

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY,
APRIL 27, 1872.

SUNDAY,	April 21.—Third Sunday after Easter.
MONDAY,	" 22.—Odessa bombarded, 1854.
TUESDAY,	" 23.—St. George, Shakespeare died, 1616. Wordsworth died, 1850.
WEDNESDAY,	" 24.—Daniel Defoe died, 1731. Earl Cathcart Governor-General, 1846.
THURSDAY,	" 25.—St. Mark, Er. & M. Cromwell born, 1560. Tasso died, 1586.
FRIDAY,	" 26.—Magellan killed, 1521. David Hume born, 1711. Niebuhr died, 1815. Riots in Montreal, 1849.
SATURDAY,	" 27.—Gibbon born, 1737. Battle of York (Toronto), 1813. Thalberg died, 1871.

TEMPERATURE in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Tuesday, 16th April, 1872, observed by HEARN, HARRISON & Co., 242 & 244 Notre Dame Street.

	W.	Th.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	S.A.M.	P.M.	S.P.M.
April 10.	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	21.66	20.65	20.70
" 11.	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	21.66	20.65	20.70
" 12.	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	21.66	20.65	20.70
" 13.	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	21.66	20.65	20.70
" 14.	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	21.66	20.65	20.70
" 15.	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	21.66	20.65	20.70
" 16.	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	47°	21.66	20.65	20.70

Our readers are reminded that the subscription to the NEWS is \$4.00 per annum, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

All unpaid subscribers will be struck off the list on the 1st July next, and their accounts [at the rate of \$5.00 per annum] placed in our attorneys' hands for collection.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1872.

In a former number we had occasion to allude, at some length, to the very unsatisfactory condition of our Patent Laws. The subject is still exciting much interest on both sides of the line. The Americans threaten to close the laws against Canadians; and, in fact, it is said that the day from which this exclusive policy will date, has already been fixed. Be this as it may, there is no doubt that our neighbours are exceedingly irate, and with good cause, at our meanness (the word is their own) in the matter. Inventors cry out bitterly at the restrictions under which they are placed when they wish to protect their inventions in Canada; and the Press never tires of comparing the liberal provisions of the United States law with the unwise and illiberal spirit of the Canadian law.

In the report of the Commissioner of Patents at Washington, published last January, allusion is made to the disadvantageous position of American inventors in Canada, and the Commissioner suggests that representations be made to the Government at Ottawa with a view to the repeal of the present illiberal law, and the enactment of a measure placing American patentees on the same footing in Canada as that held by Canadians in the States. Speaking of section 24 in the Patent Act of the 5th July, 1870, which gives to citizens of all countries the same rights and privileges before the Patent Office as are granted to citizens of the United States, he says:

"The spirit of this section is praiseworthy, and, to the citizens of countries whose governments reciprocate with similar favours, it is unquestionably just. In other cases, however, the wisdom of this provision is by no means clear. Citizens of the Dominion of Canada, under our general law, can obtain patents here on precisely the same terms as citizens of the United States, while the latter must have resided in Canada one year before they can apply for patents at the Canadian office.

"The effect of this law, practically, is to exclude all citizens of the United States from obtaining patents in Canada, and often the result is disastrous to our inventors.

"It has been suggested in various quarters that, with a view to furnishing the Canadian Government a motive for modifying their practically prohibitory law, our own law should be so amended as to limit the rights, granted by the section above referred to, to the citizens of such foreign countries as accord to the citizens of the United States the same protection as is granted to their own citizens. I think, however, that the wiser course may be to open correspondence with the Canadian authorities through the proper diplomatic channels, with a view to representing the nature of the injustice to which our inventors are now subjected; and it is hoped that, when the matter is thus brought home to the attention of the Canadian people, the proper remedy will at once be applied. I withhold any special recommendation in the premises to await the result of such correspondence."

The *Scientific American*, which may be taken as the American authority on all matters relating to patents, in reviewing the Commissioner's Report, comments very severely, almost savagely, in fact, on the Canadian policy, and utterly refuses to believe in the efficacy of any representations made to the Canadian Government. It says:—

"As to the Canadians, the Commissioner's eye-teeth are evidently not yet cut. Our neighbours are permitted to come here and take patents at the same rate as our own citizens, but Americans are practically prohibited from obtaining

patents in Canada. The object of this prohibition is to encourage Canadians in the piracy of American inventions, an art in which they have, by years of experience, become adepts. The thing works well for Canada. All our best inventions are quickly picked up, taken over the border, and put into use, without any compensation to the inventor. In some cases, our improved machines are run in Canada and the product sent here to market.

