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TEMPERATURE

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

THE WEEK ENDING

Feb. 19th, 1882.			Corresponding week, 1881		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.. 42°	24°	33°	Mon.. 33°	23°	28°
Tues.. 40°	33°	36° 5'	Tues.. 23°	5°	14°
Wed.. 46°	29°	37° 5'	Wed.. 25°	10°	17° 5'
Thur.. 47°	33°	40°	Thur.. 30°	20°	25°
Fri.. 34°	22°	28°	Fri.. 30°	18°	24°
Sat.. 22°	-5°	8° 5'	Sat.. 29°	18°	23° 5'
Sun.. 23°	4°	13° 5'	Sun.. 29°	21°	25°

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Feb. 25th, 1882.

THE WEEK.

A NEW YORK correspondent of one of the daily papers calls attention to the remarkable growth in that city of so-called Society Journalism, in the space devoted by the leading journals to accounts of balls and receptions and the like. The name as applied to such mere record is hardly correct. Society Journalism proper is an entirely new product of the century. It is only a few years since EDMUND YATES and GRENVILLE MURRAY set the ball rolling by the issue of the *World*, which, though not devoted at all to the chronicle of balls and the description of dresses, was yet the parent of Society Journalism proper. The *Court Journal* for years has held its place in the matter of mere description of fashionable events, and with it the *World* never in any way interfered. The notion of the new paper was that of comment upon the doings of Society, under the significant title of "What the World Says," a title which, as will be seen, bears a double interpretation. The success of the venture was never for a moment doubtful, and when, a year after, Mr. GRENVILLE MURRAY sold out his share to Mr. YATES, he received more than double of his original investment. A crowd of imitators followed upon the heels of the lucky pair. Mr. LABOUCHERE, who had originally been engaged to write the city article for the *World*, quarrelled with the proprietors and launched a venture of his own in *Truth*. This was followed by a counterblast in *Calumny*. Then came *London*, *Society*, *Life*, and others, and *Vanity Fair* and the *Whitehall Review* introduced a similar feature into their columns. The last venture now in London is the establishment of a penny sheet, in which are collected the cream of the whole combined.

This feature of Society Journalism has never taken a firm root in the States, partly for the same reason that a comic paper never could exist there (until *Puck* was started), viz., that the dailies devote much of their space to comment on matters with which the daily press of the old country do not meddle. Private affairs are as freely discussed as public actions, and the Society Journalist has the ground cut from under him to a great extent. A sort of combination of the two—the *Court Journal* and the *World* types—has been made in *Quiz*, a little sheet now published in Philadelphia, and New York has the *American Queen*, which approaches more

nearly to the former, while the *Hour* aims apparently at the latter type. Even here in Montreal a paper has recently been started with a *Society* column, and has only failed from the inappropriateness of its other matter.

THE proverbial jealousy of professional musicians has never had a more forcible commentary upon it than is contained in the report of the Smoking Concert of the Duke of Edinburgh's Orchestral Society, which the *Gazette* publishes this (Monday) morning. "The Duke of Edinburgh's playing," says the correspondent, "was especially praised, even by professionals." If the report is correct, what a picture we have of praise reluctantly wrung from the very people who should have been most ready to give it. It is not the critics, you see, who refuse to acknowledge talent in an amateur, but the professionals, as such, and because they are such. As we suggested, however, it is possible that the report is not of that absolute value upon which to found an argument in so weighty a matter. Certainly it is funny enough in other respects. As, for example, the statement that "the drums were played by clergymen," which, though possibly true, seems to imply a connection between the "pulpit, drum ecclesiastic" and the ordinary kettle drum, not hitherto observed. Though, by the way, kettle-drums and curates have before been associated in the minds of irreverent society writers. It is just possible that the explanation of this and other irregularities is to be found in the concluding paragraph: "During the concert all smoked and drank as much as they wished," the correspondent, no doubt, amongst the number. And then the necessary conclusion, the enthusiastic statement: "The concert was most enjoyable." No doubt.

