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TEMPERATURE.

As observed by HEARN & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING				Corresponding week, 1878			
May 11th, 1879.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Mon.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.	53°	30°	32° 5'	Mon.	65°	47°	56°
Tues.	62°	46°	54°	Tues.	61°	45°	54° 5'
Wed.	66°	46°	56°	Wed.	58°	44°	51°
Thur.	75°	53°	64°	Thur.	61°	41°	51°
Frid.	71°	58°	64° 5'	Frid.	68°	43°	55°
Sat.	64°	53°	58° 5'	Sat.	70°	47°	58° 5'
Sun.	48°	38°	43°	Sun.	75°	62°	68° 5'

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, May 17, 1879.

THE INTRACTABLES OF FRANCE.

So long as the French Republic had enemies from without it showed elements of strength. During the German occupation it was stimulated to cohesion by the ambition of paying the indemnity as quickly as possible. During the intrigues which well nigh led to a fusion between the Bourbons and Orleanists, it was spurred to appear better in the popular eye than either of the old dynasties. The conspiracies of the DE BROGLIE cabinet, and the constant friction of Marshal MACMAHON'S unsympathetic course, kept it ever on the alert, and eliminated the ascendancy of mere partyism. But when the October elections gave the Republicans a majority, and the January elections put the Senate under their control, symptoms of intestine trouble, if not of disintegration, began to manifest themselves. It was then that M. GAMBETTA, with his usual foresight, said that now the dangers of the Republic were ended, its difficulties began. During the past three months several signs have appeared pointing to a morbid condition of the Republican party. The Moderate wing is doing its best to maintain the whole within the bounds of legality, but the task is almost impossible of accomplishment. The Radicals are pushing forward in force, and, as usual, utterly regardless of ultimate consequences. But there is a more dangerous party than even the Radicals. We refer to the *Intrigants*, or *Intractables*. They are the Jacobins of the third Republic, and unless they are checked betimes, it is not difficult to divine that a revolution will soon break out in France, scattering the Conservative Republic to the winds, and throwing the gates open to military despotism.

The chief object of the *Intractables* is to force the government to grant universal and unconditional amnesty, thus virtually condoning the crime of the Commune. The Government have gone as far in that direction as they could possibly go, in the name of mercy and decency, and do not seem disposed to go any further for the present, especially in the face of undue pressure. As a kind of flank movement, the *Intractables* have imagined the grotesque expedient of electing to the Legislative Assembly several of the most prominent conspirators, who are still under the ban of the law. They made a beginning with the notorious old BLANQUI, a man who has spent forty of his five and seventy years in gaol, and who is now confined at Clairvaux for his participation in the dark excesses of 1871. This individual has

been elected at Bordeaux by a vote of 6,800 against 5,333 given to M. LAVERGNE, a distinguished member of the Moderate Republican party. The result is, of course, a complication. M. BLANQUI being a felon is ineligible; being ineligible, he is clearly not elected. Will the government abandon the case by pardoning him in view of his election, or will they simply ignore the election, and give the credentials to his adversary? Both alternatives present difficulties. Fortunately, there is a third course—that of invalidating the election, but pardoning BLANQUI, so as to give the Bordelais another chance to pronounce on the matter.

The BLANQUI case is not to be a solitary one, for we have just been reading that M. BONNAT-DUVERDIER intends resigning his seat for Lyons for the purpose of having HENRI ROCHEFORT elected in his place. It is clear that a definite and resolute policy will have to be adopted to meet this insidious danger, but we must repeat our reluctant fears that France is rapidly approaching a crisis, all the more perilous because of its springing from the very vitals of the Republican party itself.

A PHOTOGRAPH OF ST. PAUL.

Our readers have learned from our column of Literary Notes that M. RENAN, the famous author of the *Vie de Jesus*, was lately received a member of the French Academy. They are also aware that on the day of his reception the new member pronounces an eulogy of his predecessor, while another one of the Forty is chosen to deliver a review of the printed works of the initiated. In the case of M. RENAN the task devolved upon M. MEZIERES. This gentleman's discourse was generally laudatory, though tempered here and there with a little mild criticism. One of the points of criticism was M. RENAN'S description of St. Paul as "short, stout and slightly bow-legged." M. MEZIERES was curious to know how the new Academician had found out that the great Apostle of the Gentiles sat for this portrait: "On his strong shoulders was oddly set a small bald head. His sallow face was, as it were, invaded by a thick beard, an aquiline nose, piercing eyes and black eyebrows, meeting on the forehead." M. MEZIERES also protested against M. RENAN'S finished portrait of St. Luke, and his rehabilitation of the Empress FAUSTINA.

