

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY,
SEPT. 10, 1870.

SUNDAY,	Sept. 4.— <i>Twelfth Sunday after Trinity.</i> River Hudson discovered, 1609.
MONDAY,	" 5.—Malta captured, 1800. Lord Metcalfe died, 1846.
TUESDAY,	" 6.—Sir A. T. Galt born, 1817. Hannah Moore died, 1833.
WEDNESDAY,	" 7.— <i>St. Enurchus, M.</i> Dr. Johnson born, 1709. Sir G. Simpson, Governor of Hudson's Bay, died, 1860.
THURSDAY,	" 8.— <i>Nativity of the B. V. M.</i> Montreal capitulated, 1760.
FRIDAY,	" 9.—Fall of Table Rock, Niagara Falls, 1853. Sebastopol taken, 1855.
SATURDAY	" 10.—Mungo Park born, 1771. Canadian Militia officers receive commissions, 1778.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1870.

THE war naturally continues to be the absorbing topic of interest throughout the civilized world. The strategic movements of the French under McMahon led to a temporary check of the Crown Prince's march on Paris, and so far enabled Gen. Trochu to complete his arrangements for its defence; hence the impression, which had begun to prevail outside of France, that the capital would fall at the approach of the victorious Prussians has been entirely dissipated. The reticence of both parties, and the extreme measures they have adopted for the suppression of all intelligence of military movements, save those communicated in official bulletins, render an exact appreciation of the actual state of affairs an impossibility; while the flat contradictions hurled from Berlin to Paris, and from Paris to Berlin, make even the grave statements of Royal and Imperial magnates as little to be relied upon as the numerous fictions of the "intelligent contraband" during the late American war. Thus we have had Marshal Bazaine hemmed in at Metz for a week, according to Prussian accounts, whereas statements from Paris aver that all that time his communications had been free, and he was fully prepared to co-operate at the proper time with Marshal McMahon. So with respect to the great battle between Montmédy and Rethel, which the French said, and the Prussians denied, that McMahon had forced upon Prince Frederick Charles on Monday last. It seems, therefore, that misrepresentation is a part of military tactics, and, indeed, to conceal one's own movements, while he tries to discover those of his enemy, is an established policy in generalship. It would be hard to say that when one of the contestants makes a feint to deceive his opponent in the field, he is doing more or less than acting out the deception which, either for the purpose of deceiving foes or stimulating friends, inspires the lying bulletins from headquarters. Both are like Madame's "not at home," when she does not desire her privacy to be intruded upon, and may be as defensible in military, as Madame's "white lie" is in social, ethics. Nevertheless, these contradictory statements are very perplexing, the more so that they are believed, or distrusted, according to the sympathies of those who listen to them.

But already the interest, which at first was centred in the conflict, begins to wander uneasily after its probable consequences. Russia, we are told, cannot brook the further aggrandisement of Prussia, and will insist upon maintaining the balance of power in Europe in the light of her own territorial and dynastic interests. Austria begins to fear that too much Prussian success might lead to further embarrassments for her, and would probably be willing to enter into a general coalition for checking Prussia's advancement. Great Britain can scarcely view with composure the prospect of Prussia's extending her sea coast and becoming a great maritime as well as the greatest military power; hence she is said to be earnestly disposed towards the establishment of peace and the restoration of the *status quo ante bellum*, which Prussia, on the other hand, could hardly be expected to accept while ravaging the heart of the enemy's country, beating back his generals, and actually menacing the safety of his capital. And the dynastic future of France is no less the subject of earnest speculation. It is generally believed that the Empire, which was "peace," has virtually ended in what, for the Emperor, has been inglorious war, though as yet he has certainly given no indication of abandoning the throne. Public opinion has, however, decreed that the future of France lies between the re-establishment of the Republic and the restoration of the Orleanists, and upon this question, as upon the reported facts of the war, sympathy mainly leads the judgment of all who discuss it. In fact, the relative strength of the Republicans and Orleanists is far more difficult to determine than even the military situation from day to day. The accident of an hour might make either party triumphant; but we have

too much faith in the patriotism of Gen. Trochu, Orleanist though he be, and though he has been—according to report—snubbed by the Empress, to believe that he would use his position as commander of Paris to provoke a political crisis for the sake of dynastic interests at the time when his country was fighting for existence. He is not surely the man to perpetrate the blunder, so well described in homely phrase by Abraham Lincoln, of "swapping horses when in mid-stream," and we think that he and the other great captains of France whom the Emperor's misfortunes have forced into the chief positions, in order to save the nation, will devote all their energies to the crippling of the enemy and the deliverance of the country from his tread, before making overtures for a change of rulers.

