999.63; interest made principal, \$364,085.17; repayments at P.O. Savings Bank during the month, \$394,441.41; balance at credit of depositors' account, \$119,115,961.40; outstanding cheques held by depositors, \$60,275.91; total, \$12,370,678.72.

DIVORCE is perhaps the chief of the growing wrongs of our country. It is sapping the roots of society in the United States, and spreading rapidly in Great Britain. The Pope is about to issue an encyclical letter against the evil, and thus confer a great benefit upon the age.

OWING to the delightful growing weather, the harvest has made wonderful progress during the past week. The hay crop is simply magnificent and the best in the past twenty years.

We predicted at the time of the Czar's coronation that Nihilism was only dormant, not dead. Our forecast has, unfortunately, come true. The Emperor allowed the supreme event of his life to pass without granting the slightest alleviation to his people, and the consequence is that not all the magnificence and dazzling display of the coronation ceremonies have done ought to improve the situation. Nay, they have rendered it worse.

WHEN a man performed on the St. Lawrence, in front of this city, with a floating machine, he excited unbounded wonder among the thousands who witnessed his performances, during Exhibition week. But wonders never cease. A much more adventurous man has accomplished a much more extraordinary feat. He crossed the English Channel on a floating tricycle, being about twenty hours on the water.

THE physical need of immigration from such congested districts as London is evinced from the statistics of paupers during a single week in four consecutive years: Fourth week of June, 1883, 85,555; fourth week of June, 1882, 58,064; fourth week of June, 1880, 84,126. These numbers are exclusive of lunatics in asylums and vagrants.

THE reconciliation between the Vatican and the Prussian Court seems to have reached a definite stage. The Catholic Bishops, under the provisions of the new Government Church Bill, have ordered all candidates for the priesthood to return to Prussia.

We have received a neat pamphlet containing the life of Sir Narcisse Belleau, first Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec, from the pen of M. Stanislas Drapeau. The literary reputation of the author and the merits of the subject, combine to make this little work very interesting reading, and a valuable contribution to our political history. The quiet, unostentatious, but useful career of Sir Narcisse Belleau, is an honor to his race, as well as an example and an incentive to those who pursue the arduous career of statesmanship. We have noted especially one passage which might be read with advantage by those similarly circumstanced, who have not seen fit to pursue a similar course. We are informed that Sir Narcisse would never accept a farthing for his personal expenses in official life, nor to keep up his official residence, although the law allowed him to do so. Although the grants to that effect were regularly voted by the Legislature, during the seven years of his incumbency at Spencer Wood, the money invariably remained in the Provincial Exchequer. Sir Narcisse acted in a similar manner with respect to the expenses incurred by him in his official reception of Royal Princes visiting Canada. Here is certainly an example of disinterestedness more honored in the breach than the observance.

THE ROYAL READERS.

We have been awaiting with much interest the publication of a series of Royal Readers in Toronto, by Thomas Nelson & Sons and James Campbell and Son. The judicious compiler and editor is J. Howard Hunter. These readers are intended to bring within the reach of Canadian schools books that shall furnish fresh and appropriate reading for pupils during the various periods laid down by the Official Programme. Canada has long been in want of such a class of literature, the work of her experienced teachers, and put forth by her own publishers. From advance sheets, at present under our eyes, we have supreme pleasure in saying that this want has been finally supplied, and under the most promising auspices.

The Royal Readers are graduated into five books, from the simple and easy Primer to the really literary Reader, abounding in the best selections of prose and verse. We have examined these selections very carefully and have found them eminently adapted to the uses for which they are intended. The editor is evidently a man of taste, and he has arranged his materials in such an order as must constantly facilitate the progress of the young pupil, by stimulating his budding imagination and providing appropriate food for his advancing mental grasp. A special feature of the work is the in-

roduction of specimens of Canadian letters. We are pleased to find such names as Dawson, Grant, Haliburton, Heavyside, Kirby, McGee, LeMoine, Rattray, Ryerson, Sangster and a few others. The editor might perhaps have chosen from John Reade, who is first and foremost a poet, something more characteristic than his single piece on the Death of Heavyside, but this is, after all, only a matter of taste. As it is, he has the merit of having opened the Canadian field to our youthful explorers, and that is already a great deal.

