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TEMPERATURE

as observed by HERN & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING

May 8th, 1881.			Corresponding week, 1880		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean
Mon.. 53°	34°	46°	Mon.. 53°	37°	46°
Tue.. 53°	32°	42°	Tue.. 71°	45°	58°
Wed.. 53°	32°	43°	Wed.. 69°	45°	57°
Thur.. 52°	30°	41°	Thur.. 73°	45°	59°
Fri.. 50°	28°	39°	Fri.. 70°	45°	57°
Sat.. 49°	25°	37°	Sat.. 58°	43°	50°
Sun.. 45°	25°	35°	Sun.. 65°	45°	53°

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, May 14th., 1881.

THE WEEK

LORD GRANVILLE has addressed a memorandum to the American Minister on the subject of a Copyright Treaty, and there seems to be a likelihood of some arrangement being arrived at on this important question. This time it is from America that the strongest arguments will come in favour of the treaty. For people's eyes are opening to the fact that it is the American writer who suffers, far more than his English brother, by the literary pillage for which American publishers are noted. It is of course one of the greatest dangers of Protection that it is liable to protect one industry at the expense of another, and reciprocity is often the only means of avoiding the difficulty. As it stands at present the American author has not only to compete with his rivals at home, not only even to meet those of other countries with a fair field and no favour. The works of English authors are given to the American public at a price with which home talent cannot compete, a price simply sufficient to pay a profit on the publication, where the original material has cost nothing. Against this injustice American writers are protesting vigorously, and for their sake perhaps the United States Government may be willing to do tardy justice to the rights of their English brethren. Charity begins at home, and the surest way to get a man to do you a favour (even if that favour be one you have a right to ask, and the concession of which simple justice demands) is to persuade him that it will benefit himself even more than you. Meanwhile the publishers will be very little if at all the losers, for at present prices their profits can be but small, and the additional sum which will go into the pockets of English authors will be paid by those who read their books.

THE Editor of the *Irish World* has addressed a letter to the Secretary of State of the United States complaining of the infringement of the Postal Treaty in the matter of the suppression of his paper in Ireland. In the absence of any specific information on the subject it seems not unreasonable to suppose that Mr. GLADSTONE has taken proper advice in the matter; it is not even impossible that he may have communicated with the United States Government before taking the proceedings which the *Irish World* complains of. But even without this, there are few people, we should imagine, who would support the contention of the injured proprietor that the right of transit

secured by the Postal Union is to be in all cases superior to the supervision of the Home Government, or that an American agitator may make use of its protection to spread treasonable matter amongst Her Majesty's subjects. And we cannot believe, in view of the satisfactory relations between the two countries, that Mr. BLAINE will be in a hurry to take umbrage at Mr. GLADSTONE's action or to embroil his Government with England for the sake of Mr. PATRICK FORD. As to the reasons which induced the Prime Minister to take this step, Mr. FORD makes them plain enough in this very letter. While denying that the *Irish World* is in fact a "treasonable publication," he uses language actually in the same paragraph which belies his own words. The *Irish World* holds "that Ireland is fully entitled to the full possession and control of herself," but with the utmost consideration "does not just now advocate an armed insurrection in that country." But, in spite of this kindly deference to the popular prejudice against immediate bloodshed "If the British Government," says Mr. FORD, "insists on war, then let her prepare to read the bulletins of that war by the blaze of her cities." And again "As the *Irish World* has repeatedly said 'If etc., etc.' England not Ireland must be the scene of destruction." We may laugh at this rhodomontade (we cannot help at all events a smile at the feminine gender attributed to the British Government—a fine piece of delicately veiled sarcasm, Mr. FORD,) but we venture to say that it would be a little difficult to find any definition of treason which would exclude such language as this.