But, as if these speculations on events depending on the result of the war and the temper of the French people were not enough, a new revelation has been made as to the existence of another "secret treaty." Napoleon is again alleged to be the marplot, and this time he is accused of having secretly bound himself to restore Isabella to the throne of Spain, on the favourable conclusion of the war. This announcement, we are told, has caused great indignation in Madrid. Perhaps it may, but to us it appears on the face of it as one of the silliest of all the secret treaty stories. Had Napoleon had anything to gain by maintaining the Spanish Queen on her throne, his time for interference was either before her flight, or immediately thereafter. That her Majesty would have gladly welcomed his assistance there can be no doubt; that she tried to get it is, we believe, on record; but Napoleon, who is himself a monarch by election, did not see fit then, and would have still less reason now, to reimpose her upon the throne, which, but a short time ago, she had formally abdicated.

Both parties to the contest have made statements to the world as to the time for negotiating a peace, France saying that she will not treat until the enemy is driven from her soil, and Prussia, that the Empire must first be abandoned. These announcements mean nothing more than the strong determination of both sides to humiliate the enemy as far as possible, for neither of them are yet so far out of the reach of European control as to be able to determine, single-handed, either the time or the terms of peace if the other powers should interfere. Russia accepted peace at the close of the Crimean war as soon as she saw that honour could be saved without a further sacrifice of interest. Prussia accepted peace, though flushed with victory, after the battle of Sadowa, rather than risk the consequences which the intended march upon Vienna would have entailed. In fact, nations, like individuals, always accept peace, unless bent upon self-destruction, as soon as they are convinced that neither honour nor advantage can be gained by maintaining the struggle; and there is not the slightest reason to believe that anything more is needed in this contest to secure the same end. The very bitterness of the present warfare, the alleged firing upon ambulances, flags of truce, &c., may induce the interference of other powers, in order to avert that madness, on either side, which is said to precede destruction, for assuredly neither England, Austria, nor Russia will be disposed to permit the serious alteration of the map of Europe for the aggrandisement of either of the belligerents.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the new story commenced in this issue, from the pen of Mrs. Noel, of Kingston, Ont. She is a writer of established reputation, having been a valued contributor to several American serials, and her story of "Hilda," though a long one, is full of incident and interest, and has the additional merit of portraying social life in Quebec, Montreal and other familiar places, at a date not at all remote from our own day. We commend it therefore to our readers as worthy their perusal during the long evenings which are now creeping in; and as a warning to other journals we beg to state that "Hilda" is copyrighted both in Canada and the United States.

Those who have heretofore been casual patrons of the *C. I. News* would do well now to become regular subscribers in order that they may obtain this story complete. We may mention that for the annual subscription of four dollars the publisher will deliver the *News* within the City of Montreal, or prepay the postage to any part of the Dominion of Canada.

Last week, we alluded to the water supplied to this city and the organic impurities which had been found in it by some of the members of the Montreal Microscopic Club. Next week we hope to be able to lay before our readers an illustration exhibiting some of the more dangerous of the living adulterations it contains, as well as a paper by Dr. Baker Edwards, shewing particularly the noxious character of these impurities. This will be followed by another article explaining in a simple and practical form the manner in which the Corporation, at an expense comparatively small in view of the benefits that would accrue, can purify the city's supply of water by a general system of filtration. The subject is one of surpassing impor-

tance to the health and comfort of the citizens, and its thorough discussion may prove beneficial to many other cities throughout the Dominion as well as to Montreal.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Miss Kate Reynolds, who some weeks ago created a favourable impression on the Montreal public, has again appeared at the theatre for the past week in a series of well-sustained characters. The management now announces that Miss Reynolds will appear nightly until further notice. It is not often that such a chance is offered for seeing really good acting, and the public should reward Mr. Bowers' exertions in catering to their tastes, by greeting him with full houses.

