

said, seat a larger congregation than any other church in the city of Toronto, as, though not of an extraordinarily large area, it has a capacious gallery running all round it. The organ in this church, one of the finest instruments of the kind in Upper Canada, cost \$1,600.

FIGHT BETWEEN FRENCH PEASANTS AND BAVARIAN TROOPS.

Our illustration represents a scene that has lately been only too common along the track of the victorious Prussian armies in France. In the early days of the war, before the catastrophe of Sedan, we used to be charmed, on reading the accounts of the movements of the invading army, at the orderly and equitable manner in which the Prussian commanders made their requisitions for the necessary food and forage for the maintenance of their corps. There was no outrage, no rapine, no pillage. Everything was fairly and duly paid for, the peasantry were treated with moderation, almost with kindness, until one began to think that the advent of the invaders was, after all, rather a windfall for the peasantry, many of whom were rapidly fattening on the high prices paid by the Prussian commissariat. Now, however, "nous avons changé tout cela." The right of might is the rule, violence is the order of the day, and since the cruel episode of Bazailles the French peasantry know pretty well what to expect at the hands of the German commanders. Where food is not forthcoming a requisition in money is made; and where neither corn nor coin is to be had the unfortunate people, very often, have to pay with their lives for the miserable privilege of being breadless and penniless, and by their poverty alone being exempted from contributing to the support of their enemies. The repeated exactions of the Prussians, their insolent bearing, and their harsh treatment of non-combatants have at length roused a spirit of deep hatred and an unquenchable thirst for revenge in the breasts of the whole French people. And nowhere is this hatred so deeply implanted as among the peasantry—the class which has most suffered at the hands of the Prussians. With them murmurings at the high-handed proceedings of the Germans have given way to open violence and spirited resistance, causing many such scenes as that which we have illustrated.

THE ECLIPSE EXPEDITION.

A letter has just been received from Cadix, which summarizes the accounts obtained from most of the observers connected with the Government Eclipse Expedition. The gentlemen forming that body, on their arrival at Cadix, spent the evening of the 13th and the whole of the 14th on fixing on the most favourable sites for observation. They finally chose as their central observatory the vineyard of San Antonio, very conveniently situated some nine miles nearly due north of the Royal Observatory of San Fernando. The position of San Antonio was accurately determined by Captain Toynbee, who found it to be lat. 36 deg. 37 min. 13 sec. N., long. 24 deg. 45 min. W. of Greenwich. When the preliminary observations had been made, the instruments examined and finally adjusted by Mr. W. Ladd, and the course of observations each was to attempt agreed upon, thirteen of the observers were distributed. The rest remained at San Antonio. The fine weather of the 21st lasted but a day, and at 2 a.m. of the 22nd the clouds and rain returned. A break only came some 48 seconds after the first contact, when a distinct notch was observed on the solar disc. This break was only a change from thick clouds to thin Cir.-S., but they were enabled to observe the time of contact of the limb of the moon with several of the more remarkable solar spots. In the north the sky was partially clear, but in the south no part of the heavens was free from cloud. A very striking change of light on the landscape was noticed when little more than three-fourths of the solar disc was covered, and a chill was felt by all. The thermometer, observed by Captain Toynbee, fell 3 deg. Fah. from the commencement to totality, and rose again 1.7 deg. before the end of the eclipse. The barometer was falling rapidly all the time of the eclipse, and also afterwards, at the rate of 0.04 inch an hour. The wind was west by north true. During totality it lulled, but freshened afterwards, with very heavy rain. The moment of totality approached, and no chance remained of even a momentary break in the thin Cir.-S. that enveloped the sun, and obscured most of the southern heavens. As the crescent became thinner, the cusps were observed first to be drawn out a length of several minutes, and then blunted; the well-known Bailey beads were formed, and the corona burst forth more than 20 sec. before totality. Viewed through a telescope of very moderate dimensions, the spectacle was grand, but the Cir.-S. clouds destroyed almost all the grandeur of the effect for the naked eye. The brightest part of the corona appeared to the unassisted eye to be scarcely more than one-tenth of the sun's diameter, fading rapidly when one-fifth, but being still clearly visible at seven-eighths. Some observed two curved rays, but the general appearance was that of a diffuse light interrupted in four places distinctly, and in a fifth faintly, by dark intervals. The corona was white, and rendered faint by the clouds. The darkness was never sufficient to prevent sketching with comfort without the aid of a lamp. Venus alone was visible. Totality ended by the formation of Bailey's beads, and the corona was visible to the naked eye 15 or 16 seconds after totality. The corona was seen for 2 min. 50 sec., totality lasting less than 2 min. 10 sec. The clouds obscuring the sun appear to have almost destroyed all chance of detecting any except atmospheric polarisation. The observations with the spectroscope were also greatly interfered with by the Cir.-S., and the best instrument was rendered entirely useless. Shortly after totality the clouds thickened still more, and nothing further could be observed. The view of the eclipse obtained near Arcas is described as very magnificent; a sketch was made there by Mr. Warrington Smyth. At the American station near Xeres, there was a break in the clouds which lasted somewhat more than half of totality. But Lord Lindsay's party was the most favoured in Spain, having seen the sun through a rent in the clouds for five minutes, and this time embracing the whole of totality.