The paper and typography are unexceptionable. Indeed, we speak from personal knowledge, when we pronounce them equal to the very highest American standard. It is a luxury to handle these little pages and repose the eye upon them, and the young ones must actually revel in these treasures. With regard to the illustrations, full-paged, or in vignette, they amount to a surprise. They are simply admirable, rivaling anything of the kind produced in the country, since the publication of "Picturesque Canada." Upon close scrutiny we have found that the minutest details have been attended to, the only apparent slip being in the fourth stanza of Father Point's famous lyric, where we read "Made bells of the Shandon," instead of "The bells of Shandon."

Altogether, the work is a splendid success, and we have no hesitation whatever in recommending them for use in all our schools. Indeed, it shall become a patriotic duty to give the Royal Readers as great a vogue as possible, and we shall be surprised and disappointed if they do not find their way into universal use. Canada should aim to be as self-sustaining in her school literature as in every other national department.

SIMON BOLIVAR.

The genius of a race may be learned in its colonies. There its virtues or its vices develop much faster than at home, where customs and a settled state of society act as a check against sudden growth. In modern times, there have been two remarkable colonizing nations, the English and the Spanish. The area which they have brought under their sway in the New World and in the Pacific is nearly similar. The conditions of conquest were almost equal, the advantage being on the side of the Spaniards. The results are as far apart as are the present positions of Britain and Spain in the scale of nations. But it was only three hundred and fifty years ago that the order was reversed. When the three young monarchs, Charles V., Francis I. and Henry VIII., were rivals for election to the imperial throne, Spain stood foremost in Europe, and the then recent discovery of America opened to adventurous Spaniards a field of unknown extent, where fame or wealth were sure to be acquired. The subjects of Charles V. set out in quest of El Dorado with as much eagerness as their ancestors had sought the Holy Grail or flocked to Palestine to rescue their Lord's sepulchre from infidel keepers. The Pizarros and Cortes and Ponce de Leon pushed into the mysterious depths of the unknown continent, searching for the inexhaustible mountain of gold or for the elixir of youth. From the first, injustice and cruelty stamped the acts of the conquerors. Planted in blood, the Spanish colonies grew up in discord. The black-garbed Jesuit like a shadow accompanied the mailed soldier. The Inquisition ended the detesting work of the sword. Where might failed, spiritual weapons coaxed the ignorant and terrified the superstitious into abject submission. Crimes were common, because the criminal could buy absolution from the priests. Duplicity and ferocity went hand in hand. Under the shadow of the Church, vice flourished rankly. Greed of gold, lust, falsehood, inhumanity and superstition were the seeds sown in South America by the Spaniards. Thus, although the Spanish possessions were the richest, and although the Spanish colonies preceded by a century those of England, the latter quickly took the lead in all that concerns true prosperity and progress.

When the United States became independent and men beheld a republic established on a permanent basis, the world entered upon a new epoch of which we have as yet scarcely crossed the threshold. More than the thirteen original colonies

"heard the huge-nibbed pen
Of Jefferson tell the rights of man to man."

In France, there were ready listeners, and as the news of the triumph of liberty slowly drifted through the South American colonies they, too, began to dream and to aspire. The Spaniards still ruled their provinces in the New World by means of governors-general and of small standing armies. They directed the commerce, and they treated the natives—who, by intermarriage with the aborigines, and by the natural development of six generations, presented a modification of the Andalusian type,—like subjects, instead of brothers and equals. Disputes were frequent between the colonists and the Crown, and so heavy lay the taxes upon the former that

material advancement was impossible. Education was utterly neglected, because neither the home government nor the priesthood approved of fostering this enemy which must eventually have put them to flight.

