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TEMPERATURE

as observed by HARRIS & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Nov. 19, 1881.

THE WEEK.

THE ignorance of art critics, or rather of the multitude of unlearned who ape the title, is matter of marvel the world over. But Canadian newspapers have we should suppose a monopoly of this kind of thing, which we clip from a leading journal of the Maritime Provinces: "Mr. M., in these studies has adopted the modern English style of water colour work, which employs mixtures of white paint to express what was formerly and tediously produced by working around the white surface background. In this way, though much care in the mixing of the paints is required, a skilful wielder of the brush may avoid the hard stiff edges and furrows of paint formed by the rapidly drying colors, which detract so much from the smoothness and finish of water colour sketching." Comment upon such absolute rubbish is impossible. We can only gasp feebly before the audacity of the man who can sit down and talk in this way without, as we may believe, intending to pose as a satirist, or practising for admission to a lunatic asylum. But our critic is not content even with the above need of praise to Mr. M., who, if he be really an artist, must exclaim with many others, "Save me from my friends!" "Some of his water color sketches," he cries exultingly, "might well be taken for oil, so smoothly have the gradations of distance and light tints been brought out." What would the Institute of Painters in Water Colors say to this, think you? After all the years spent in bringing water color painting to the perfection which it has attained to-day, the highest praise which our Canadian critic can afford a votary of the art is to say that his work "might almost be taken for oil."

ALL this is no less serious than laughable. When will Canadian journals learn to employ none but competent critics in all branches of art, or if they cannot afford the services of such men, to hold their tongues on subjects with which they have no acquaintance. Here in this city of ours, which is daily growing, in spite of the papers, to a knowledge of what is good in Art—in painting, in music, in the drama—here in spite of the enlightenment of the public, the critics still wallow in ignorance far behind those whom they profess to lead. We can count on the fingers of one hand the newspaper critics with even an elementary knowledge of the subjects on which they write, while it would take a calculating machine to reckon up

the articles of the style of our specimen, which appear even in our leading dailies. It is this sort of thing which as much, or more, than any other drags us back, artistically speaking, in Canada. It is the skid upon the wheel of Art progress, which counteracts the efforts of true Art criticism and true Art work the country over. Art is in a critical position to-day in Canada. We are striving after the light, and we look to the press to hold it to us. Woe to those who substitute for the lamp of learning and culture the ignis fatuus of ignorance and conceit.

AND while we are on the subject, here is a gem worth recording, as embodying a comprehensive criticism in the choicest flowers of diction. This of the frontispiece of a popular periodical: "It is really exquisite. There is a combination of life in its full vitality and its profound repose." We are prepared to offer a handsome prize to any of our readers who will send us the solution of this before the first of January next. Communications to be addressed to the Puzzle Editor, and no translation to occupy more than two pages of foolscap. Write on one side of the paper only.

THE stage has been put to various uses in its day, but the ingenious idea of utilizing a theatrical performance as an alternative for a night's lodging appears to have first occurred to the Mayor of Swansea on the occasion of the Prince of Wales' recent visit to that town. The number of visitors to witness the opening of the docks was so great that a large number were unable to find accommodation for the night, and would have been left out in the cold but for the ingenious idea of the Mayor, who, after the usual performance at the theatre was over royally ordered a second to go on all night, in order to provide shelter for the unhappy waifs. The idea was at least original, and strikingly successful.

THE "Grand Duchess of Gerolstein," alias Mdlle. Hortense Schneider has not it seems obtained the full terms of her marriage contract. M. le Comte de Bionne, so called, is neither a count, nor even, it would seem, a de. The Henri IV. is down upon him in common with a host of other bearers of titles to which they have no claim. This journal has of late devoted itself to the very desirable task of unmasking all such titled impostors, and *le dit* M. le Comte is one of the first to fall. Poor Hortense! We can only hope that M. Bionne may prove an exemplary husband in other respects.

ENGLISH sportsmen are beginning to cry out against the unsportsmanlike practice of making large presents to jockeys, which has been brought into fashion by a prominent American plunger. The inference of course is that some return is made in the way of information to which he has no right. In any case the practice of "tipping" other people's servants is objectionable in principle, and, in the case of the turf, most dangerous in practice.