M. RENAN answered this criticism in the *Journal des Debats*, citing as his authority the famous Chronicle of THECLA, concerning the origin of which TERTULLIAN gives many interesting details. He also cites a dialogue entitled "Philopatris," accurately dated at the close of JULIAN'S reign, or about 363. "Once," says the Christian Triphon, "I was nourished with the same doctrines as thou art, until I had the goodness to meet a certain Galilean (used as the equivalent of Christian), bald and with a long nose, who had ascended to the third heaven and there learned the most beautiful things. He regenerated us by water, and snatching us from the world of the impious introduced us into the company of the happy." It is made certain by the allusion to the rapture of being caught up into the third heaven that the writer is describing Paul, and as it is not at all likely that, being a heathen, the writer of "Philopatris" had read the Chronicle of THECLA, the inference is legitimate that if his portrait accords with that the Christian priest drew two centuries before, it was because he knew and described the traditional type according to which the Christians had always represented Paul. Precisely the same description of the features of St. Paul is given by the Byzantine historians, NICEPHORUS and MALELAS. Finally M. RENAN contends that St. Paul in his Epistles to the Corinthians gives evidence corroborative of the above statements (II. Corinthians, x., 10; I. Corinthians, ii. 3; II. Corinthians, i., 8, 9; *ibid.*, x., 2; *ibid.*, x., 30; *ibid.*, xii., 5, 9, 10; Galatians, iv., 13, 14; I. Corinthians, i. et seq.; II. Corinthians, x., 1, 2, 3; *ibid.*, ii., 6, 30;

ibid., xii., 5, 9, 10.) M. RENAN then goes further and tells us about the Apostle's temperament. He is represented as capable of great fatigue, without, however, being of a sound constitution. The thorn in the flesh cannot have been carnal passion in view of the explicit testimony of I. Corinthians, vii., 7, 8, and M. RENAN has come to the conclusion that it was rheumatism, that being the infirmity which most accurately agrees with the Apostle's description (II. Corinthians, xii., 7, 10) of the messenger of Satan sent to buffet him lest he should be exalted above measure. M. RENAN concludes by contrasting the physical deficiencies of the apostle with his extraordinary mental and moral powers, pronouncing him one the strongest and most extraordinary minds that ever existed.

REFERRING to a late editorial paragraph in the NEWS, which treated of a performance of the "Passion Play" in Quebec thirty years ago, an esteemed correspondent informs us that it was not in connection with a theatrical performance, but with an exhibition of dioramas, that the burning of the Quebec theatre and the fearful loss of life of which we spoke, took place at the time stated. The proprietor was a Mr. M. HARRISON, whose widow, we believe, still lives in Quebec. One of the scenes shown was a copy of MARTIN'S picture of the Crucifixion. For the information of those who do not know what a diorama is, we may state that when this picture is treated as one, there is first shown the city of Jerusalem, and three empty crosses on Mount Calvary. After a little, twilight creeps over the scene, and then all is wrapped in total darkness. Next, a stream of light pours through a rift in the clouds, showing Christ and the two thieves on the crosses, a soldier on horseback piercing the side of the former, and an immense number looking on. These different effects are produced by changes in the manner in which the lights are cast on the picture. While the exhibition above referred to was going on—it may be while the very picture which we have just described was being exhibited—one of the lamps used fell on the floor and broke. As it was filled with camphine, the flames in a moment caught the diorama, and in another, overspread it. One minute more, and the whole of the stage scenery—which was like dry gunpowder—was in a blaze. The doors opened to the inside. Escape was, therefore, very difficult, on account of those next the stage pressing so much against those in front of them. The consequence was that fifty—among whom was a brother of the proprietor—fell victims to the flames. The burning to death of three thousand people in the Cathedral of Santiago, at a later period, was owing to causes of the same kind.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

OTTAWA, May 9.—The closing event of this session is the bringing down of the Pacific Railway resolutions by the Minister of Public Works. It is almost impossible to over-estimate the importance of these resolutions which have been very long expected. The delay in bringing them down may be accepted as a sign of the deliberation of the Government so as very thoroughly to mature their measure in view of the very serious responsibility involved in their action. The most important, as it is the newest feature of these resolutions, is the declaration that the selection of Burrard Inlet for the Pacific terminus of the road was premature. This does not go to the length of saying that the Bute Inlet is preferred, and it is a fact that at this moment as I write these lines, engineers are about to start to survey the Peace River country entering it by way of British Columbia. It is possible the absolutely best route may be found in that region. This has long been my thought, and I speak from the point of personal and consideration of every report and narrative of travellers and explorers of that region. It is also plain to those who have carefully read Mr. Fleming's reports that there is on his mind an impression that the best route may be found in the north. It is therefore the part of wisdom to ascertain the fact with thoroughness before we commit ourselves to an expenditure of millions. The only thing that could be said in favour of the decision by the

last Government before the verification of the facts, was the clamour for immediate construction, and if the northern country should prove to be what it is reported, two railways would not be too much.

