

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEB. 26, 1870.

SUNDAY, February 20.	— <i>Sexagesima Sunday.</i> Tithes abolished in Upper Canada, 1823.
MONDAY, " 21.	—Ninety-two resolutions passed in the Canadian Parliament, 1834. Archbishop Cranmer burnt, 1556.
TUESDAY, " 22.	—George Washington born, 1732.
WEDNESDAY, " 23.	—French Revolution, 1848. Source of the Nile discovered, 1863. Cato St. Conspiracy, 1820.
THURSDAY, " 24.	— <i>St. Matthias.</i> Handel born, 1684.
FRIDAY, " 25.	—Sir Christopher Wren died, 1723. Earl Derby resigned the Premiership, 1868. Escape of Napoleon from Elba, 1815.
SATURDAY, " 26.	—Wreck of the "Birkenhead," 1852.

## THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19 1870.

The event of the week has been the opening of the third Session of the first Parliament of the Dominion of Canada. The "Speech from the Throne" does not embrace a great many topics; but those to which it does refer are of great importance.

After the usual congratulations as to the abundance of the late harvest and the general prosperity of trade—congratulations which this year are happily not empty forms, but the simple recognition of gratifying realities, it was natural that His Excellency should give the first place to the North-West question. For the first time in the history of Canada the country has been brought face to face with a difficulty having every characteristic of national importance. The very charter of our liberties, as we may call the British North America Act of 1867, depends for its continued vitality upon the completion of the scheme of British American Union therein foreshadowed; and here in the Red River rising have we been met with the first really serious obstacle towards the realization of that scheme. With the North West seeking and obtaining annexation to the neighbouring Republic, the dream of a Pacific Coast for Canadian territory would be gone forever: the idea of a British trans-American railway uniting the two oceans and offering to the Old State a really home route for its traffic with India and the East, would become an idle fiction. The question whether Canada could long resist the seductive advances of her near neighbour would force itself upon every thoughtful man's attention, and the project of establishing a "Britain in America" would be scattered to the winds. No wonder then that Ministers have framed cautious and conciliatory words for the utterance of His Excellency on the Red River *question*; and no wonder that recent advices from that region, elsewhere published, should be received with very general satisfaction throughout Canada. The tone of the speech, in strict accordance with the policy of the Government, is so friendly and fair towards the people of the Red River that there can hardly be a doubt that the policy adopted will ultimately result in bringing about a satisfactory understanding. Fresh legislation is needed, as the Act under which it was intended to have organized the Provisional Government of the Hon. Mr. McDougall, expires at the end of the present Session; and hence the importance, before the consideration of the new measure is seriously gone into, of a thorough understanding with the resident population. It is no longer a question with a "handful of French half-breeds;" the meetings recently held there show that all classes have really participated in the distrust of Canadian intentions, or at least have joined in an effort to obtain what they conceive to be their rights: and it ought now to be the duty of Canada to convince them that these rights will be scrupulously respected. It can hardly be expected, therefore, that this subject which forms the first item in the Governor's speech, will be among the first submitted to the consideration of Parliament, for Ministers must wait for the reports of their Commissioners before even framing their measure for the organization of a permanent Government in the North-West.

This will not, however, prevent discussion. The Hon. Mr. McDougall, it is said, has taken his seat on the Opposition benches. He has already announced that he has grave charges to prefer against the Government as a whole, and against individual members thereof in respect of this North West question. It is only to be hoped that these personal issues will not blind Parliament to a sense of its paramount duty to quiet, at all hazards, the disturbance and organize a Government in the territory in harmony with "the well understood wishes of the people" who are there now, and whose rights have the first claim to consideration. When that is done, the politicians may fight their battles out, but it would be a pity to jeopardize the future of the country by subordinating this great issue to any personal or party consideration.

