

# CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEB. 24, 1872.

SUNDAY,	Feb. 18.—	First Sunday in Lent.	Martin Luther died, 1546.
MONDAY,	" 19.—	Fleet for Canada left Portsmouth, 1758. Bread Riots in Liverpool, 1855.	
TUESDAY,	" 20.—	Voltaire born, 1694. American Independence acknowledged, 1783. Joseph Hume died, 1855. Herring died, 1871.	
WEDNESDAY,	" 21.—	Ember Day. Rev. J. H. Newman born, 1801.	
THURSDAY,	" 22.—	Washington born, 1732. Sydney Smith died, 1845. Schneider died, 1871.	
FRIDAY,	" 23.—	Ember Day.	
SATURDAY,	" 24.—	St. Matthias, Ap. & M. Ember Day. Handel born, 1684. Louis Philippe abdicated, 1848.	

TEMPERATURE in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Tuesday, 6th February, 1872, observed by HEARN, HARRISON & Co., 242 Notre Dame Street.

		MAX.	MIN.	MEAN.	8 A.M.	1 P.M.	6 P.M.
W.,	Jan. 31.	18°	12°	15°	30.30	30.20	30.20
Th.,	Feb. 1.	19°	5°	12°	30.18	80.15	30.15
Fri.,	" 2.	23°	15°	19°	30.40	30.55	30.53
Sat.,	" 3.	20°	2°	11°	30.40	30.39	30.30
Su.,	" 4.	32°	15°	23° 5	29.90	29.70	29.80
Mo.,	" 5.	36° 5	24°	30° 2	30.05	30.10	30.25
Tu.,	" 6.	32°	19°	25° 5	30.10	30.01	30.04

## NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

The arrangements for transferring to local agents the total charge of our subscribers, so far as renewing and collecting subscriptions and distributing papers are concerned, not having met with general approval on the part of subscribers; and the agents having in many cases declined the responsibility, or neglected our interests, theirs, and that of our subscribers, we are obliged to revert to the former mode of distribution through Post. This need not disturb arrangements already made between any subscriber and any local news-dealer. We hope to see the sales effected by news agents increase rapidly, and desire that as much of our business as possible may be transacted through them. But we cannot overlook the complaints now made, and henceforth our subscribers will receive their papers, as formerly, through the Post. Any one who has missed any numbers since 1st of January can have them gratis on application.

*Our readers are reminded that the subscription to the NEWS is \$4.00 per annum, payable in advance; if unpaid in three months it will be charged at the rate of Five Dollars.*

*All OLD subscribers whose subscriptions are unpaid on 1st July next, will be struck off the list.*

*All NEW subscriptions received henceforward, MUST BE PAID IN ADVANCE.*

## THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1872.

We send this number of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS to all our old subscribers, including several who lately have not been receiving the paper from the local News-dealers. We are anxious to keep them all on our list, and unless this number be returned to us, we will continue sending them the paper, and will consider them subscribers for 1872. We will supply the back numbers of this year, without extra charge, to any who may not have them. We venture to say that our efforts deserve the support of all Canadians, and we even hope before long to raise the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS to the first rank among the pictorial papers of the world. Let your patronage therefore continue to encourage our arduous undertaking, and let all our friends do their utmost to send us new subscribers.

The paper will henceforth be mailed directly to each subscriber, unless positively ordered otherwise.

The subscription is now invariably payable in advance, but our old subscribers have some latitude in this respect, for the present, for the sake of "Auld Lang Syne."

Montreal, 15th February, 1872.

THE utter want of confidence in the correctness of the Government census manifested by the public had some justification in the result of the enumeration made in the little town of St. John's, E. T., where it was found that the official count was less by more than sixteen per cent. of the actual number of people living in the town. The Montreal Corporation has also ordered a census which we believe is now being taken, and which will in all probability show a still greater difference between the Government and the Corporation figures than did St. John's. Of course it would be utterly unfair to assume that the local census is correct and the Government census wrong; but it cannot be unfair to assume that,

whether right or wrong, the public have little or no faith in the official figures published or to be published in connection with the census returns.