It is now reported that the sufferers by the fires in the neighbourhood of Ottawa number about three thousand souls. Very commendable exertions have been made by the citizens of Ottawa for their relief, about \$8,000 in cash, and large quantities of clothing and provisions having been collected. In Montreal, too, vigorous exertions are being made to supply the wants of the unfortunate people.

LITERARY NOTICE.

THE LIFE OF F. M., H. R. H. EDWARD, DUKE OF KENT, Illustrated by his correspondence with the De Salaberry family, never before published, extending from 1791 to 1814; by Dr. W. J. Anderson, L.R.C.S., Edinburgh, President of the Quebec Historical and Literary Society. Ottawa and Toronto, Hunter, Rose & Co.; Montreal, Dawson Bros.

The memoirs of one who occupied so distinguished a position in the history of England as the late Duke of Kent should be read with interest by every English-speaking people. His Royal Highness' history is, to an extent, English history, and any new facts elicited as to his life and character will be eagerly welcomed as additions to the knowledge we already possess of England's great generals and statesmen. To Canadians, particularly, among whom the Duke spent no inconsiderable portion of his life, and to whom he succeeded in endearing himself by his universal affability and kindness, the book before us will be of double interest. We are pleased to find that the task of chronicling the events of the Duke's life—a life, for one in his position, of extraordinary privation and humiliation—has fallen into no less competent hands than those of Dr. Anderson. And we trust that the present volume may be followed by others from the same pen, relating the doings of other personages whose names are dear to Canadian hearts.

In the treatment of his subject, Dr. Anderson has had a great disadvantage to contend with. In his preface he states that having been placed in possession of certain letters of the Duke, after due consideration he determined simply to hold the mirror up to nature—to reproduce the letters, merely filling up the narrative where the break in the connection required it. But the very difficulty which thus arises, and for overcoming which, to our mind, he is entitled to the greatest praise, is the one of which the Doctor seems to make least account. He modestly disowns any credit for his work, and styles himself a "mere amanuensis." It is not often we meet with such modesty in the literary world, and we are pleased to notice it as a good sign of what we may expect from the author. Of course it is a comparatively easy thing, costing at best but a little time and trouble, to collect a number of letters, written at long and short intervals, to bridge over the intervening spaces with facts and dates gleaned from any biographical dictionary, and to publish the whole in the form of a memoir. Such a work could be undertaken by any schoolboy, but the result would be a bare recital of facts, uninteresting, unreliable, and utterly unreadable. What we most admire in Dr. Anderson's treatment of his subject is the masterly way in which he has filled up the narrative—in which, so to speak, he has cemented together the stones of his bridge, making his history a smooth and even road over which the most fastidious and the most careless readers will alike have no difficulty in travelling. The whole is a compact and ably-written history. The transitions from the letters to the narrative are so easy and natural that what might have proved a stumbling-block to the reader, and might seriously have endangered the success of the book, has been entirely avoided in a way that throws the greatest credit upon its author. As a rule, a volume of correspondence does not prove a success, but Dr. Anderson's work is a striking exception to the rule, and on that very account deserves well of the reading public both on this side of the Atlantic and at home. We are glad to learn that the Doctor has received encouragement of the most gratifying nature from the highest sources. Both Her Majesty and H.R.H. Prince Arthur have acknowledged his work in letters couched in the most flattering terms, and in a way that can leave no doubt as to the success that has attended his labours. Instead of entering at length into the subject of the narrative, we refer our readers to the work itself. It is a small volume, but full of information, and should be found on every Canadian table.

We cannot leave our subject without offering our congratulations to the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, on possessing a President so able, so energetic, and so devoted to the object they place before themselves, viz: "the prosecution of researches into the early history of Canada, and the recovery