We are grateful however to the *Irish World* for a piece of information which will, we imagine, be as new to most of our readers as the gender of the English Cabinet. Some of us have been in the habit of congratulating ourselves that we belonged to a country that was known among nations as the liberator of the slaves. We have heard that WILBERFORCE was an Englishman, and we have hugged to our bosoms the thought that the abolition of slavery throughout the greater part of the civilized world was due in the main to the prestige of the British flag. It has remained for Mr. FORD to open our eyes to the true state of the case. It is the British Empire or Mr. GLADSTONE (we are not clear which) that has "oppressed the White man, enslaved the Black man, and exterminated the Red man." They (or he) and they (or he) alone are responsible for slavery and the war of Secession, not to mention the Antirent troubles and the in fact all the evils from which the States have suffered from the beginning. Well! well! to think of it! And all these evils might have been avoided if only Mr. PATRICK FORD had had the ear of Queen ELIZABETH in the first instance. Verily history is incomprehensible and Mr. PATRICK FORD is a marvellous expounder thereof.

THE last mail from England has brought newspapers which show that the Syndicate, or as it is now called, the "Canadian Pacific Railway Company," has very generally advertised its lands for sale in the United Kingdom at \$2.50 per acre. But from this price they make a rebate of \$1.25 per acre for every acre put under cultivation during five years. This practically reduces the cultivated parts of the farm to \$1.25 per acre, leaving the uncultivated at \$2.50. The cost of "breaking" may be set down at \$2.50 or \$3.00 per acre, so that the rebate nearly pays the half of this. It is impossible to overestimate the effect of this policy; and we think it will pay the Company well. The same parties, or nearly the same, were the first to inaugurate the rebate principle with very great success in the sale of lands on the St. Paul and Manitoba Railway. It must also compel a change of the Government policy, for the latter cannot continue to sell lands at \$5 an acre, or pre-

empt them at \$3, as provided in the present printed regulations, while the public can buy the same lands adjoining the railway for \$2.50, or practically for \$1.25. It happens also that as the Government and Pacific sections are arranged like the squares on a chequer board, each square being divided into four parts, the homesteader on any free grant of a quarter section can have the option of buying the Company's cheap lands instead of the Government dear ones, as at present advertised, near the railway. It is clear, too, that if the Government put free homesteaders on their lands, they cannot fail to benefit also the Company's lands. There will be besides a converse action. A man may make up his mind after reading the Company's advertisements to buy one of their quarter sections and homestead the adjoining Government quarter section. He would thus get a farm of 320 acres of the best wheat land in the world at a really nominal price. These facts cannot fail to become generally known. They are now advertised, and we may in consequence expect a great stimulus to immigration from abroad and migration from the older Provinces of the Dominion to Manitoba. Altogether this land policy is more liberal than any which is elsewhere to be found on the American continent, or than we have hitherto had in Canada, and it cannot fail to produce great results.

If the *Ottawa Citizen* have any right to the title of Liberal, the claim is certainly not founded upon the liberality of its opinions, if we are to judge by its strictures upon Mr. DAVIN's article in the *Canadian Monthly* of which we spoke last week. Our worthy contemporary is full of honest indignation that any but a free-born Canadian should dare to criticise our glorious institutions, or predict the future of that country to which he is only affiliated upon sufferance. The idea of a man presuming to think that because he has forsooth made Canada his home for many years, identified himself with her interests and accepted a position under her Government, that he is on that account entitled to give an opinion upon her political condition. Canada for the Canadians, and let every body else hold their tongues. We absolutely tremble at the idea of bringing down upon our ourselves the invective which the *Citizen* knows so well how to wield, and we feel sure we are only expressing Mr. DAVIN's feelings in the matter when we say that he, and we, and all of us who have unwillingly trespassed upon the prerogative of that journal, and expressed our crude and unseasonable views of Canadian politics, do hereby most humbly apologize and promise never to do it again. But it seems a little hard on us.

THE Duke of SUTHERLAND and his party are expected in Montreal before this will be read. They will probably spend some time between this city and Quebec, and the Duke and the Marquis of STAFFORD are to be the guests eventually of the Marquis of LORNE in Ottawa. *Après* we have not all of us learned as yet to consider the English nobility as our natural enemies or the guests of the Governor-General as fit subjects for vulgar personalities. Hence we admire the good taste with which a contemporary heads a local with "The 'Dook' coming to Montreal." The recognition of his title will be doubtless extremely gratifying to the personage in question, though it seems a little inconsistent, that the journal did not go on to inform us of his contemplated visit to the "Markis."

