

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

CANADA.

Attorney General Martin, of Manitoba, has resigned.

Prince Edward Island Legislature assembled on Monday.

Sheriff Chauveau is very low at Quebec, and his recovery is considered doubtful.

Farmers in Middlesex County report fall wheat in a bad condition, and newly-seeded clover heaved.

The Imperial authorities will build a new fort at the mouth of Halifax Harbor, on Meagher's Beach.

Mr. Andrew Robertson, the well-known merchant and harbor commissioner of Montreal, is dead.

The men in the building trades at St. John, N. B., have secured the nine-hour day at the old rate of wages.

Montreal City Council has granted \$3,000 toward the erection of a statue to Maisonneuve, the city's founder.

The battle of Cut Knife Creek was celebrated on Friday night in Toronto by a gathering of representative military men.

It is understood that the Manitoba Government intends establishing a State University, with an annual endowment of \$20,000 or \$25,000.

The Allan Steamship Company has arranged that clerymen shall accompany their ships for the next three months to attend to the spiritual wants of the emigrants.

Col. G. T. Denison and Mr. Alex. McNeil, M. P., addressed an Imperial Federation meeting at Guelph on Thursday night. It was decided to form a branch of the league in the Royal City.

In the parish of Buckingham, Quebec, lives Louis Poirier, whose wife has just given birth to her twenty-first child. Madame Poirier was married at 15 and is now 39, strong and healthy.

A freight train struck the wagon of John Hazelwood, a farmer of southern Manitoba, whose team was evidently running away, and instantly killed him. He lived just north of Whitewater and leaves a widow and large family.

Applications for the land grant to heads of large families in Quebec are pouring in upon the Government of that province. Seventeen have been received from one parish alone, which has a population of only 2,600, and nearly two hundred altogether.

The Montreal Bridge Company's bill passed through the Railway Committee at Ottawa last week. The company propose to build a bridge across the St. Lawrence from L'Original to Montreal, the height to be 70 feet, with a central span of 1,300 feet.

The Bruce Assizes the grand jury said a petition had been presented to them alleging that some magistrates and county constables trumped up baseless charges and had people arrested in order to extort fees. The Judge referred them to the Attorney-General.

The Quebec bill to bridge the St. Lawrence passed the railway committee at Ottawa last week with amendments providing that the height of the bridge above the water shall be 170 feet and that the work must be commenced within three years and finished within seven years. The capital stock of the company was increased to \$3,000,000.

General Superintendent Whyte, of the western division of the C. P. R., who was in Toronto last week, expects that this will be an excellent year for the Manitoba farmers, a good season generally follows a heavy snowfall such as they have had this year. A splendid class of immigrants are coming to the country now. A large number came by the Polynesian, and on Monday morning seven carloads passed through Toronto, most of them bound for British Columbia.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Salisbury started for the Riviera on Saturday.

The Birmingham Tories have censured Lord Randolph Churchill.

Prince Albert Victor embarked at Bombay for England last week.

It is announced that a bill will be introduced in the House of Commons to abolish the office of viceroy in Ireland.

A special cable says the English press are beginning to see the gravity of the Newfoundland fisheries dispute, and are discussing it.

Mr. Gladstone, in a letter to the Windsor candidate for Parliament, says the Government feel they are floating down upon a Niagara.

Mr. Vesey Knox, Ulster Protestant and Nationalist, was on March 26th, elected to the seat in the House of Commons for the west division of county Cavan made vacant by the death of Mr. Biggar. There was no opposition.

The London Chronicle, referring to the Newfoundland dispute, advocates the buying of France out of that colony. But the Times points out that France does not want to sell, and if she did Newfoundland would not be able to pay her price.

The election in the Ayr district, to fill the vacancy in the English Commons caused by the resignation of Mr. Sinclair, Home Ruler, resulted in the election of Mr. Sumerville, Conservative, over Mr. Rutledge, Liberal, by 130 votes. This is a gain for the government.

UNITED STATES.

According to its author, the McKinley Bill will reduce the United States revenue by \$45,000,000.

A deficit of \$100,000 has been found in the accounts of the Mutual Benefit Life Association of New York.

In the New York state senate the bill providing for a prohibition amendment to the constitution has been ordered to a third reading.

Reports from Vicksburg, Miss., and other points tell of great havoc through the breaking of the levees. Whole districts are inundated.

Bradstreet's reports that the estimates of the destruction of property in Louisville, Ky., last week by the tornado, vary all the way from \$1,500,000 to \$2,500,000. Ninety-four lives were lost.

Twenty inches of snow fell at St. Louis, Mo., on Sunday and Monday night, but about half of it is melted. A points in

Southern Illinois and in Central and Southern Missouri from ten to fifteen inches fell.

Dilworth Choate, a New York World reporter who concealed himself in the room where a jury were deliberating and took notes of the proceedings, was subsequently sentenced to 30 days imprisonment and fined \$250 for criminal contempt.