Of the other topics alluded to in the speech it is scarcely necessary to say much. They are all quite in course. In fact Ministers could not have proposed less without being open to the imputation of shirking their manifest duty—they might have suggested more without reproach. The banking question, postponed from last session in deference to the very general feeling of hostility to the then proposed measure, will be again brought up; and this time, it is believed, in a shape that will be more satisfactory to the banking interests of Ontario, and some, if not all of the other provinces. We hope the Minister of Finance will remember that there are other people besides bankers whose interests are worth caring for. He has already shewn that he can afford to "snuff out" a certain class of brokers by dealing boldly with the silver question; and we have a hope that his banking policy, while framed so as to be more acceptable to bankers than that of his predecessor, will also guard the general interests of the public.

The allusion to the Militia law is curious. As a well-deserved compliment to the loyalty of the people, the paragraph is happily framed; but who can say whether it indicates future legislation on the subject? Queen's speeches are proverbial for their murdering of the Queen's English; and when Sir John Young was made to say "the Act respecting the Militia and the defence of the Dominion has not failed to engage my attention"—which is quite a supererogatory assertion,—it is more than probable that Ministers meant that he should have said "the operation of the Act," &c., &c.—a remark which would have been quite intelligible as giving an occasion for the vice-regal praise of a loyalty that cannot be too highly honoured.

The speech would certainly have been incomplete without the concluding paragraph in reference to Sir John Young's tour of the Provinces, and of Prince Arthur's visit to Canada. Both these events have given much pleasure to Canadians, not because of a desire for display, but because of the substantial opportunities afforded them of testifying that deep-seated loyalty to the Crown, and warm respect for all its representatives, which has grown up to be a living sentiment amongst them, because, as Sir John Young pithily says, they are "well contented with their condition and prospects, and that the wish nearest to their hearts is to avail themselves of the franchises and full powers of legislation which they possess, in order to build up, as a portion of the British Empire, institutions of their own choice, by laws of their own making." These words have the ring of the true Canadian metal—they put the theory and the practice of loyalty into a formula which is easily comprehensible.

SOME three or four months ago there was apparent a strange surface-wave on the current of British public opinion respecting the Colonial connection. Then it seemed as if the Colonies were to be sent adrift *volens volens*; that old Britannia was about to take in sail; to make her domination insular as her own geographical borders, and insignificant in power as her home territory in extent. These notions have been dissipated almost as suddenly as they were formed. When the abandonment of the Colonies came to be seriously talked about by men in high places, then the native pride of the Briton rebelled against the idea of curtailing the boundaries of an Empire in the magnitude of which he glories; workmen set about petitioning the Queen to the effect that the Colonies were a national heritage to which the overcrowded children of the parent State might resort as a means of improving their condition without casting off their allegiance. Politicians of the advanced anti-Colonial school saw that a storm was brewing, and wisely drew back from their bold speech on the subject of dismembering the Empire.

On Monday last the question of the Colonial connection came up in the House of Lords, and the following cable summary of the remarks then made will show how much the Upper Chamber values the continued attachment of the Colonies to the Empire:—

LONDON, February 14.—In the House of Lords to-day, Lord Carnarvon moved for copies of correspondence with Canada and other colonies relative to the recall of the troops. He desired that the Colonial question should have a careful consideration. He favoured a confederation of which Albion would be the centre. He commended Canada for her consistent conservatism, and deprecated the theory that colonies should be allied but independent countries.

Lord Lyttleton called attention to the prospects of New Zealand, and thought that colony was about to enter on a prosperous career.

Lord Monck explained his reasons for asking for more troops when he was Governor-General of Canada. The battle of Sadown had been fought, and, as the war was ended, the Home Government could spare men. The Fenians, who were supposed to be armed with breech-loaders, had just made a raid into Canada, and the colonies were in a panic, and clamoured for protection. Under these circumstances he was led to call for reinforcements from England. He then discussed the subject of the relations of the colonies to the mother country, and admitted generally the wisdom of colonial self-protection.

Earl Derby congratulated Earl Granville that the colonies were not to be left utterly defenceless, and that their relations with the Home Government were harmonious.

## OBITUARY.

REV. ALEX. MATHIESON, D. D.