"To remedy this, Commissioner Leggett recommends that correspondence be opened with the Canadian authorities, in the hope of securing a modification of their law. But the Commissioner might as well talk to the wind. Canadian meanness in respect to patents is too deep for cure. They have been written to and expostulated with, for the past twenty-five years, on this subject. Every year some honest minded member introduces a bill in Parliament to reform the matter; but when it comes to the vote, it is invariably defeated. The most flourishing part of Canadian manufactures is derived, directly or indirectly, from piracy of American improvements; and, as long as it pays well, our neighbours are not going to be such fools as to give it up."

This is harsh language, but it can hardly be said to be undeserved. We do not quite agree with the extraordinary statement as to the object of the Canadian prohibition. It is true there may be men scoundrels enough to steal an American invention and patent it in Canada as their own, but if there be any such they certainly deserve to be pilloried. It is, however, a remarkably bold assertion to make, that the object of the prohibition is to encourage Canadians in theft. We cannot believe that our law-givers have fallen so low as this would imply. And apropos of theft we recommend our cousins to look at home. In the absence of a proper copyright law, piracy is an art not quite unknown in American literary circles, and one in which Americans, to use the words of the writer in the *Scientific American*, "have, by years of experience, become adepts."

We are glad to see that steps are being taken to urge upon the Government the necessity of repealing the present unjust and illiberal Patent Laws, in order to preserve the privileges now enjoyed by Canadians on the other side of the line. The movement has our sincerest wishes for its success, and we trust that this session something will be done to free Canadians from these charges of "meanness" and "piracy," and to prevent the exclusion from the American market with which our inventors are now threatened.

INFORMATION FOR EMIGRANTS.—The Dominion Government has issued a sheet of carefully compiled information for the guidance of emigrants, which will be found invaluable to all proposing to settle in Canada. A full account is given of the geographical position and resources of the country, to which are appended some Statistics of the Dominion, together with Reports of Emigration Agents, and directions to intending emigrants. The different trans-Atlantic routes are shown on a map.

THANKSGIVING DAY.—Monday last having been appointed a Day of Thanksgiving for the recovery of the Prince of Wales, was very generally observed throughout the country. In most of the cities and larger towns the shops were closed and special services were held in the churches.

FOOD VALUES.

Dr. James C. Jackson, Principal of the "Home on the Hill-side," at Danville, N. Y., publishes this:

With us, as a people, bread and meat constitute the staff of our life, being eminently the staples of our food. Of the grain used, wheat ranks all the other grains in quantity used, as it does all of them in natural fitness. According to Liebig, Bousingault, and other chemists, 157 parts of wheat are equal to 111 parts of rye, 117 of oats, 130 of barley, 138 of Indian corn, 177 of rice, 838 of potatoes, and 1,335 of turnips. In making bread out of wheat after the form or manner which with us is almost universal, certainly quite common, we greatly deteriorate it, inasmuch as to make it less nutritious than it might be; but not only so, we make it noxious, thus disturbing those who eat in many instances, by causing severe irritation of their gastric nerves. In preparing wheat for cooking, the uniform practice is to separate the bran from the flour. When this is done, an analysis of these will show the harm of bolting. The principal solid constituents of the human body are fat, bone and muscle. I offer the following condensation of facts taken from a statement of a scientific gentleman, correspondent of one of the ablest and oldest papers in the State of New York:

1. *The Fat*.—Of this ingredient, 1,000 lbs. of whole grain contributed 38 lbs.; fine flour, 20 lbs.; bran, 60 lbs.

So that the bran is much richer in furnishing the materials of fat than the interior portion of the grain, and the whole grain ground together is richer than the finer part of the flour, in proportion to nearly one-half.

2. *The Muscular Matter*.—One thousand pounds of whole grain, and of the fine flour, contain of muscular matter respectively—whole grain, 156 lbs.; fine flour, 130 lbs.

So that the material out of which the animal muscle is to be formed, the whole meal of wheat contains one-fifth more than the finest flour. For maintaining muscular strength, therefore, it must be more valuable in an equal proportion.

3. *Bone Material and Saline Matter*.—One thousand pounds of bran, whole-meal, and fine flour, contain respectively—bran, 700 lbs.; whole-meal, 170 lbs.; fine flour, 69 lbs.

So that in regard to that important part of our food necessary to all living animals, but especially to the young during their growth, the whole-meal is three times more nourishing than the fine flour.