It was a mistake to attempt at one effort to get so much information as the Government schedules required. It was little short of a crime to devise a scheme whereby the population of Quebec should be misrepresented, because upon the population of this Province, confined to sixty-five members in the House of Commons, no matter what its number, depends relatively the representation of all the other Provinces. Were we to take St. John's as an example, and further assume that the census in the other Provinces had been correctly taken, we would necessarily arrive at the conclusion that the political influence of this Province had been weakened according to the percentage of error in the St. John's census. We are rather disposed to believe, however, that the census as taken under Government instructions, if a bungle, was a pretty even one, and that the errors made in one place were pretty fairly balanced by those made in another, except in the instances previously pointed out by us wherein we shewed good presumptive grounds for the belief that the populations of both Quebec and Ontario were greatly under-estimated, especially that of Quebec.

Having last week commended the proposition to establish a Dominion Board of Health, we may now call the attention of the Minister under whose department the management of the census has been placed to the fact that the public have little or no confidence in its results; and that the time has come for the organization of a Bureau of Statistics, upon a thorough and comprehensive basis, whose reports would command the public credence. The pamphlets occasionally issued from the Finance Department in relation to the Municipalities are incomplete and too old for practical purposes. The annual report of the Minister of Agriculture has heretofore had little value, except to the printer; and the same remark may be with equal truth applied to many official publications—as witness the Bank returns in the *Official Gazette*, for a sample.

It has been suggested that the Banks should make weekly, instead of monthly, reports, and that these should be promptly published. But this is a question on which we do not at present intend to enter. The obvious need of Canada is a systematic and regular publication of statistics relating to the trade, property and population of the country, published in a form appreciable by the people, and prepared under circumstances that will command their confidence. In the matter of Municipal returns it is well-known that they are very inexact. Farms that have from sixty to eighty acres cleared are frequently entered on the assessment rolls for little more than half the amount, and in the matter of values the returns are still more erroneous, for it has sometimes happened that an unscrupulous assessor has entered a farm at a few dollars under the amount which would entitle its owner to a vote, although it was worth more than double the sum. The number of assessments at one hundred and ninety dollars, when it required two hundred to qualify the owner as a voter, used to be surprisingly large in Upper Canada. In fact, all statements of property which are originally made as a basis for taxation are generally unreliable.

It is obviously the duty of the Central Government to organise a Department of Statistics on a much more efficient plan than has ever heretofore prevailed in Canada. The decennial census, having a political as well as a statistical value, ought not to be encumbered with questions of acreage, horses, cows and pigs. It should be strictly confined to a numbering of the people where they are, and not where they might have been, had they been at home. Records of births, marriages, and deaths should be accurately kept, and annually published for the whole Dominion. If the new Minister who presides over the Statistical Department at Ottawa will reorganise it so as to render it efficient, and coax the Minister of Finance to stop the publication of the stupid pamphlets which appear generally two years behind time, under the title of Statistics, he will have rendered the country a good service. The whole matter should be managed under one departmental officer, and the figures ought to appear soon enough to have more than a mere historical value.

The Perry testimonial presented by the Citizens of Ottawa, which we illustrate on another page, is itself illustrative of the fact that misfortunes sometimes bring out the better feelings of human nature. For a period of about twenty years Mr. Perry has been Inspector for the Royal Insurance Company, and has been closely identified with almost every effort of the Montreal Fire Brigade in extinguishing fires. The citizens of Montreal will kindly appreciate the action of the people of the Ottawa country in conferring upon Mr. Perry the compliment they have given him.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### EXPEDITION AGAINST QUEBEC, 1759.

To the Editor of the "CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS."

DEAR SIR,—As the contributor of the Moncrief Manuscript, I consider it my duty to answer the communication of Dr. Anderson, President of the Literary and Historical Society, Quebec, who, it would appear, denies that the manuscript so published in your columns was written by Major Moncrief; but, on the other hand, asserts in a surprisingly confident manner, that it is, to use the doctor's own words, "simply a copy of the journal of the well-known James Thompson, senr., of Quebec, who died in 1830." All the pathetic allusions to the late Mr. Thompson I will pass over, as they are irrelevant to the issue.

What proof has Dr. Anderson brought forward in support of his claim? A foot-note which is placed between the end of the journal as handed in for publication by me and the addition which Dr. Anderson furnished in your last issue. The note which I allude to is this: "Transcribed from rough memoranda by James Thompson, junr.," and "The foregoing is not in the usual mode of my father's recitation, but is not the less authentic." But Dr. Anderson has not told that James Thompson had the good sense to erase the foot-note in red ink.