THE Vienna disaster of last December has set men's brains to work to reduce the danger of fire so far as possible, by alterations of one sort and another. The latest effort of ingenuity in this direction comes from New York, where a gentleman of a philanthropic and inventive turn of mind has recently patented a device for removing the obstruction to free passage presented in ordinary theatres by the rows of chairs or other seats. The device consists in such an arrangement of seats that in case of fire they can be made to fold up and sink out of sight, thus leaving the auditorium entirely free. We cannot help being reminded of the old French song which treats of the ingenious manufacturer who, to economize human labor, had established a factory to be run entirely by rats. His friend listened with patience to his description of the working, and then asked mildly, "What would you do if a cat got in?" The seats in question are so made that they can be raised or lowered for the whole floor at one point. And if we can only say if some peculiarly thoughtful wag were to take a fancy at a given moment to try the working of the machinery, and for that purpose were to possess himself of the controlling key—We draw a veil. The entrance of the cat would be nothing to it.

IN *Harper's Magazine* for March there is a note relative to the new halfpenny evening paper for London, the *Evening News*. It was established last July as an Independent Liberal Journal, but had such a want of success—it was not prosperous, as according to *Harper's*—that the proprietor was glad to sell out to the Conservative Press Corporation, Limited, which has been successfully floated to supply the English public with cheap Constitutional literature. The managing director of the Company is Mr. FREDERICK HYNDMAN, and the new editor of the paper is Mr. CHARLES WILLIAMS, a well-known London journalist and special correspondent. The first number under the new régime contained the following notice:— "The *Evening News* will address the Constitutional party in England who pre-

fer freedom of thought to the dictation of a "caucus," freedom of contract to legislative restraint, and the substantial interests of our operative classes to undue development of the profits of foreign producers, merchants, and carriers. The *Evening News* will likewise address those who look to the sanction of religion in their everyday and political life rather than to the leading of Atheists and Free-thinkers." This new addition to the London evening papers makes three for the Conservatives as against two for the Liberals.

DOINGS AT THE CAPITAL.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Ottawa, February 17th, 1882.

The drawing-room came off with much *clat*, and was attended by large numbers. The regulations issued to the Dominion Police were such as should have ensured everything going off without any *contretemps*. Unfortunately the obtuseness of the police compelled many ladies after taking off their cloaks in the Commons, to seek admission to the Senate by an outside door, as the policeman on duty at the inner side entrance had got into his head that he was not allowed to open that door for them. A few fortunate ones escaped this chilling promenade through the courtesy of the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms.

Talking about the Dominion Police. Theirs is a happy lot. Their duties consist in standing at the various entrances to the Western and Eastern blocks. They condescend to open these doors for Ministers and Deputies, but there the line is drawn.

Place aux messieurs. The dailies have given your readers a list of ladies' dresses, but not one has spoken of what was worn by the men. At the drawing-room, two gentlemen appeared in frock coats, whilst one vainly attempted to make his bow in a cutaway jacket of grey tweed; and at the Government House ball on Tuesday, a gentleman shone in a frock coat of broadcloth, and he was an Ontario Mayor at that.

One thing I can say about the ladies' gowns; they were all new. "They all have to be on such an occasion," said to me one who knows, "for the other women would be down on any lady appearing in a dress that has served once." The laws of the Medes and the Persians are mild compared with this new, to me, ukase of the fair sex.

Many there are who want to know something about the Royal Archers of Scotland, now that they have seen Mr. Balfour in his gorgeous uniform of that distinguished corps. They can find all the information they require in an interesting history of the Corps, which possesses authentic records covering a space of two centuries. The book is in the Parliamentary Library.

The ball given at Rideau Hall on Tuesday, was attended by over 600 people; so perfect were the arrangements that there was not any crowding. Lieut.-Col. Freemantle and officers of the Halifax Garrison were present; with this party were Mrs. Shortt and Mrs. England.

The Hon. Edward Pierrepont, formerly U. S. Minister to the Court of St. James, is on a visit to the Capital.

There is a rumour that His Excellency intends giving a masquerade on the ice this winter. It will doubtless prove a grand scene and will rival the famous masquerade which took place in honor of his predecessor at the Victoria Rink, Montreal, in January, 1875.