MARTIAL BEARING.—The following queer definition of martial bearing is reported by the *Delhi Gazette* as having been given by constable at Jubbulpoor not long since:—Magistrate (to constable): What leads you to suppose that these men are deserters? Constable: Their martial bearing. Magistrate: What do you mean by their martial bearing? Constable: They were very free with their money, were drunk, swore a great deal and wanted to fight. Magistrate: Is that your definition of a martial bearing? Constable: Yes, sir.

WAR INCIDENTS.

It is stated that the Municipal Council of Lyons has passed a resolution proposing that Garibaldi should be appointed a member of the French Government.

The correspondent of the *Manchester Examiner* in Paris, writing on the 27th ult., says that during that week twelve hundred soldiers had been frozen to death in the trenches.

The five German bankers who participated in the subscriptions to the French loan have been sentenced to various terms of imprisonment; Herr Guterbock to two years, Herr Kulp to nine months, Meyer and St. Goar to six, and Levita to three months in a fortress.

The German authorities have established seventy-four post-offices in Alsace since the 1st of October. These establishments employ 87 North German, 17 Bavarian, 9 Württemberg, and 8 Baden officials, 25 assistants, 58 persons formerly French letter-carriers, and 208 country postmen.

A company is formed in London for the purpose of supplying Paris with provisions, by means of an improved air-ship, which the projectors warrant to be capable of safe navigation in any weather. The project is making some stir, and respectable scientific men appear to have confidence in it. The inventor guarantees to travel, with a fair wind, forty miles an hour, and to be able to guide his packet at will.

A correspondent at Havre writes:—A female spy has been lately living at Goderville, who, having attracted the notice of the authorities by her frequent nocturnal excursions, was placed under surveillance. Shortly afterwards twelve Uhlans arrived in the town and escorted her to the Prussian headquarters. Two guns were at the same time directed on Goderville, to prevent any attempt at seizing her which might be made by the French.

French general officers complain that D'Aurelle's military capacity was paralysed by his putting himself into the hands of the Bishop of Orleans. "He not only countenanced by his presence a great deal of nonsense publicly talked by him in the cathedral, but went pottering about with him to the altars of various saints of more or less celebrity. The bishop inflicted a penance upon him, in consequence of which he remained on his knees for four consecutive hours at the altar of a saint when he should have been attending to his business, which in all conscience was pressing enough." So, at least, runs the paragraph.