During a generation after the signing of the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia, the desire for liberty passed in spasmodic movements up and down the South American continent. The outbreak and success of the French Revolution and the consequent unsettled condition of Spain increased the enthusiasm and the chances of success of the colonists. It is not to be supposed, however, that although there was loud talk of the rights of man, and although windy orators pictured the beauties of a true republic and alluded generously to the Gracchi and Brutus, and all the other heroes of antiquity, the South Americans had a definite idea of practical republicanism, or that they were fitted to receive it all at once. So inbred were the evils of tyranny in their nature that even the most patriotic might easily have been mistaken for a ruffian. The methods they adopted by preference were underhand, and although there were frequent ephemeral revolutions and a good deal of bloodshed this struggle for freedom lacked the dignity and moral sublimity of its Northern model. Many joined the native party, either from a desire for personal aggrandizement or for private revenge. Assassination was a favorite weapon and treachery was common. After periodic riots in which the Spaniards were mainly successful, the colonists would be forced to sink back into a condition of comparative tranquility, in order to attend to their trade and agriculture; and doubtless many merchants who grumbled at high taxes and Spanish extortion resigned themselves to bear these burdens, rather than trust their lives and property to fanatical and uncertain revolutionists.

But at length day dawned and the man of whom South America stood in need appeared. This was Simon Bolivar y Ponte, the only South American who, in ability and in integrity deserves to rank among the patriots of Europe and the United States. He was as practical as he was enthusiastic, as wise as he was courageous, as unselfish as he was ambitious. Although an aristocrat by birth, he was one of the world's democrats by choice. He knew the advantages of a republic; but he also keenly understood the sacrifices and the struggles which it exacts. He knew, moreover, that merely to change the form of government does not raise a people, but that they must be educated in order to be able to amount slowly the ladder of independence.

Bolivar was born in Caracas on the 24th of July, 1783, and was sent to Madrid, where he studied law. He returned to his home in 1801, but the death of his newly-married wife soon afterwards led him to seek distraction in travel. In 1809, he came to the United States, and he examined republican institutions with the carefulness of a practical investigator. That he learned much, cannot be doubted; for upon going back to Venezuela, he openly joined the ranks of the natives and began a career of patriotism which lasted nearly twenty years. The work which Bolivar wished to achieve was twofold; the Spaniards were to be driven out, and the natives were to be trained so as to be worthy and capable of self-government. Although at the outset the former task seemed the harder of the two. Men of all races has been stirred up to a point of enthusiasm where they throw off a tyrant's yoke; but far less often have they showed the ability of profiting by their victory. So true is this of the South Americans that now, after having been emancipated during nearly two generations, they are still far from possessing dignified and stable government.

Bolivar first fought for Venezuela under the patriot Miranda, and was successful in several engagements. Being routed in one unlucky fight, however, he was forced to flee to Caracas, whence he soon renewed the attack upon the Spaniards, having only a hastily gathered force with him. For seven years the war lasted, with varying results. More than once Bolivar was driven from his country, only to return with unquenched ardor to keep up the struggle. At length, in February, 1819, after he had triumphed decisively over his chief antagonist, Morillo, he was chosen president of Venezuela and given dictatorial power. He at once set about doing for New Grenada, the vast, thinly-settled country to the west of Venezuela, what he had achieved at home. His march over the Cordilleras, followed by victories at Tunja and Boyaca, still remains one of the most brilliant military exploits of the Southern Continent. By the year 1822, the Spanish troops had been completely routed and New Grenada was united to Venezuela under the name of the United States of Columbia. Bolivar was made president without opposition. Not satisfied with this success, he went down the Pacific coast, through Ecuador into Peru, which was striving for freedom, and which with his help became free. Lower Peru was erected into a separate republic, called Bolivia after its champion, and the Peruvian presidency was conferred upon him. Thus, in 1826, Bolivar was the chief magistrate of a territory almost equal to Brazil in area. The sword having performed its work, he next undertook the more difficult business of legislation. Not long was it before jealousy began to aim, not only at his popularity and power, but at his life. He knew his countrymen well, and understood that only by a firm government could they be kept in subjection until by education the inherited vices of three centuries had been eradicated. He perceived that a strong man must hold the