IN spite of the theory which has been lately promulgated that Cambridge is growing in numbers at the expense of the sister university, the October returns of matriculation at Oxford show a large increase upon last year. The total number admitted, as given in the *World*, was 545, against 469 last year, while the returns were not quite full, though the omissions were unimportant.

NEW YORK is awakening to the fact that the lager supplied to her thirsty citizens is not all that it should be. Without meddling at all with temperance matters we may consistently argue that good beer is superior to bad, and prefer the beer made in St. Louis or Cincinnati to that which is supplied to patrons of the popular beverage in New York. And now the

murder is out. The revenue officers have unfathomed the mystery. They find there is scarcely any honest beer made in New York. On overhauling the books of the principal brewers, it was discovered that the materials used were glucose, grape-sugar, rice-spirit and corn, but very little malt was employed. This stuff is fortified by some powerful drug which chemistry cannot detect, as it fails in its analysis of vegetable poisons. In Germany, New York lager would be promptly seized by the police and poured into the gutter.

THIS question of adulteration of intoxicating drinks is one over which the fiercest war will have to be waged before the so-called temperance question is decided. If non-abstaining societies would set themselves in the first instance to war against the poisons introduced into the liquor trade they would do far more service than by unreasoning opposition to the use of liquor good and bad. The effect of the prohibition of the liquor traffic in several of the States has been to produce a large increase of adulteration. Here, in Canada, much of the liquor sold is absolute poison. Such horrible ingredients as lye even are introduced to give a "bite" to well watered alcohol. Whiskey *per se* may or may not be a desirable beverage, but lye and water is a deadly poison. For ourselves we believe in encouraging the sale of malt liquors, placing a prohibition duty upon alcohol, and making adulteration a felony in law.

WITH Archbishop McHale a historic name has passed away. In his ninety-second year the ablest and most respected of the Irish prelates has gone to his rest in the fulness of age and honors. He was a boy when Humbert landed at Killala and the Irish of the west flocked to his standard, among them perhaps some of his own relatives. He was a student when Robert Emmet swung from the scaffold, but he was a man full of vigor and intellect when he assisted O'Connell to gain emancipation, and earned from him the title of the Lion of the Fold of Judah. The late Archbishop was one of the few Irish scholars of the century and won for himself a place in literature as well as history, as the translator of Moore's Irish melodies, as well as the author of an Irish dictionary and an Irish grammar. His loss will be deeply felt, and his memory will claim the respect of all men and the gratitude above all of his fellow countrymen.

THE MONTREAL ENGINEERS.

Our illustration represents a few incidents in connection with the annual inspection on St. Helen's Island, last September. As very little is known about this branch of the Canadian Militia, it may be as well to give a brief description of the existing corps. There are now virtually only four engineer companies in the Dominion stationed at Montreal, St. John, N.B., Brighton, and Charlottetown, N.S., respectively; the late Toronto company under command of Lieut. Col. Scoble having been disbanded at that officer's resignation in August last owing to the lack of encouragement given by the Government to his corps, and to the engineer force in general. The Toronto Company, or 2nd District Engineers had been in existence since 1872, and by the strenuous exertions of its Colonel had year by year added to, and improved its equipment, until at the date of its disbandment it held the position of best equipped and organized Company in Canada, and its loss will be keenly felt on that account. The Brighton (N.S.) Company we believe have passed a very creditable inspection this year, the Inspecting Officer having expressed himself highly pleased with their efficiency. The St. John and Charlottetown Corps have yet to commence the rudiments of military engineering.

The Montreal Company dates its existence from December 1861, and is therefore, the senior company, and has seen active service on two occasions, having taken part in the repulse of both the Fenian raids of '66 and '70, in both of which it rendered valuable service as an engineer corps. The Commanding Officer Major Kennedy has been connected with the Company since its organization, and is one of the oldest volunteer Officers in Montreal holding his present rank. It is to his energy and perseverance that the Company is in existence at the present day.

The following is a short report of their inspection.