The following, according to the *Patrie*, were the prices of provisions in Paris in the middle of December:—Small legs of mutton could be procured at 12f., mutton chops at 13f., and sheep's kidneys at 2f. each; geese are 40f.; turkeys, 30f.; ducks, 20f.; chickens, 15f.; dogs, 10f.; and cats, 8f. each. A pike was priced at 25f., eggs at a franc, and sausages at half a franc apiece. Butter was from 15f. to 20f., and lard 5f. the lb. Such articles as coffee, sugar, pepper, and candles had increased from 50 to 60 per cent in price; but the greatest rise seems to have been in salt, which was quoted at 13f. the lb. At the high-class restaurants poultry and butcher's meat were still obtainable, though how they and the provision-shops managed to secure the last no one appears to be aware. Of course such establishments were only patronised by the longest purses, when as much as 4f. was demanded for a mere horse steak at an ordinary restaurant. The consumption of dogs, cats, and rats was considerable; but only the first of these animals appears to be held in esteem by the genuine gourmets, although rats, in one form or another, generally occupy a place in the more varied menus.

It is almost placed beyond doubt that the Prussians are accurately informed of every move made in Paris, although General Trochu when he is about to make a grand display has the gates hermetically closed. The foreign ambulances are suspected of doing business with the enemy, as they enjoy great liberty of action. A story is told of a gentleman attached to one of those institutions, who was engaged the other day in searching for the body of a French officer, when a Prussian entered into conversation with him and ended by asking him to dinner. The ambulance gentleman declined, as it was already late, and he feared that he should be shut out, as he had not got the pass word. "Oh, it that's all that hinders you," was the rejoinder, "I'll give you the word." And to think, said the person who related this anecdote, that there are Frenchmen ready to sell their country for five francs! All the camels, bears, &c., at the Jardin des Plantes have already been eaten, and now butcher Dubois has purchased the three elephants for 27,000f., and is about to lead them to the shambles.

Mr. Gladstone attained his sixty-first birthday on December 29. Mr. Disraeli reached his sixty-fifth year on December 31.

PECULIAR CUSTOMS IN NEWFOUNDLAND.—A correspondent of the *Montreal News* sends the following pleasant gossip from St. John, N. F.:—"Curious it is to mark how the seafaring habits of the people tinge their speech. Servant men and girls are said to 'ship' when they hire for a month or six months. A fine, stout lass will ring at your hall-door and enquire whether you want to 'ship a girl,' and when a young couple are engaged they are said to be 'shipped.' A congregation will talk of 'shipping' a new clergyman. The master of the house, whatever his calling, is invariably the 'skipper.' Even parsons are 'skippers' of the church, and at their homes are inquired for under this familiar designation. The best society is called 'merchantable,' that being the term for fish of the first quality; while the lowest stratum is 'scuff' or 'dun.' Flags are in universal request. Every merchant has his flag at his storeroom or wharf; a vast number of private houses have each a flagstaff, and on holidays or occasions of rejoicing the flags are hoisted. When the schoolmaster desires to indicate that the school hour is at hand he elevates his flag, hauling down 'half-mast' when but five minutes remain, in order to quicken the steps of the loiterers. When in other lands 'holy bells would knell to church,' the 'beadle' raises, on a staff in the churchyard, a standard, on which is emblazoned the mitre and the cross. On the hill that overlooks the harbour of St. John's, mast and yards are erected, and on these the movements of approaching vessels are signalled by flags. At times these yards look like a linen draper's shop, from the quantity of cloth hanging in the wind. A very useful purpose is thus served. The merchant is made aware that his vessel is in sight, and the whole town that the mail-packet or one of Allan's steamers is approaching."

VARIETIES.

Swinburne's new volume of poems is going through the press.

Tougueneff, the famous Russian novelist, is now on a visit to England.

A new edition of the *Lanterne* has made its appearance in Paris. Rochefort is the editor.

"Say, Smith, where have you been for a week back?" "I haven't been anywhere for it. I haven't got a week back."

In a bookseller's catalogue appears the following article:—"Memoirs of Charles I., with a head capitally executed."

A writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine* says that Lord Macaulay's speeches were, like Lord Brougham's, written out beforehand, and learned by rote.

A Western editor, speaking of a rogue who lives in his vicinity, says: "The rascal has broken every bank and jail and Sabbath we had in the country for the last five years."

The Countess Guiccioli (Madame de Boissy) has completed her new work, "Lord Byron in Italy," which will contain over fifty letters from the poet hitherto unpublished.