There has been a rumour actively and confidently circulated that work was to be commenced this year on the Bute Inlet route, that being the demand of that portion of the people of British Columbia who live on the Island of Vancouver, for the reason that a railway at that point means also bridging the Narrows and continuing the road within the island itself to Esquimaux. It would otherwise have no common sense. This would mean lengthening the road by 40 or 50 miles, adding many millions to the expenditure and actually getting after all something that would not be so well adapted for a thorough route. It would be better to buy off the Island people at any cost than to do this. The resolutions of Dr. Tupper do not confirm this rumour; but I am not prepared to say that some colonization works might not with advantage be made on the Bute Inlet.

Another feature of the Government resolutions is that they give to the work a more than Canadian character. It is to a large extent a question of Empire interests as such; and therefore the Imperial Government may with great propriety be asked whether or not they will not take some share in it. There has never been any thing more popular in England than taking share in the Suez Canal; and the mind which conceived that investment may with still greater reason be asked to consider this great international highway which opens up the shortest and best route between the eastern and west and which through a large portion of its route passes through an immense country of almost unbounded richness,—a country where millions of men on whom the increasing pressure arising from the growth of population within the narrow limits of the British Islands may find homes of plenty, and make the seat of perhaps the most powerful empire on the earth. It must be not forgotten that the whole of Europe might be simply dropped in our North-West, in which the area of cultivable lands and extent of mineral resources in climatic conditions favourable to human energy, are almost beyond belief.

Another great feature of this scheme proposed by the Government is the setting aside one hundred million acres of land and all the minerals they contain for the purpose of constructing the Canadian Pacific Railway, the land to be invested in Commissioners and the Imperial Government represented on the Commission. These lands are to be taken in a belt of twenty miles on each side of the Pacific Railway where they are good. But where they are not good others are to be substituted. This reserve is to be combined with a colonization scheme, and those men who have watched the operations of schemes of this kind in the Western States, cannot doubt that the fund created will more than build the railway without imposing any burdens on the people of the Dominion. The minimum price of the reserved lands is fixed at two dollars per acre. The sales of the Northern Pacific Railway lands of inferior quality to these, and in less important territory as relates to through connections, have averaged five and six dollars per acre. It will, however, happen as a matter of course, that at the commencement of the operations the expenditure will greatly exceed the income; and that is the bridge we have to get over. This might impose a serious present burden on the Dominion, and this is the point in view of the international interests upon which we might ask the Imperial co-operation.

The Militia Bill to which I formerly referred has passed the House of Commons. Among other things it contains provisions to settle difficulties in municipalities in the event of local disturbances. It provides for a new enrolment before February, 1881.

I was glad to see that an item of \$37,000, as part of a subsidy of \$50,000 per annum to a line of steamers between Quebec and the West Indies and Brazil, has been carried. This is a practical attempt to open up some of the great natural trade relations of the continent. It must be plain to the most careless observer that we in the north require the tropical products of those countries, while they require our northern products in the shape of many manufactures of our forest, our fish, butter, cheese, &c. This subsidy, moreover, follows the enactment of a tariff which will allow that trade.

The despatch of the Governor-General to which I alluded in my last letter was discussed in the House of Commons on Wednesday evening. I stated what was the tenor of this despatch. The point in the discussion in the Commons was simply that Mr. Cartwright attacked it with bitterness as being inaccurate, holding the Ministers responsible for it. Mr. Tilley replied that he had never seen it, and then there came a cry from Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Holton, and others to the effect that this denial of responsibility was an attempt to put up the Governor-General as a target to be hit at behind which the Ministers sought to shelter themselves. But this Sir John A. Macdonald very well answered by saying that it was the right of the Governor-General to write despatches of his own to the Imperial Government without submitting them to his Ministers, and that he might for the substance of these despatches ask his Ministers for facts and figures. This is undoubted, and the position of the Governor-General might at least have secured for his despatches a different tone of criticism. The bitterness of faction is always disgusting, and