able paper, lately contributed to the At-

The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is print ed and published every Saturday by The Bur-LAND LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY (Limited) at their offices, 5 and 7 Blenry St., Montreal, on the following conditions: \$4.00 per annum in advance, \$4.50 it not paid strictly in advance.

All remittances and business communications to be addressed to G. B. BURLAND, General

All literary correspondence, contributions, &c., to be addressed to the Editor.
When an answer is required, stamp for return

postage must be enclosed.

City subscribers are requested to report at once to this office, either personally or by postal card, any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

NOTICE.

1880.

With the first number in January we begin the XXI. Volume of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, and have the pleasure to inform our numerous friends that we have resolved to increase our efforts toward making it more acceptable than ever. The NEWS being first and foremost a pictorial paper, the artistic department will be materially improved, current events of interest being sketched and attention paid to all important incidents abroad. Our Canadian Portrait Gallery, now considerably over three hundred, and the only series of the kind attainable in Canada, will continue to be a leading feature. No pains will be spared to make the literary character of the News equal to that of any journal in America. Original articles, stories, and poems will be contributed by several of our best writers. Different series of literary papers will also appear, chief among them being Pen Pictures of Canadian Statesmen, beginning with the Opening of Parliament, and Studies on the Literary Men of Canada, a work hitheric never attempted. The Naws being the only illustrated paper and the only purely literary weekly in the Dominion, and having taken the field early at great expense, we solicit encouragement thereto as a national institution. Our friends are respectfully requested not only to renew their own subscriptions, but to engage at least one of their neighbours or acquaintances to try the paper

OUR NEW STORY

Our readers will doubtless give us credit for our efforts to continue presenting them with original scrial stories, in pursuance of the course we have followed till now. We have the pleasure to an nounce that, with the first number of January we shall begin the publication of a new original romance, entitled

CLARA CHILLINGTON.

THE PRIDE OF THE CLIFF

A STORY OF 100 YEARS AGO,

THE REV. JAMES LANGHORNE BOXER

Rector of La Porte, Ind., U.S., formerly of Editor with Charles Dickens of All t Year Round,

EDITED BY THE REV. WILLIAM SMITHETT, D.D., of Lindsay, Ont.

The scene of this very interesting story is laid on the Kentish coast, and the characters are re-presentative of English life at the beginning of the century. The plot is full of interest, the incidents are well constructed, the tone is manly and thoroughly English, while the style is often enlivenened with racy humor. The story will run through several months, and now is the time to subscribe.

TEMPERATURE,

As observed by HEARN Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

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Dec. 0th, 1879.	Corresponding week, 1878.
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Forest Clearing II—A Narrow Escape.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

Montreal, Saturday, December 13, 1879.

THERE seems to be no truth whatever in the rumours of changes in the Dominion Cabinet. Mr. Masson has recovered his health, and all the other Ministers are busy in their Departments.

MINISTERIAL crises are the order of the day on the Continent—Spain, France and Italy are suffering from them. The late attempt on the Czar's life has put an end to all hopes of political reform for a long time to come. Altogether there is an uneasy feeling in the air.

THERE is every prospect of a regular trade between Canada and the West Indies. A pioneer steamer set out from Yarmouth, N.S., to Bermuda lately. Our trade with Jamaica has already assumed considerable proportions, and with regular steam service and low through freights from Toronto, it is believed that that trade can be greatly increased.

THE indications are that the clergy of the United States and Canada will not countenance any Irish agitation, if it assumes a merely political complexion. If Mr. PARNELL comes over, he will probably meet with less favour than he expects. It will be a different thing if succor is applied for to relieve the distress in the different portions of Ireland.

As was to be expected from such an invalid, the recent attempt on the life of the Czar has had a terribly depressing influence on the mental and physical condition of that potentate. He refuses to converse, rejects food and excludes every one from his presence save his inseparable confidants. The Empress, who is wintering at Cannes, in the South of France, is represented as being in a similarly deplerable condition. Every thing points to the conclusion that we may soon expect some startling developments at St. Petersburg.

Our cartoon this week, referring to the mission of Sir Alexander Galt to the Mother Country in connection with Canadian interests, and supplementing what we have so often written upon this subject of late, will doubtless be appreciated by our readers. We present a curious scene in Barcelona of newspaper men and students going about the streets collecting alms for the poor people who suffered from the inundations at Murcia, a sketch of which catastrophe appeared in our last issue. The sketch of the Royal Company of Archers and of Forest Clearing will be found described in separate articles. The new Khedive of Egypt, not to be behind his father, has presented the last of the obelisks which stood at Alexandria to the United States. This column is in a better state of preservation than Cleopatra's Needle donated to England. The last of the series of Algerian pictures furnished us by a Montreal gentleman who lately travelled in that country are published to-day. They represent a fine study of Algerian children and a view of the splendid palace occupied by the French Governor-General at Mustapha. Our artist closes his attendance at the recent Ministerial banquet at Ottawa by some interesting scraps connected with that event.

COMPETITION WITH CANADA.