Miss Rose Poe, the only sister of Edgar Allan Poe, is said to be entirely destitute, and is wandering, houseless and hungering, about Richmond, Virginia. She is sixty-six years of age.

A Leipzig publisher has recently issued "The Purveyors of Hell," being an historical description of the secret police system and the secret societies of all times and nations, by D. V. Kazony.

The President's verbal instructions to General Schenk are, not to accept any invitations to public dinners, nor to make public speeches after he assumes his duties as Minister to England.

The Union Bank of London, (Eng.) the employees of which have been prohibited from marrying while in receipt of a salary less than £150 per annum, has received the name of the Anti-Union Bank.

A Shakespearian grammar has just been published in England. It is described as "an attempt to illustrate some of the differences between Elizabethan and modern English." The author is E. A. Abbot, Head Master of the City of London School.

It is said that James T. Fields, late of the great publishing firm of Fields, Osgood & Co., was recently invited to join one of the oldest and best firms in London. He declined, preferring to remain editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*.

Miss E. Garrett, the well-known female M. D., and member of the London (Eng.) School Board, will shortly be married to a Mr. James G. S. Anderson, a gentleman who took an active part in her election.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* at Bordeaux states that despatches found upon a Prussian courier, arrested near the Belgian frontier, prove that Prussia is urging America to insist on the settlement of the "Alabama" claims.

The following was an advertisement in a Tennessee paper: "Lost or strayed from the scribe a shepe all over white—one leg was black and half his body—all persons shall receive five dollars to bring him. N.B.—He was a shepote."

The Milanese papers announce that Offenbach has determined to found a special theatre in Italy for comic operettas, *see ies, &c.*, and that he has succeeded in obtaining the Teatro de la Canobbiana for a period of three years.

The Lords of the Admiralty have presented to Field-Marshal Sir J. F. Burgoyne a flag, mounted on a boat-hook, both of which were saved from Her Majesty's ship "Captain," as a memento of his son, the late Captain Burgoyne, who was lost with that ill-fated vessel.

Mr. John Walker, junr., who arrived in Natal early in October, brought a report that Dr. Livingstone was at Moxambique waiting for a homeward-bound vessel. He had the news at Leydensburg in the Transvaal from Mr. Moodie, who had just returned from Delagoa Bay.

Franz Liszt has again settled in Hungary, where the title of Director-General of Music has been conferred upon him, to be exchanged from that of Director-General of the Hungarian Academy of Music, after that institution shall have been established.

The members of the Ways and Means Committee propose giving General Schenk a dinner before his departure for England. Invitations will probably be extended to Vice-President Colfax, Speaker Blaine, the members of the Finance Committee, and other leading men of both parties.

An exchange says the individuals upon whom the Jenkinses of the press have bestowed the hand and heart of Nilsson number exactly five, namely—1st, Duc de Massa; 2nd, Gustave Doré; 3rd, a young Russian count, "very rich and very deaf;" 4th, a wealthy London banker; 5th, M. Rousseau, "a French gentleman of moderate fortune."

Young men who go to see young ladies have adopted a novel method of obtaining kisses. They assert, on the authority of scientific writers, that the concussion produced by a kiss will cause the flame of a gas-jet to flicker, and easily induce the damsel to experiment in the interest of science. The first kiss or two the parties watch the flame to see it flicker, but soon become so interested in the experiments as to let it flicker if it wants to.

FUNERAL OF A BEE.—A correspondent of the *Glasgow Herald* transmits the following:—"On Sunday morning last I had the pleasure of witnessing a most interesting ceremony, which I wish to record for the benefit of your readers. While walking near Falkirk, we observed two bees issuing from one of the hives, bearing with them the defunct body of a comrade, with which they flew for the distance of twelve yards. We followed them closely, and noted the care with which they selected a convenient hole at the side of the gravel walk; the tenderness with which they committed the body, head downward, to the earth; and the solicitude with which they afterwards pushed two little stones, doubtless in memoriam. Their task being ended, they paused for about a moment, perhaps to drop over the grave of their friend a sympathizing tear, and then flew away to their hive."