

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1871.

SUNDAY, January 1.—*First Sunday after Christmas. Circumcision.* Bytown changed to Ottawa, 1855.
MONDAY, " 2.—Capture of Grenada, 1493. Gen. Wolfe born, 1737.
TUESDAY, " 3.—Gen. Monk died, 1670. Battle of Princeton, 1777. Josiah Wedgwood died, 1795.
WEDNESDAY, " 4.—Earthquake in Canada, 1663. Rachel died, 1858.
THURSDAY, " 5.—Treaty between Great Britain and the United States, 1784. Radetzky died, 1858.
FRIDAY, " 6.—*Epiphany.* Retreat of the English from Cabul, 1842.
SATURDAY, " 7.—Fenelon died, 1715. Allan Ramsay died, 1757. Battle of New Orleans, 1815.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1870.

ALREADY are the busy scribes at work saying their best or their worst of the dying year, which at twelve o'clock to-night will give place to the first of the eighth decade in the century. How the years roll on! It seems but a short, short period since on the first day of 1870 we had the pleasure, for the first time, of heartily wishing the readers of the *Canadian Illustrated News* a HAPPY NEW YEAR! And again on the last day of the same year we are right glad to renew the salutation in anticipation of the incoming of 1871. Let us hope that the year's acquaintance between us has ripened into friendship that will run throughout the years, so that "we" of the *C. I. News* may ever be welcome received and read by the intelligent and appreciative Canadian public, long after the individuals now bearing these editorial responsibilities have paid the debt which nature never fails to exact, and of which she so frequently enforces prompt and even premature payment against the journalist! The newspaper runs on through the years, cheating old Father Time out of half his game, for while He would consign the year with all its wonders to the dim shades of oblivion or the temporary resting place of fleeting memory, the press makes a record that may, and in some portions undoubtedly will, last until even Time shall be no more. Thus what we scarcely pause to read to-day, may become an object of great interest and value to the Macaulays and the Froudes of some future century, while the journalist who worked year in and year out till his little circle was completed, will himself enjoy that oblivion of which he had robbed so many other objects. His is a fight with time and against time; and there is little wonder that at the end of each year he pens his customary assault upon the enemy, telling not only what Time would otherwise carry away with the Old Year, but even foretelling what he wishes to bring in by way of surprise during the New. But the latter is dangerous work, as may well be conceived, when the startling character of so many of the events just past, or now passing, is taken into consideration. The very air is full of portents which even the boldest journalist will hardly dare to read, so let us avoid speculation on the future and cast a glance at some of the great events in the record of 1870.

In glancing over the record of the year one is struck with the number and the variety to be met with of extraordinary surprises, of results unanticipated, and of consequences from unseen or unappreciated causes. In this respect, if it cannot be said that 1870 has been a year of great wonders, it has indeed been one of astonishing and extraordinary events that will influence the current of the world's affairs till the end of time. A year ago we remarked that France had then been enjoying the delicious excitement of standing on the brink of revolution. Need it be said now that she has had since then an extraordinary recoil, followed by a still more terrible leap forward, that not only sent her over the brink, but left her mangled at the bottom of the precipice with the strong hand of an enemy upon her throat! The dallying of the Emperor with his new constitution, the restlessness of the Reds, and the fears of the reactionists, kept the course of events in France in the early part of the year in a critical condition, liable to change from the slightest incident. And incidents were not wanting. The violence of the Rochefort party in the Press kept the Government in continual trouble and anxiety; but the Ollivier ministry still maintained a show of administrative vigour, even after the shooting of Victor Noir by the unpopular Pierre Bonaparte, an event that caused much excitement, and for a time threatened the safety of the Empire, or, at least, a strong attempt at revolution in Paris. As time passed, the Emperor, to avert a crisis, resorted to the old expedient, the *plébiscite*, and on this, as on former

