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QUEBEC ALMANACK,

FOR
1839.
PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

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Common Notes and Calendar; Civil Register,—comprising the Administrator of the Government, Executive and Special Councils, and Officers of Departments; Public Officers, &c.; Legal Register;—Courts of Justice in Lower Canada, Commissioners' Court, Court Martial, Law Officers of the Crown, &c.; Justices of the Peace; Advocates; Land Surveyors; Physicians and Surgeons; Quebec Medical Board; Apothecaries; Officers of the Customs; Quebec Trinity House; General Post Office; Clergy of the Church of England, in Upper and Lower Canada; Clergy of the Church of Scotland, in Upper and Lower Canada; Catholic Clergy in Lower Canada; Wesleyan Ministers in Lower Canada; Congregational Church, Quebec; Public and Charitable Institutions in the City of Quebec; Military Registers,—comprising the Commander in Chief of the Forces, General Officers serving in Canada, Military Secretary's Office, Adjutant General's Department, Quarter Master General's Department, Staff of the Garrison of Quebec, Ordnance Establishment in Quebec, Barrack Department, Royal Engineer Department, Royal Engineers—Civil Department, Commissariat Department, Medical Department, Chaplains to the Forces, and acting Chaplains to the Forces, Town Majors, Fort Adjutants, Indian Department, Officers of the Quebec Cavalry, Officers of the Royal Quebec Volunteer Artillery, Officers of the Quebec Queen's Volunteers, Officers of the Quebec Light Infantry, Officers of the Royal Quebec Artillery, Officers of the Queen's Own Light Infantry, Officers of the Engineer Rifle Corps, &c. &c. &c.

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BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY,

No. 1, PRINCE STREET, BANK, QUEBEC.

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THE real and substantial advantages afforded to the Public by well-regulated Establishments for the Assurance of Lives, and the sound basis on which these institutions are founded, are proved, indisputably, by their complete and continued success, and by the remarkable fact, that in no one instance have they ever failed in their engagements, in consequence of an exhaustion of the Funds provided to meet the claims. So desirous and so anxious are the benefiters resulting from the system of Life Assurance in general, both in regard to the Provision it affords to Families in the event of pre-

mature death, and the Security it gives to Creditors for debts otherwise irrecoverable, that with every increase of information and intelligence, there appears to be excited, on the part of the Public, an increased desire to participate in its protective advantages. No sound and unerring also are the principles on which Life Assurance Companies are based, that neither commercial difficulties and distrust on the one hand, nor pestilential maladies on the other, have ever yet affected their stability or impeded their successful progress.

ASSURANCES MAY EITHER BE EFFECTED BY PARTIES ON THEIR OWN LIVES, OR BY PARTIES INTERESTED THEREIN ON THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

The effect of an Assurance on a person's own life is to create at once a Property in Reversion, which can in no other manner be realized. Take, for instance, the case of a person of the age of Thirty, who by the payment of £5 3s. 6d. can become at once possessed of a bequeathable property amounting to £1000, subject only to the condition of his continuing the same payment quarterly during the remainder of his life—a condition which may be fulfilled by the mere saving of twenty shillings weekly in his expenditures. Thus, by the creation of a very slight debt of economy—such, indeed, as can scarcely be felt as an inconvenience, he may at once realize a capital of £1000, which he can bequeath or dispose of in any way he may think proper.

Assurances may be advantageously effected on the lives of others, either for the purpose of securing loans or debts, or in any case where the party has an interest in the life of another, so as to be in any way prejudiced in the event of his decease. To create a Policy of Assurance affords a certain, and in many cases the only means of security. The debtor is too frequently unable to pay the premium for an Assurance on his life; and the creditor, to whom security is the main object to be regarded, may make the payment of such Premium the condition of his forbearance in not insisting upon the immediate payment of his demand. In the same manner the circumstances and prospects of a borrower, and the nature of the security he has to offer, are frequently such as to render it absolutely necessary for an Assurance to be effected on his life, in order to enable the lender safely to advance the amount required.

In addition to the published rates, an extensive set of Tables has been computed for Assurances; also for Reversionary Annuities, Endowments for Widows and Children, and for every possible contingency affecting human life, against which it may be prudent or expedient to provide.