We are pleased to hear that the banquet to be given on Thursday next to Sir HUGH and Mr. ANDREW ALLAN promises to be a notable success. It is unnecessary to speak here of the benefits which have accrued to Canada from the efforts of those gentlemen, to whom in the main are due the immense facilities of ocean transit which we possess to-day. Mont-

real has probably more directly reaped the advantage of the impetus which has been given to the commerce of the Dominion by those lines of which the Allan was the pioneer, than any other city in Canada, and it is gratifying to learn that she is not insensible to the debt of gratitude which she owes to the men who have done so much for her. The arrival of the *Parisian* seems a fitting occasion on which to pay this tribute of respect, and with it to inaugurate a new era of steam navigation, and it is to be hoped increased prosperity as well for the Allan line as for the commercial interests which have been encouraged and supported by means of it.

AMUSEMENTS.

This week has been a rest, after the theatrical surfeit of the last month. The Holmans struggled through three more nights at the Royal to a steadily diminishing house, too small and too indifferent to express any very marked disapprobation of this singularly unsuccessful attempt to produce "Billie Taylor." I promised to give a criticism of this opera, but as any ideas which I had formed from the score have been considerably confused by listening to the Holmans' "special version," I think I had better wait for its proper performance by some future troupe.

At the Academy Mr. and Mrs. McKee Rankin have curled up the blood of the most phlegmatic with the "Danites." As a melodrama, in which category, we think, we may place it without offence, the play has some strong points, and the acting of Mr. and Mrs. Rankin, especially the former, was fully up to expectation. The story deals with the adventures of a girl, the last of a family named Williams, hunted down by the "Danites," the "destroying angels" of the Mormons, on account of the connection of her father with the murder of the prophet Smith. Her concealment in the disguise of a boy, amongst the rough miners of the Sierras, her discovery by the schoolmistress, who ultimately becomes the wife of one of the miners, with all the complications which such relations naturally suggest, form the basis, as I have said, of several strong situations and dramatic incidents, which were not lost in the rendering.

I must not forget my promise to say something of Mrs. Otis Rockwood's Chamber Concerts, the last of which took place last week. Mrs. Rockwood has endeavoured to fill an acknowledged hiatus in our list of musical attractions, by establishing a series of chamber concerts of classical music. Three out of the four were held at Mrs. Rockwood's own house, the attractions of which added greatly to the pleasure of those who attended them, but the last, by request, took place in the new Weber Hall. Of the concerts themselves, we may speak in terms of the highest praise, and although the attendance has been small throughout, yet many causes contributed to this result, and we feel confident that by next season, if the poor success of the present series does not deter Mrs. Rockwood from further efforts in the same direction, Montrealers will have learned enough to appreciate them.

REVIEW AND CRITICISM.

Probably no man was more qualified to have been the historian of the stirring events which succeeded to the French Revolution and culminated in the Battle of Waterloo, than the great leader of the Conservative party in Vienna, Prince Metternich. (1) A leading figure in the conferences and diplomatic moves which, alternated with the sterner realities of war, his action mainly brought about the alliance by which Napoleon was at length overcome. Such a man might give us better than another, not only the bare events which can be gleaned from the chronicles of the times, but what we look to the true historian for, the causes of those events and their effect upon the world's history.

But for such a task the leisure of a literary life is required, and as the Chancellor himself put it, the time for writing history is denied to those who make it. Nevertheless, Metternich was not blind to the great value his own intimate knowledge of the diplomatic relations which underlay the outward events of the war, the causes which led to it, and the men who took part in it, would bear for posterity. With this conviction he was moved to provide for the historian of the future the materials for his history in the best possible form, and of this inspiration the present work is the fruit.

After twenty years, the period which he himself prescribed as necessary to allow the writings he left to become ripe for the use of the literary world, the papers have been classified and published by his son. Wisely following the rule laid down by his father, Prince Richard Metternich has not attempted to write a history of his life or of the period which is identified with his name. That only is added in the way of notes which may be needed to fully illustrate the papers themselves, which, for the most part, tell their own story. In this and all respects the editor's

(1) Memoirs of Prince Metternich, Vols. I. and II. Edited by Prince Richard Metternich, 1881. New York. Harper & Bros.; Montreal, Dawson Bros. The same—Franklin Square Library.