A note is therefore quoted in support of this claim which has really no existence. Supposing, however, that it is not erased, does it not prove that the journal is ended at that point, and that the additional information has not been written by the senior Thompson? There is no doubt of it. Again, the senior Thompson held no such rank as Superintendent of Military Works, as the son would lead one to believe; and on this point Dr. Anderson has most innocently brought forward very direct proof. I refer to the letter of the Military Secretary ordering some repairs to Mr. Thompson's house. Why? In consideration of his services in the *Cheque* office. A very high-sounding appointment—Superintendent of Military Works—but the Military Secretary's letter resolves it into the position of an ordinary timekeeper in the Royal Engineer Department. Dr. Anderson's assertion that the manuscript published is a copy of the one in his possession, I most earnestly and emphatically deny. The Moncrief and the Thompson manuscripts are widely different. The former is written in the old style of English, of the year 1759, whereas the latter is written in the modern style.

Since the publication of Dr. Anderson's letter, I have written to my father in Quebec, who has charge at present of the Royal Engineer's copy of the real (Moncrief) manuscript, and who, in the course of his answer, has written thus: "The manuscript in the Department is a copy of the original, bearing on the title page the name of Major Moncrief, 'an Engineer on the Expedition,' as the author of the narrative, and also his initials 'P. M.,' at the end of it, and moreover dated Quebec, 30th September, 1759. There is also a plan attached and referred to in the narrative [Dr. Anderson ought to claim this also as Thompson's! W. W. W.] which the President of the Literary and Historical Society saw in my charge. The narrative is copied from an office record in the R. E. office, Quebec, by a gentleman of strict honour and sterling integrity, and altogether incapable of committing any fraud, or falsifying any document which was to be kept as an office record. I refer to Mr. Pilkington, son of a former Inspector-General of Fortifications, and senior Draftsman in the R. E. Department, and in charge of the records. [This gentleman's certificate of its being a true copy is on the back of the document, and, I am happy to say, is not erased. W. W. W.] On the other hand, there is much doubt and uncertainty about the validity of the claim by James Thompson. Strictly speaking, there is nothing clear or well-defined about this Thompson document which was kindly lent me by the President of the Society. I compared both manuscripts carefully at my leisure, and find that the Moncrief manuscript is by no means a literal copy. There are in the Thompson manuscript over twelve hundred words additional, omitted or changed. When I have time I shall go more into detail.

I am, &c.,

CHARLES WALKER, R. E. D."

Dr. Anderson's assertion, therefore, that the two are the same *verbatim et literatim* falls to the ground.

In conclusion, I claim that James Thompson, from his connection with the Royal Engineer Department had many opportunities of seeing the Moncrief manuscript, and most probably made a copy of it in his spare moments. His son copied it and placed the note at the end of the manuscript declaring it to be his father's, but on discovering his mistake erased it. I really cannot imagine how Thompson senior was capable of keeping a daily journal, for which, from his position as a common soldier and his education, he was unfitted. How was it possible for him to become acquainted with all the minute information detailed in the manuscript, unless he occupied some important command in the expedition force? In order to make the journal tally to some degree with the account of the son, the word "engineer" on the expedition, in the opening part of the journal, has been erased in the manuscript of Thompson, and the word "volunteer" substituted. Again, the difference in dates ought to set the whole difficulty at rest. "The Moncrief manuscript is a certified copy of an original, bearing date 30th September, 1759, and the Thompson manuscript that of 1821." Dr. Anderson would be very much surprised, perhaps, were I to tell him that I could produce another manuscript in strict agreement with the one published and dated much earlier than his so-called original. The fact of Mr. Harrower having given the manuscript to Dr. Anderson does not make his case one whit the better.

Before again calling into question the authenticity of any document, I hope Dr. Anderson will have a better foundation for his attack than the quotation of erased addenda.

Apologizing for the necessary length of this communication, and the encroachment upon your valuable space,

I am, Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

W. WYMOND WALKER,  
Medical Student,  
McGill Coll. Univ.

Montreal, 12th Feb. 1872.