AMONG OTHERS, THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS ON THE SYSTEM USUALLY ADOPTED, ARE RECOMMENDED TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PUBLIC:—

A Table of increasing rates of Premium on a new and remarkable plan, peculiarly advantageous in cases where Assurances are effected by way of securing loans or debts, a less immediate payment being required on a policy for the whole term of life than in any other office; and the holder having the option of paying a periodically increasing rate, or having the same assessed diminished according to an equitable scale of reduction.

Officers in the Army or Navy, engaged in active service, or residing abroad, and persons afflicted with Chronic Disorders not attended with immediate danger, assured at the least possible addition to the ordinary rates, regulated in each case by the increased nature of the risk.

Ladies and others to whom it may be inconvenient to appear at the office, will be visited at their own houses, by one of the Medical Officers.

All claims payable within ONE MONTH after proof of Death.

No proof of Births required at the time a claim is made; the Age of the Assured, being in every case admitted in the Policy, cannot, under any circumstances, be afterwards called in question. Policies effected by parties on their own lives are not renewed in case of death by duelling or the hands of Justice. In the event of suicide, if the policy be a signed to a bona fide Creditor, the sum assured will be paid without deduction; if the policy be not so assigned, the full amount of Premiums received thereon will be returned to the family of the Assured.

Policies having become forfeited in consequence of the non-payment of the annual Premiums, may be revived without the retention of a fine, at any time within twelve calendar months, on the production of satisfactory evidence relative to the state of the health of the Assured, and the payment of interest on the Premiums due.

By these and similar Regulations, many of which are peculiar to this Establishment, it is presumed that the important object has been attained of rendering a Policy of Assurance as complete an Instrument of Security as can possibly be desired.

THE Subscriber having been appointed Agent to the above Company in this City, is prepared to receive proposals—and to give the requisite information as to the mode of effecting Assurances.

Medical references.—DOCTORS MORRIS AND SWEWELL.
Quebec, 6th Jan. 1839.

Poetry.

THE MOTHER'S SACRIFICE,

BY MRS. SIGOUREY

"God sends a clouded glory."

"What shall I render thee, Father Supreme,
For thy rich gifts, and this the best of all?"
Said the young mother, as she fondly watched
Her sleeping babe. There was an answering voice
That night, in dreams:—
"Thou hast a tender flower
Upon thy breast—fed with the dew of love!
Lead me that flower. Such flowers there are in
Heaven."

But there was silence—yes, a hush so deep,
Breathless and terror-stricken, that the lip
Blanched in its trance.
"How sweetly would it swell the angel's hymn!
Yield me that harp!"

There rose a shudd'ring sob,
As if the bosom by some hidden sword
Was cleft in twain.
Morn came—a blight had found
The crimson velvet of the unfolding bud;
The harp-string rang a thrilling strain, and broke—
And that young mother lay upon the earth
In childless agony.

Again, the voice
That stirred her vision—
"He that asked of thee,
Loveth a cheerful giver." So she ceased
Her gushing eyes, and, ere the teardrop dried
Upon its fringes, smiled—and that week smite,
Like Abraham's faith, was counted righteous.

MANDRIN, THE SPANISH SMUGGLER.

Dr. Smollett mentions, in his Travels through the Continent of Europe, that he heard a great deal, on the Pyrenean frontiers of France, respecting a noted smuggler, or rather robber-captain, named Mandrin, who had lately been taken and executed for his crimes. Valencia, in Spain, was the native place of Mandrin, and also the spot where he had suffered. In passing through this city, Dr. Smollett saw the gibbet on which the smuggler died, and made some inquiries respecting him. The driver or conductor of the traveller to whom these inquiries were addressed, was a dark swarthy fellow named Joseph. "At the mention of Mandrin's name," says the traveller, "he fear started in Joseph's eye; he discharged a deep sigh, or rather groan, and told me he was his dear friend. I was a little startled at this declaration; however, I concealed my thoughts, and began to ask questions about the character and exploits of a man who had made such noise in the world.