The ice dealers of New York, Brooklyn and Jersey City met at New York on Monday and discussed the shortage in this year's ice crop, and decided that at present ice must cost \$5 a ton wholesale. The ice dealers also complain of Eastern speculators having bought up 75 per cent. of the ice crop and are hoarding it.

IN GENERAL.

The Spanish Chamber has adopted universal suffrage.

Forty thousand factory hands in Catalonia, Spain, are on strike.

The influenza epidemic is still raging in Australia and New Zealand.

Measures are being taken for the cooperation of German and English trades unions.

Students are rioting in St. Petersburg. Revolutionary pamphlets have been scattered through the city.

Prince Bismarck is compiling a memorial for publication, which will embrace the last 25 years of his official life.

Emin Pasha writes that an Arab at Mombassa saw the body of Dr. Peters and declared that the explorer had been murdered.

General elections were held throughout Portugal last week. The results show that the Government or peace party have a strong majority.

It is stated in Odessa official circles that an Imperial commission is likely to be appointed to enquire into the penal administration of Siberia.

A committee of the Anti-Slavery Conference, sitting in Brussels, has decided in favour of prohibiting the sale of alcohol in the African territories.

The Berlin Labour Conference closed on Saturday. England will gain nothing by the labour of the congress, which has simply adopted English labour legislation.

Leading Chinese politicians advocate the opening of Thibet to British trade and the conclusion of a defensive treaty with Great Britain. These measures, they urge, will act as a check upon Russia.

The butchers of Paris intended to make a demonstration on Saturday to intimidate the Government into relaxing their cattle regulations, but admirable police regulations kept the slaughtermen within bounds, and the procession was a very tame affair.

The Scotch Crofters.

In his report to Parliament, Deputy Minister of the Interior Department Burgess says: "Another detachment of crofters from the western Highlands and islands of Scotland arrived in Manitoba last spring, and were placed upon homestead land in the neighborhood of Salt-coats, and the present western terminus of the Manitoba North-western railway. The actual condition of these people has been the subject of a good deal of discussion and misrepresentation in the British press. To say that they are not yet particularly well fitted to make their living purely by the cultivation of the soil in a new country would not be more than the facts would warrant one in saying in regard to almost any similar number of immigrants from any part of the world who settle in a body. These people are under the disadvantage of having their experience of agriculture in the past confined to the cultivation of small crofts, with which they combined fishing. Many of the best settlements in Canada, however, have been formed by people less fitted for agricultural work, and although at first occasional disappointments and discouragements are to be expected, I see no reason to doubt that in the end the experiment will be a successful one. The colonists in this case were assisted, as were the Crofters who arrived the previous year, and who went into the Pelican Lake country, in Southern Manitoba, by advances made by the Imperial Government, which advances are to be repaid in twelve years, and are secured by liens on the homesteads of the settlers. Frequent reports have been received during the winter through the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, from the agent of the Imperial Government, who is resident among them. These reports completely refute the alleged distress existing amongst the Crofters. As might have been expected, the clothing of the immigrants was not well suited to the climate, and appeals were made in Toronto and Winnipeg to rich congregations of the Presbyterian church—to which church these people chiefly belong—to contribute articles of warm clothing for the benefit of the young and aged. This appeal, it will be satisfactory to learn, was answered promptly and liberally; and it was so far as can be learned, the sole ground for the exaggerated reports alluded to.

In the Alberta District.

Mr. J. G. Fitzgerald, of Calgary, was in Toronto last week and left for Ottawa, where he will have interviews with several of the Ministers regarding North-west affairs. During an interview Mr. Fitzgerald waxed eloquent over the fertility, beauty and prospects of Alberta. The soil was most fruitful, whether wheat, oats, barley or vegetables were to be grown, and the yield was not only much larger than anywhere else on the continent, but the weight of the grain was greater than any province of the Dominion or state of the great republic to the south could show. Sheep raising, dairy farming and stock raising were also, he said, carried on with the greatest success in the district. Mr. Fitzgerald was the originator of the C. P. R. exhibition train, and besides, has written an exhaustive pamphlet on the western territories, describing both the advantages and drawbacks of that country. His enthusiasm for the country has led him to undertake a trip to Ontario, and during the last two months he has visited the principal farming centres in this province, and laid before the agricultural population the real facts concerning the North-west. That his arguments and proofs have been effective is borne out by the reception he met from the farmers in the various market towns of the province. Mr. Fitzgerald, in concluding the interview, said that he was certain that the western country was becoming so well known that the immigration this year would be tripled, and that a further advance would be made each year in the

A Reality and a Promise.

BY THE REV. PHILLIPS BROOKS.

Philippians iii. 20-21. "For our conversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ; who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

This whole epistle is full of the experience of Paul himself. We can see the man in his eager desire that his disciples be absolutely consecrated to Christ. Here a difficulty besets every man. We ourselves have felt this difficulty besetting us. It is that we shall be drawn aside from the man to a contemplation of the experience itself, and so get to thinking of ourselves. We thus become absorbed in self, and forget our neighbor's need. You cannot make a summary of your life in a series of precepts. You must put in your own soul also. We must tell what God done for us; the story of our blessings and our experiences of the richness of his grace. St. Paul's heart glows with love for his Philippian converts.