occasions, the popular vote was almost unanimously in his favour; the revolution seemingly killed and the Imperial dynasty firmly established. Perhaps few had less faith in these popular deductions than Napoleon himself. He may have known more correctly the value to put upon the vote, because he probably knew better than anybody else the agencies by which the result had been attained. Certain it is that the Empire was believed to have taken a fresh lease of power; but if so, what a short holding! Early in July the begging crown of Spain was offered, informally, to a modest German youth, of the Hohenzollern family. The sequel was startling; events followed with unexampled rapidity. On the plea of a Prussian insult to France, the whole French nation was clamouring for war, the venerable Thiers alone of all the Deputies protesting against the rashness of the Government; and, on the 18th of July, went forth the fatal message from Paris to Berlin. This of itself was a double surprise—the suddenness of the declaration being seemingly as reckless as the cause for it was unjustifiable. But then came the general reflection that France was prepared, and however the duel of the nations might end, France would surely have the early advantages, and "on to Berlin in a fortnight," which was probably then believed in by millions, has turned out for those who cried it a cruel and bitter mockery. The "two weeks" were spent by the French in unaccountable dawdling on the German frontier; and during these two weeks another surprise was revealed in the fact that the Prussians were thoroughly prepared and the French were not. The petty action at Saarbrück on the 2nd August, in which the French were victorious, was followed on the 6th by the, to them, disastrous battle of Woerth; and for almost every day after that battle up to the ever-memorable 2nd of September, a victory may be counted for the Prussians. The Emperor's surrender, and the capitulation of the army at Sedan on that day, should have ended the war but for the grasping ambition on the one side, and the reckless desperation on the other. The Sedan affair, in connection with the series of events which preceded and, apparently at least, led to it, is yet a mystery which the future must unravel. Did the Emperor plan the destruction of an army, since proved to have been utterly inefficient, and the allegiance of which he could only hold at too high a price? Did the Regency at Paris believe that, with the Emperor a prisoner, the war could be successfully carried on under faculties which the Emperor himself had created? Were there hopes then, as there are assertions now, that King William, whose ingrained hostility to Republicanism and firm belief in the

"Right divine of Kings to govern wrong"

are well-known, would restore the Emperor? But the Regency may be held guiltless of conspiracy otherwise than unintentionally and through the incapacity of the Palikao Cabinet, for in two days after the Emperor's surrender there was (Sept. 4th) a bloodless revolution in Paris, and Jules Favre and Gambetta came to the surface. The "Government of National Defence" has since continued to rule in France with surprising impotence; in fact, it reigns without ruling. Meantime, the war goes on, and though victory has not always on the battlefield been with the Prussians, the war for the conquest of France, which it virtually is, is making substantial progress, and the birth of the New Year will doubtless be welcomed by the horrid roar of the Krupp guns battering against the defences of Paris! But can Prussia stand the drain upon her resources necessary to accomplish the conquest of France? The coming year will surely answer this question, for at the present rate of waste in men and *matériel* the war must end from sheer exhaustion of the opposing forces.

Save in Italy, where the absorption of the States of the Church by the Florentine Government has followed as a consequence of the war and the disregard of treaty obligations, now so common among kings and governments; and in Germany, where the same (war) influence has created a closer union between the States, and led to the elevation of King William of Prussia to the title of EMPEROR OF GERMANY, there are few political changes in Europe to be chronicled during the year. A cloud, a good deal "bigger than a man's hand," lately arose on the Eastern question, the Russian Bear, thinking the death struggle between the Prussian Eagle and the Gallic Cock offered a fair opportunity to escape from the trammels imposed by the Treaty of 1856. But a Conference is promised, and, if the Cable news may be relied on, will meet next week in London, when it may confidently be hoped that diplomacy will effect such a settlement as will avert the necessity for another war in defence of the integrity of the Ottoman Empire and of the interests of the Western Powers in the East. Spain, after long and weary waiting, has at length found one willing to wear its crown in the person of a scion of the House of

Savoy, and affairs are progressing to secure his stable enthronement.