The best proof that there is really some vitality in the new trade policy of the Dominion lies in the fact that our American neighbours are awakening to a senso of the necessity of starting competition with us. When the tariff was introduced last spring, the leading papers of the United States contented themselves with a theoretical discussion of the same—the advocates of Free Trade naturally dis-

journals faintly congratulated us on our mitation of the American system. But eight months have scarcely elapsed when we find that all these papers are beginning to realize the effect of the new policy on American exports to Canada. According as we are gradually supplying our own wants and opening out new branches of industry, the need for their manufactured goods proportionately decreases, and competition begins to loom up as the order of the day. There can be no possible objection to this, as it must result in further stimulating our energies, but it behoves us to be careful that we do not lose any of the advantages which are at present within our grasp. Our public works, more especially, should be jealously guarded, so as not to be deviated from their legitimate channel—the promotion of our own wealth and prosperity. The enormous sums that we are laying out-heavy mortgages on our future prosperity and which can only be justified on the promise of great ultimate profits-should be expended mainly for ourselves and not for others. Let us take the Pacific Railway as an example. When completed, that line will be 293 miles shorter than the Northern Pacific, with easier grades and longer curves. The whole of the traffic of our own North-West, to say nothing of a future Pacific trade, must naturally pass by that route, and if that is secured, the millions upon millions which we are expending on the railway will not be lost. But the Americans have their eyes upon us and have set up their system of competition in that direction. They propose a line extending from Ottawa to Coteau du Lac. and a bridge over the St. Lawrence and the Beanharnois Canal at that point, connecting their line with the American railways that converge at Boston and New York. We shall not stop to discuss this project in all its bearings, especially its commercial aspects, but a few reflections will not be out of place. If this road is built, it seems clear that both the Intercolonial and North Shore Railways will be shorn of most of their usefulness. Our great ocean ports will be deprived of much of their shipping business, and our merchant navy will receive a considerable check. We think that it is impossible to deny these facts, and we are certain that the Government will give them their most serious consideration. The question is not a local one, but Dominion in its broadest sense. If Montreal, Quebec, St. John and Halifax are injured, the whole country must suffer, and if the large sums spent on lines that run through the whole of this Province and of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are depreciated by a diminution of their carrying trade, it will be hard to estimate the injurious effects that must accrue to all branches of business. This is one of the most perplexing problems which the Government have to meet, and we wish them well out of it.

approving of it, while the Protectionist

RELIGIOUS UNBELIEF.

It has been frequently remarked that one of the chief characteristics of the present generation is the keen interest it phase of religious discus takes in every j sion. In the United States and England religious newspapers are uncommonly numerous and enjoy a large circulation. In the public libraries of Boston and New York the report of the officials is to the effect that, on an average, more books on different religious subjects are taken out, than novels, poems, or works of travel Even the works that mingle abstruse science or the advanced theories of natural history with religious demonstrations have a popular vogue, quite curious in connection with the fact that they cannot be understood by the majority of readers. The age is essentially one of inquiry and nowhere is this spirit of investigation so apparent as in the domain of theology or exegesis. Now the query naturally arises—is this spirit a morbid one or is it normal? Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH leans to the former appreciation. In a remark.

lantic Monthly, he announces a collapse of religious belief of a most complete and tremendous kind. He holds that, in the views of society at large, belief in Christianity as a revealed and supernatural religion is entirely giving way. According to him, science and criticism combined have destroyed the faith of free inquirers in the Mosaic Cosmogony, in the inspiration of the Bible, and the genuineness of many books of it, in large portions of the Old Testament, and in the history of the New Testament so far as it is miraculous or inseparably connected with miracles. He further declares that the mortal blow has been given by criticism in disproving or rendering uncertain the authenticity of the historical books of the New Testament. Here are very serious charges indeed, forcing one to pause and inquire whether they are true. For Mr. Goldwin Smith's talents and sincerity of intention we have the highest respect. We are beholden to him for making Canada his home and expending money, time and ability in stimulating a literary spirit among us. As an historical lecturer he has few rivals; as a master of terse English he has none. But Mr. Smith is essentially a radical and we fear we must attribute to him the innate and unconscious exaggeration of that class. He tried political radicalism in the United States and when, to his astonishment, he found the American mind much more conservative and anti-revolutionary than he expected, he left the country with a certain feeling of disgust. As we all know, he has tempered his fugue in the atmosphere of Canada, diverting his thought to other political channels, where he has given sound advice and rendered real service. But it seems that now he has entered upon new lines of thought, taking religion as his theme. With all respect, we must declare our conviction that the assertions of his, set down above, are strongly tinetured with exaggeration. Qui nimis probat, nihil probat. That our chief scientific laymen incline to infidelity or pure naturalism in their teachings is doubtless true. That many lower minds must in time be more or less leavened thereby may also be set down as indisputable. But there is a world of difference between these results and the assumption that the world at large is drifting into religious unbelief. It may be a bold thing to say, but we venture the affirmation that the majority of men can never become sceptics. And the reason is that the majority of men require belief in the supernatural as their main support through the hardships of this life. Spite of the spread of education, the majority of men cannot devote their faculties to metaphysical or moral inquiry—being too busy with the material cares of existence. But all the same they need something to sustain them and that something is simple faith. Faith may take the shape of an humble adherence to the literal interpretation of the Scriptures, as with the Orthodox Protestant or a devotion to tradition and authority, as with the Roman Catholic, but in either case it is a firm and unalterable belief in some form of divine revelation as the standard of truth and morals. Not all the philosophers and scientists can uproot this faith by all their teachings in the next hundred years. For the history of mankind is there to prove that, as has often happened before, when any combination of circumstances has arisen to shake the faith of the lowly to any appreciable extent, a reaction takes place, restoring things to their former level. Religious unbelief is a fertile subject to write about, but the vast bulk of the human race take no stock in it.

NEXT week we will give a description of the celebrated New York Weber Piano, which is now acknowledged the finest instrument in the world and used by all great musicians.

Anorner new lyric, theatre has been added ANOTHER new lyric, theatre has been added to the number of those, which already attract the music lovers of Paris. The Theatre Taithout has been rechristened the Nouveau Lyrique, and, to do honor to the new venture, the house has been entirely redecorated de fond en comble. It is now one of the daintiest and pleasantest theatres in Paris, The manager is M. Leon Vasseur, the composer of "La Timbale d'Argent,"