The Montreal Engineers assembled in their Armory on Saturday morning the 3rd of September, under Command of Major Kennedy, and

proceeded to St. Helen's Island where the annual inspection was held in the afternoon. The morning on the island was spent in completing the extensive preparations which had been made for several months past, our illustration representing the different details. At half-past two, Major Walker R. E. of the R. M. C. Kingston, who was the Inspecting Officer arrived on the island accompanied by Lieut. Col. Strawbenzie D. A. G. The usual infantry movements having been performed, the corps paraded on their working ground in undress uniform, where the Sergeants were questioned on the construction and stability of the double-lock bridge, which had been thrown across the moat at the old barracks, a distance of some sixty feet. The bridge as constructed had the appearance of a durable military structure, the strength of which was tested by the men marching over it; a high but well deserved compliment being paid by one of the Inspecting Officers remarking that in his opinion it was the best piece of military engineering he had seen in the Dominion. In our sketch we show the early stages of its construction.

The men were severely questioned on the different earthworks thrown up, a few of which we have sketched, such as the shelter trenches, and double sap, the answers to which were very creditable, showing a fair efficiency from the sappers. The fascines, gabions and other brushwood were inspected and a satisfactory knowledge shown of their construction. A barrel-piercing squad were put through the exercise on the river's bank, and two barrel-piers formed, which were lashed together to make a raft, used in river bridging. This is the center sketch of our illustration. Tracing a four gun battery and signalling two messages at a distance of some two hundred yards brought the inspection to a close when Major Walker addressed the men stating plainly he was much pleased at their efficiency.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

OUR front page this week is occupied by the beautiful head of Dorothea by Frank Hamley, which may well take its place among the types of beauty which we have presented to our readers during the year.

VACCINATION IN JERSEY CITY.—Compulsory vaccination meets with less opposition in this continent than abroad. The people, poor and rich alike, have had so many opportunities for witnessing the preventive labors of State and Municipal Boards of Health, that if vaccination were not forced upon the dwellers in rockeries and tenements there would be a louder cry in favor of the sanitary precaution than there is ever heard by reason of its enforcement. In England and Germany the vaccination has been waged as hotly as the vivisection scheme, and at home we find in isolated cases an indisposition on the part of parents to permit the vaccination of their children. But it may be said that the great mass of poor people and those whose domiciles and modes of life render them peculiarly susceptible to contagious diseases submit with passably good grace to the Health Inspector's lancet and vaccine.

During the past Summer and Fall there has been a prevalence of zymotic disorders in New York and neighboring cities, and if not met with some species of compulsory treatment might have terminated in an epidemic. Small-pox has found many victims in New York and Jersey City, while scarlet fever, diphtheria and typhoid pneumonia have been marked features of a low sanitary condition in those cities and Newark during the intensely hot weather and the drought that succeeded. Without entering into the question of the right of a city to compel vaccination, it may be assumed that the exercise of compulsion as a method of sanitary precaution has confined contagious diseases within bounds that our health officers could readily control. If, with its very complex population, and the hundreds of thousands of strangers passing through or stopping over in the city, compulsion has saved Jersey from an epidemic, the masses will be satisfied; and they will also be willing to leave the medico-legal phase of the subject to the consideration of those who are seldom exposed to the dangers of low sanitation.

WE continue our illustrations of Quebec in 1791. The one given this week is engraved from the photograph of an old steel engraving of that date, and represents the view at the Bishop's palace looking up the hill, the obverse of that of the same building given in a recent number.

FALLS OF THE MUICK.—The Tourist is in Scotland just now, as well as in many other countries, roving about in search of that wholesome refreshment, for mind and body, which comes of free and leisurely travelling, in fine weather, through scenes of natural or historical interest. Deeside, in Aberdeenshire, the Queen's favourite Autumn residence, will be sure, as usual to attract many visitors during this season. The local head-quarters, it is well known, are in the convenient little town of Ballater, little more than forty miles from Aberdeen by railway, and eight miles below her Majesty's Highland mansion, Balmoral Castle. Here is the entrance to Glen Muick, a romantic valley traversed by the Linn or small river bearing that name, which descends from the back of the mountain called Lochnagar, celebrated by some verses of Byron's; the poet having, in his boyhood, passed some months at the farm-house of Ballater, four miles from Ballater. The Linn of Muick, with the Loch of Muick in its upper course and