Taking the three essential elements of a nutritive food thus existing in wheat, and comparing their respective amounts in the whole-meal and in fine flour, we find that, on the whole, the former is one-half more valuable for fulfilling all the purposes of nutrition than the fine flour. "It will not be denied," says Professor Johnson, "that it is for a wise purpose that the Deity has so immediately associated in the grain the several substances which are necessary for the complete nutrition as animal bodies. The above considerations show how unwise we are in attempting to undo this natural collection of materials. To please the eye and the palate, to sift out a less generally nutritive food, and to make up for what we have recourse to animal food of various descriptions. It is interesting to remark, even in apparently small things, how all nature is full of compensating processes."

A report has obtained circulation, that a Geneva Professor has discovered an immense comet, which from its direction must collide with the earth on the 12th of August next. It is also stated that many weak minded people, both in this country and Europe, are very much alarmed at the announcement. So far from such an event being unwelcome to scientific men, nothing could be more acceptable to them than to have a large comet approach near enough to the earth to switch its tail in the face of mankind, for no such body (save Encke's, a very small and distant one) has made its appearance in the heavens since the great value of the spectroscopic in the determination of the constitution of such wandering bodies, was fully understood. The next comet which does approach very near the earth will be closely scanned, and will enable science to determine, with great precision, in regard to its physical characteristics.

As to any harm being apprehended from any such source, there is little need for fear. It has been quite fully determined that the most of them at least are comparatively harmless bodies—nothing in fact but huge "gas-bags" scarcely more tangible than the streak of light sent out into space by a lantern on a dark, foggy evening. There is little doubt but that the earth has passed through the tails of at least two comets within the last forty years, without knowing it at the time—the phenomena attending the passage having, in both cases, been attributed, at the time of the passage, to some peculiar atmospheric phenomena. The first one, about 1837, is well remembered by the writer. The atmosphere over nearly, or all this continent was aglow with a red lurid light, which caused alarms of fire in various parts of the country—the atmosphere having the appearance given by the reflection of a fire at a great distance on a slightly foggy night. The continuance of the phenomena was observed for several hours.

The greatest cataract in the world is the Falls of Niagara, where the water from the great upper lakes forms a river of three-quarters of a mile in width, and then, being suddenly contracted, plunges over the rocks in two columns, to the depth of one hundred and seventy feet.

The greatest cave in the world is the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, where any one can make a voyage on the waters of a subterranean river, and catch fish without eyes.

The greatest river in the world is the Mississippi, 4,100 miles long.

The largest valley in the world is the valley of the Mississippi. It contains 500,000 square miles, and is one of the most fertile and profitable regions of the globe.

The largest lake in the world is Lake Superior, which is truly an inland sea, being four hundred and thirty miles long and one thousand feet deep.

The longest railroad in the world is the Pacific Railroad, which is over three thousand miles in length.

The greatest natural bridge in the world is the natural bridge over Cedar Creek, in Virginia. It extends across a chasm eighty feet in width, and two hundred and fifty feet deep, at the bottom of which the creek flows.

The greatest mass of solid iron in the world is the great iron mountain in Missouri. It is 350 feet high and two miles in circuit.

The largest deposits of anthracite coal in the world are in Pennsylvania, the mines of which supply the market with millions of tons annually, and appear to be inexhaustible.

A lady, writing to her father, described the loss of a favourite cow as follows:—

"Yesterday poor Dolly strayed from the pasture, and unfortunately selecting the railroad track for the route of her lawless liberty, was caught by the late afternoon train from the north, and left in nearly equal portions on either side of the track."

To which the father promptly and succinctly replied:

"Apropos of your cow, see Genesis xv. 17."

Consulting Genesis according to this direction, she read: "And it came to pass, that when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces."

A friend has given in *Notes and Queries* the following quaint lines, which he learned, from a jolly mason, many years ago, to troll out to a fine Bacchanalian melody:

An ape, a lion, a fox, and an ass,
Resemble the ages of man in a glass;
Nimble as apes till twenty and one,
Bold as a lion till forty be gone,
Crafty as foxes till threescore and ten,
Then they become asses, and are no more men.

A High Church ritualist in the vicinity of New York ordered a richly embroidered clerical dress to be made in another city, as an Easter present to a rector, the work to be marked "C. O. D.," and forwarded when completed. The vestments came last week, as directed, but judge of the horror of the donor at finding the business ecclésiastiques C. O. D. elegantly worked into the ecclesiastical vestment.

An exchange, describing a fashionable party, speaks of a gallant who whispered to a lady and "took her apart;" and ungraciously adds that "it is a very difficult feat to take a lady apart, these times; but then there is very little left of her afterward."

The last subject discussed by the Virginian Debating Society was, "If you had to have a boil, where would you prefer to have it?" The unanimous decision of the members was, "On some other fellow."