In Great Britain there have been few events of surpassing interest. The Irish Land bill received the sanction of Parliament. Some efforts have been made to improve the naval and military strength of the Empire; but upon the whole the Gladstone Cabinet appears to have been losing rather than gathering strength. There has been a fresh stimulus given to emigration as a means for checking the growth of pauperism, and there is every appearance that this country will enjoy more than formerly the benefits to be gained by receiving the outflow of the British industrial and agricultural classes. One pleasing incident became public but a few months ago—the consent of the Queen to the marriage of the Princess Louise with the Marquis of Lorne, heir to the Dukedom of Argyll, "a noble scion of an ancient line." This social event in the family circle of Royalty breaks down the barriers of a somewhat modern but, since its institution, rigidly followed precedent, confining the Princes of the Blood in their choice of marital companionship to members of other Kingly or Princely families, and may indicate that the Queen fears from the number of Sovereigns on the "retired list" that a British nobleman is a safer match for her daughter than a foreign Prince. In this judgment the nation heartily joins, and the nuptials to be celebrated in February next, will no doubt be attended with regal splendour and rejoicings.

Our own Dominion has had a calm and peaceful year, with abounding prosperity and visible progress everywhere. The slight interruption to the even tenor of our way between the 24th and 31st May, caused by the Fenian raid, and the incidents connected with it, only served to show that our peace was really on a firm foundation, and proved the gallantry of our volunteers and the patriotism of our people. The North-West trouble which we had on our hands at the beginning of the year has been peacefully settled, though the military expedition of last summer proved again the courage and devotion of the Canadian volunteers. Trade is rapidly increasing between the different Provinces; new railways and other public works have been actively prosecuted, and private industry has vied with public spirit in the onward march of progress. The country has been happily free from political strife and internal turmoil, and Canada has, during 1870, been truly blessed among the nations. May the past be an earnest of an equally prosperous future!

LITERARY NOTICE.

"LAND AND WATER."—Mr. WARREN, the Editorial Correspondent of this able weekly journal for the United States, has been in the city during the week, and, we understand, has made arrangements for giving more particular attention to Canadian affairs in its columns. "Land and Water" is a very ably conducted and popular Weekly, containing much general information respecting wild and tame animals, pisciculture, the poultry yard, the paddock, &c., the subjects being discussed by men of eminence.

THE WAR NEWS.

Several engagements have taken place within the past few days between the French and Prussian armies, but, as usual, it is difficult to determine with which side the advantage lay, as both claim the victory. The position of the different armies at present is as nearly as possible as follows. In the south the army of the Loire has been cut in two and now forms two distinct armies, numbering some 100,000 men each, and commanded the one by Gen. Chanzy, and the other by Bourbaki. De Paladines has undertaken the task of raising new levies. The circle of operations in this quarter has been confined to the district lying between Le Mans, Vendôme and Blois, which have been occupied by the armies under Prince Frederick Charles and the Duke of Mecklenburg. The fighting has been extremely irregular, consisting mainly of a series of skirmishes, in which Chanzy's army has been gradually forced westwards. The Prussians have not yet occupied Tours, but are pushing forward fast in that direction. In the North Gen. Faidherbe, who was marching upon Paris, was confronted by Mantouff, who had left Rouen for that purpose, near Amiens, and after a sharp fight was defeated and compelled to retreat. A Prussian army is massing around Mezières, and it is expected that the place will shortly be besieged. In the south-east the Prussians gained a victory at Nuits.

There has been no fighting around Paris since the 1st, but it appears that Trochu is making preparations for a vigorous sortie. It is reported that Ducrot left the city by balloon, in order to take the command of one of the armies operating outside the Prussian line. It is still said that the bombardment will be commenced shortly, but rumour has it that the Germans are in no position to attack and that their only chance of success is to starve the Parisians into submission, though the outpost defences at Avron were subjected to a heavy fire from the Prussian guns, and this has been accepted as the beginning of the bombardment of the French Capital.

CHENS.

SOLUTION OF ENIGMA No. 6.

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|----------------------------|------------------------|
| White. | Black. |
| 1. Kt checks. | P. takes Kt. (forced.) |
| 2. P. to Q. 3rd. | Any move |
| 3. One of the Pawns mates. | |