See a verse in the next chapter, in which the words press upon one another, "Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown," then manifests itself in Christ, and then is given to the great apostle and by him imparted to the Philippian disciples, and so at last comes down to us. It was not possible for Paul's experience to have such a glow simply by looking at these disciples. It was as if his experience opened into another, and this had free course and was glorified throughout the world. Starting in the breast of God, it passed from Christ to Paul, to the Philippian Christians and on down to us.

See how Paul enlarges himself; he does not expect the Philippian Christians to be mere repetitions of himself. Christ is coming to complete the work so grandly begun. We find ourselves here in the midst of a rich and noble confusion. We think of these words as the great spiritual geography of the universe. They represent the cross and even the experience of Jesus Christ and then of Paul. Christ is represented at one moment as gone into the heavens, and the next he is right here in us. One moment the disciple is going to receive Christ, and the next he is in the world. Now he is struggling for something not yet attained, and the next moment he has leaped into the heaven with Christ and is in the presence of God, thence in spiritus places in Christ Jesus. The lines of spiritual truth thus become confused. Now Christ is in the midst of the struggles of earth, and the next he is in heaven. Only a soul with an experience like St. Paul's can understand this—a soul that is both in the world and above it. It is expecting blessing one moment, and the next receiving it. He rejoices in this seeming large confusion and in his new faith and new glow, and tumultuous expression thereof. There is one truth which is stated here again and again; if it loses itself it reappears; and it is this: The true man in the fullness of Jesus Christ has entered upon something which testifies to his own incompleteness. He is absolutely certain of it, and yet it is not all comprehended. The infiniteness of God is in possession of God, and again it is looking at something not taken possession of. There is the knowledge of something given already, of being already blessed, and a longing for something more. At the meeting point of these two conditions stands the soul. It testifies to something greater than we have already attained; a reality and a longing after infinite life; two consciousnesses, both abiding certainties.

We feel this in a degree with everything we have. We say, this is mine. There is nothing more I can do to acquire it. It is absolutely mine. But as we rise to higher things, immediately experience mingles with his little attainments? The more he attains, the more he longs for. Friendship would lose its charm if there was nothing more to learn. Everything really good has a double quality; it has more to give. The more the soul possesses the more it still to possess. Has Christianity reached its complete fulfillment in these nineteen centuries? Has man in relation to man? Has the soul attained all in Christ? Then had these things lost their value. Alas, if this were all! Alas, if this were the full manifestation of Christ? The fact of possessing certifies that something more is coming. The sense of Christ in the Church makes certain that he is yet to come, and more guidance is to be given to some. Sometimes the soul is contented, sometimes discontented, with what Christ has done for it. Here are two things playing back and forth—a future promise and a present experience. Let me read you two verses from St. Paul's great prayer, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Here we see Paul's deep consciousness of having Christ. There is pain or perplexity but Christ can explain it. Christ is here. At the centre of the soul. He comes to occupy the soul as its gracious conqueror. If our life is like St. Paul's, then for us these two things (the promise and reality) will mingle. Christ is already in the soul. Here we have a fragment of truth or a bit of comfort; but, oh, how much is coming to my soul! Now we have little strength, just enough for duty; but then how much more strength when Christ is fully come. I am expectant, and lo! Christ is with me. But I could not expect him if he was not already there. Ah, sometimes he comes with comfort to your soul. God will not leave you in your destitute condition. That cry testifies that Christ is there. The soul that wishes to be stronger, holier and purer here obtains something of his strength, holiness and purity. My brother is living an imperfect, poor life. He is weak, a slave to some bad habit. Let me give great value to every struggle on his part. It shows Christ is in him and will take possession. He will make the longing soul his own likeness.

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THE HUMAN EYE.

What That Organ Has Been and What It May Become.

Science gives us interesting details about what the human eye has been and what it may become. The Vedas of India, which are the most ancient written documents, attest that at times most remote but still recorded in history only two colors were known—black and red. A very long time elapsed before the eye could perceive the color yellow, and a still longer time before green could be distinguished; and it is remarkable that in the most ancient language the term which designated yellow insensibly passed to the signification of green. The Greeks had, according to the generally received opinion, the perception of colors very highly developed, and yet authors of a more recent date assure us that in the time of Alexander the Great the Greek painters knew but four colors, viz., white, black, red, and yellow.

The words to designate blue and violet were wanting to the Greeks in the most ancient times of their history, they calling these colors gray and black. It is thus the colors in the rainbow were only distinguished gradually, and the great Aristotle only knew four of them. It is a well-known fact that when the colors of the prism are photographed there remains outside the limit of the blue and violet in the spectrum a distinct impression which our eyes do not recognize as a color. Physiologists tell us that it is reasonable to suppose that as the color organ becomes more highly developed, and even before the human eye becomes perfect, this outside band will evolve into a color perfectly discernible.

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