He told me Mandrin was a native of Valencia, of mean extraction; that he had served as a soldier in the army, and afterwards acted as tax-gatherer; that at length he turned smuggler, and, by his superior qualities raised himself to the command of a formidable gang; consisting of five hundred persons, well armed with carabines and pistols. He had fifty horses for his troopers, and three hundred mules for the carriage of his merchandize. His headquarters was at Savoy, but he made incursions into Dauphine, and set the military at defiance. He maintained several bloody skirmishes with these troops, as well as with other regular detachments, and in all those actions signified himself by his courage and conduct. Coming up at our time with fifty of the soldiers, who were in quest of him, he told them very calmly he had occasion for their horses and accoutrements, and desired them to dismount. At that instant his gang appeared, and the troops complied with his request, without making the least opposition. Joseph said he was as generous as he was brave, and never molested travellers, nor did the least injury to the poor, but, on the contrary, relieved them very often. He used to oblige the gentlemen in the country to take his merchandize, his tobacco, brandy, and musins, at his own price; and in the same manner he laid open towns under contribution. When he had no merchandize, he borrowed money of them upon the credit of what he should bring when he was better provided. He was at last betrayed by a woman to a detachment of a French regiment, who went with a detachment in the night to the place where he lay in Savoy, and surprised him in a woodhouse, while his people were absent in

different parts of the country. For this intrusion, the count of France made an apology to the king of Sardinia, in whose territories he was taken. Mandrin being conveyed to Valencia, his native place, was for some time permitted to go abroad, under a strong guard, with chains upon his legs; and here he conversed freely with all sorts of people, flattering himself with the hopes of a pardon, in which, however, he was disappointed. An order came from court to bring him to his trial, when he was found guilty, and condemned to be broke on the wheel. Joseph said he drank a bottle of wine with him the night before his execution. He bore his fate with great resolution, observing that if the letter which he had written to the king, had been delivered, he certainly should have obtained his majesty's pardon. His executioner was of his own gang, who was pardoned on condition of performing this office. You know that criminals broke upon the wheel are first strangled, unless the sentence imports that they are to be broken alive. As Mandrin had not been guilty of cruelty in the course of his delinquencies, he was indulged with this favour. Speaking to his executioner whom he had formerly commanded, "Joseph," said he, "thou shalt not touch me till I am quite dead." Our driver had no sooner pronounced these words, than I was struck with a suspicion that he himself was the executioner of his friend Mandrin. On that suspicion, I exclaimed, "Ah! ah! Joseph!" The fellow blushed up to the eyes, and said, "Yes he bore the same name as I." I did not think proper to prosecute the inquiry, but did not much relish the nature of Joseph's connections. The truth is, he had very much the looks of a ruffian, though, I must own, his behaviour was very very obliging and submissive.

Though it is probable, from the source of Dr. Smollett's information, that this account is correct, it is stated in Sir Walter Scott's Diary, that Mandrin was broke alive upon the wheel. Sir Walter, speaking of the little concern which any occurrence gave him after having experienced the first great blow in his misfortunes, says, "I remember hearing that Mandrin testified some honour when he found himself bound alive upon the wheel, and saw the executioner approach with a bar of iron to break his limbs. After the second and third blow, he fell laughing, and being asked the reason by his confessor, said he laughed at his own folly, which had anticipated increased agony at every blow, when it was obvious that the first must have jarred and confounded the system of the nerves so much, as to render the succeeding blows of little consequence."

MISCELLANEOUS EXTRACTS.

Quick Travelling.—The rhapsodical wish of the homoetic lover, who is made to exclaim, "Ye Gods, annihilate both space and time!" seems in a fair way of fulfillment. The newspapers have recently given an account of a gentleman, who, quitting New-York on the 16th August, and returning to his house in Pennsylvania on the 25th September, was absent but forty days, and yet traversed a greater space in that time than was accomplished by the Israelites in their forty years' journey in the wilderness!

Sale of a City.—We learn from the Arkansas Times, that "the city Boekroe was sold a few days since for taxes." We are not informed whether the inhabitants were thrown into the bargain!

A dear Kiss.—Not long since, a woman in North Carolina shot her husband through the head, for kissing another. This was literally illustrating the language of Othello, where he talks of "lying upon a kiss."

A Chance for "New Children."—A book-seller in Salem advertises "New Children's Boots." This is somewhat like the man who advertised "Red Children's Stockings—Black Men's Leather Gloves—Plain Ladies' Fur Soles, and Mahogany Children's Chairs!"

A sick man being urged to send for a physician, replied,—"No, I wish to die a natural death."

Goldbeaters, by hammering, reduce gold to