At the Hon. Madame Caron's *soirée musicale*, which comes off on Saturday, the following ladies and gentlemen will execute an excellent programme. Prume will play; Mesdames C. Christin, Leduc, Aumont, the Hon. P. Fortin, M.P., and Mr. Gourdeau are to represent the vocalists, whilst Dr. and Madame Valade, Miss Barrett of Windsor, Dr. Prévost and Mr. J. F. W. Harrison will appear at the piano. The foregoing names are a guarantee that the invited guests will enjoy a musical treat. Madame Caron's at homes are famed for the good music presented.

Those who had the privilege of seats in the Gallery of the House of Commons on Tuesday last, saw most of the prominent members rise

and speak, viz: Sir John, Sir Charles, Sir Hector, Sir Richard, Messrs. Mackenzie Bowell, Blake, Huntington, Mackenzie and the President of the Council. With the exception of Sir Hector Langevin, who complimented the newly-elected member for Bellechasse on his maiden speech, the others cut a sorry figure at the pastime of word-slinging.

Why are charges of corruption and other unsavoury ones hurled from one side of the House against the other, when honorable gentlemen themselves do not believe in them, and when no right-minded man outside the House does? Our Blakes and Tupperes are above suspicion, and the dignity of the House is assuredly not enhanced by such petty squabbles.

On Wednesday afternoon, Lady Frances Balfour occupied a seat on the floor of the House; she soon left, as she no doubt found the Orders of the Day very dry reading.

I do not wish to get into trouble and so I care not, Paris like, to award the golden apple. Young men and old men too, are divided here as to whom belongs the coveted appellation of "belle of the ball" at Rideau Hall. An Ottawa Juno, who hails from senatorial precincts, a Montreal Venus, who once appeared as Parthenia at a *bal costumé*, and a Minerva, who comes from Cobourg famed for the number of its judges and of its pretty girls, are the competitors. If there is a general leaning towards any of the three, it is towards the last-named.

Yesterday's ball at Rideau Hall went off as pleasantly as did the first. His Excellency danced the first set of quadrilles with Madame Cauchon, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. The belles were a lady from Montreal already referred to, and one from Quebec; the latter in a black dress trimmed with steel beads, aptly represented Night, and recalled Longfellow's lines.

The Indian costumes brought from the Northwest by His Excellency were much examined and admired. They are to be worn at the "pow-wow" to be given on the ice one of these evenings.

The most gorgeous uniforms were those of the members of what Mr. Bergeron has called in the House "our little army," that plucky and efficient force, the Mounted Police of the Lorne Land, as it is now called.

Montrealers doubtless entertain pleasant recollections of Capt. Lewis of the Fusiliers, now A. D. C. to Lieutenant-Governor Cauchon. He writes to me from what he calls "boom-battered Winnipeg," to say that Lord Lorne has presented him with a silver cigar-case. His Excellency has displayed great thoughtfulness in giving *souvenirs* to the many friends he made during his trip through what he styled in his reply to one of the addresses presented to him at St. Boniface, "Greater Canada."

I must add to my list of those who are to contribute towards entertaining Madame Caron's guests to-morrow night, Mrs. T. Charles Watson, who is to recite "La prière du naufrage" by François Coppée.

The House is dull. Nothing doing. Mr. Girouard has introduced his bill to legalize marriage with a deceased wife's sister. The Bishop of Ontario's followers hold up their hands in horror and predict dreadful things if it becomes law. Their sanction is however given without compunction to marriages between May and December, to mere *mariages de convenance* and others which it is not opportune to mention, so their squeamishness is out of place.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

THE Greek play in New York has been very roughly handled by the critics.

THE *Detroit Free Press* endorses Miss Dickinson's Hamlet unreservedly.

WAGNER, the composer, is staying at Palermo, where he is living with his family in great retirement.

J. R. G. HANSARD, musical critic of the *Tribune*, is writing letters to that paper from the South of France.

A CONFERENCE of Hungarian poets and authors is soon to be held at Buda Pesth to discuss the preparation of a Hungarian Royal Hymn.

"CLAUDE DUVAL," the new opera by Stephens and Solomon, has been in rehearsal for months and will be presented for the first time on Monday, the 27th inst.

HERR WAGNER is about to take up his quarters in Greece for the purpose of making studies on the spot for a new opera drawn from the Greek mythology.

"MISS HAWK," said Patti to an interviewer of the *Philadelphia Press*, "not only has the voice and the power and ability to use it, but she is an actress. She acts from the heart."