We have this week to record the decease of the Rev. Dr. Mathieson, at the ripe age of 75. Dr. Mathieson had long been confined to a sick-bed, and the nature of his ailments was such that his death, which occurred on Monday morning, was not unexpected. The deceased was one of the shining lights of the Scotch Church in Canada, and one of the oldest ministers of that communion in this country, having been Pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Montreal, since 1826. We shall take an opportunity of giving an account of his life as soon as we can grace our gallery with a portrait of his venerable countenance.

OUR STRENGTH AND THEIR STRENGTH. THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY, &c., &c. By the Rev. E. McD. Dawson. Printed at the Ottawa Times Office, Ottawa, 1870.

We have already given our readers an idea of the varied contents of Father Dawson's book. It has now been published, and forms a neat volume of 326 pages. Besides the series of papers on the Colonial connection and on the North-West, which will be of much interest to general readers, there is a memoir of the late H. J. Friel, Esq., of Ottawa, that must be especially prized in the Ottawa country. There is an eloquent sermon on the late Mr. McTee, an entertaining review of the Canadian poetry, besides a collection of poems of the Rev. author. Altogether, from the variety of the matter the volume contains, it can hardly fail to meet with a hearty welcome from the reading public.

THE COSMOPOLITAN. A Weekly Journal of Literature and Public Opinion. Montreal. Price, \$2 per annum.

This new journalistic venture is under the able editorial management of Mr. Urquhart, and from its speciality occupies exceptional ground in the field of Canadian journalism. The *Cosmopolitan* gives choice selections from the best magazines, original literature, and a résumé of the "public opinion" of Canada by extracts from the journals treating of the leading topics of discussion. Such a publication ought to be successful, and no doubt everything possible will be done to make the *Cosmopolitan* worthy of public patronage.

The ball given by the citizens of the Capital in honour of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur came off last night at the New Music Hall, Ottawa. On Friday next the Government ball takes place in the Senate Chamber, for which preparations are being made on a magnificent scale.

## DRAMATIC.

A dramatic entertainment, under the direction of the Rev. Father Désy, was given by the pupils of the Jesuit's College, on Wednesday night, in the hall of the Gesù. The entertainment consisted of representations of Corneille's "Polyeucte" and "Le Misanthrope" of Molière. Both pieces were played with great taste, and had evidently been carefully studied by the young actors. In the first piece we noticed especially the acting of E. Rottot and L. Galarneau; the rest, R. Préfontaine, U. Beauregard, H. Chapleau, A. Valois and A. Galarneau, succeeded remarkably well. In the "Misanthrope" Pilette, Rottot and L. Galarneau were the only actors; they deserve praise for the manner in which they filled their respective rôles. As usual at these entertainments, the hall was crowded, no less than 1,000 spectators being present. The music was magnificent. Mr. Fowler's handling of the piano and Mons. Jacquard's astonishing performances on the violoncello were beyond criticism, and the efforts of the College band, assisted by a number of amateurs from the city, met with frequent and well-earned applause from the audience.

## SCIENTIFIC.

M. Van Monekhoven, who for some time past has been experimenting with a view to discovering means of photographing by artificial light, has at last succeeded in his endeavours. Last month he exhibited the result of his experiments before the French Society of Photography. His apparatus consists simply of a crystal of carbonate of magnesia exposed to the action of an oxy-hydrogen lamp until it attains a white heat. The magnesia salt, slowly decomposed by the application of heat, gives a light equal in intensity to that of the metallic magnesium, but possessing these advantages over the pure metal, that it burns without smoke, and gives a steadier light. Such a discovery must necessarily prove a great boon to the photographer, who will no longer need to depend upon a "bright day" for the success of his operations, and will, moreover, be able to pursue his study at any time. The cost of the material used by M. Monekhoven is not so great as to place it beyond the reach of men of ordinary means, so we expect to see it come into pretty general use. A lamp of this description costs on an average forty cents, an hour, and already advantage has been taken of the discovery by many of the leading Parisian photographers.

A weak solution of strychnine produces, when introduced under the skin of a frog, very characteristic phenomena, which, at the same time, are beyond any possibility of error. Dr. Harley states that the injection of one eighteen-thousandth