

The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is printed and published every Saturday by THE BURLAND LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY (Limited) at their offices, 5 and 7 Bleury St., Montreal, on the following conditions: \$4.00 per annum in advance, \$4.50 if not paid strictly in advance.

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City subscribers are requested to report at once to this office, either personally or by postal card, any irregularity in the delivery of their papers.

1880.

With the first number in January we begin the XXI. Volume of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, and have the pleasure to inform our numerous friends that we have resolved to increase our efforts toward making it more acceptable than ever. The NEWS being first and foremost a pictorial paper, the artistic department will be materially improved, current events of interest being sketched and attention paid to all important incidents abroad.

OUR NEW STORY.

Our readers will doubtless give us credit for our efforts to continue presenting them with original serial stories, in pursuance of the course we have followed till now. We have the pleasure to announce that, with the present number, we continue the publication of a new original romance, entitled:

CLARA CHILLINGTON,

OR THE PRIDE OF THE CLIFF. A STORY OF 160 YEARS AGO, BY THE REVEREND JAMES LANGHORNE BOXER. Rector of La Porte, Ind., U. S., formerly co-Editor with Charles Dickens of All the Year Round.

The scene of this very interesting story is laid on the Kentish coast, and the characters are representative of English life at the beginning of the century. The plot is full of interest, the incidents are well constructed, the tone is manly and thoroughly English, while the style is often enlivened with racy humor.

The Burland Lithographic Co'y (LIMITED.)

NOTICE.

A DIVIDEND of Four percent, on the paid-up capital stock of the Company has been declared, and will be payable at the office of the Company on and after the THIRD day of FEBRUARY prox.

The fifth Annual General Meeting of the Stockholders will be held at the Company's Office, 5 & 7 Bleury street, Montreal.

On Wednesday, February 11th, 1880, at 2.30 o'clock, p.m., for the election of Directors and transaction of other business. By order, F. B. DAKIN, Secretary. Montreal, 19th January, 1880.

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

Table with columns: THE WEEK ENDING, Jan. 18th, 1880, Corresponding week, 1879. Rows: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Frid., Sat., Sun. with Max., Min., Mean values.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, January 24, 1880.

THE Maine imbroglio still continues. Both the Democrats and Republicans have elected their Governors, but only the latter was recognized by General CHAMBERLIN, Commander of the State Militia.

THE latest news from Afghanistan represents the status quo, both on account of the rigor of the winter, and because the British are not prepared for anything like a general movement of aggression.

WE may fairly look for a gradual lessening of the present Irish agitation. The British Government have come forward with most efficient measures of relief, even to the extent of straining the budget in that respect, and the Home Rulers, notably Mr. DAVITT, openly discountenance anything like revolutionary outbreak.

It is satisfactory to know that the health of Prince BISMARCK is not so precarious as was represented some days ago. In the present complications of Europe, and the danger of a general war, the co-operation of this great man would be very important, especially as he is largely responsible for the present position of affairs on the continent.

OWING to ill-health Mr. MASSON has been obliged to resign the portfolio of Minister of Militia and assume the Presidency of the Council. As an ornament to public life and a gentleman whom both parties appreciate and respect, Mr. MASSON deserves sympathy, and it is to be hoped that he will so far recover his strength as to take a more active part in Ministerial business.

THE opening exhibition of the Canadian Academy of Arts will be held at Ottawa in February next. Works for exhibition will be received from the 1st to the 10th, and entry forms can be obtained from the Secretary.

At this exhibition His Excellency the Marquis of Lorne will give a bronze medal as a prize for the best original design for practical use in art manufacture. The subject to be some Canadian plant, flower or leaf.

ROBERT HAY, Esq., M.P., will give \$25 as a prize for the best original design for a cabinet.

Messrs. M. STAUNTON & Co., will give \$15 as a prize for the best original design for paper hangings, not to exceed six shades of colour; subject matter to be some Canadian plant, flower or leaf.

The Oshawa Cabinet Company will give a silver medal for the best original design for a sideboard in mediæval style.

Messrs. HUNTER and ROSE will give \$10 as a prize for the best original design for a cloth case for bookbinding.

Designs to be sent to the Secretary of the Canadian Academy at Ottawa not later than the 15th February. No prize will be awarded unless the design is of sufficient merit to be approved by the Council of the Academy, and in all cases simplicity and elegance will be preferred to elaboration.

ENGLISH LAND TENURE.

This is a question of the deepest interest to us in view of the outflow of immigration which we have reason to expect from the United Kingdom. WENDELL PHILLIPS has well said somewhere that the landed aristocracy of Great Britain contends with the vast and limitless production of the prairie and finds it impossible to maintain its supremacy against that competition. Twenty-five individuals own, in fee simple, one-tenth of the soil of Great Britain—or 5,113,501 acres, an average of 204,540 acres each; 1,454 individuals own 24,283,240 acres, or more than one-half of the total area, while \$16,294 individuals own on an average not more than 21-100 of an acre. These figures speak for themselves, and carry their own argument with them.

THE YEAR OF CHRIST'S BIRTH.

An interesting discussion on this point has been going on in the American papers, the principal points of which our readers will be probably pleased to see. In the Sunday-school department of the Advance, one of the ablest and most influential religious journals in the United States, we find the following: "The Saviour was born A.M. 4000, which was four years before the date from which we count the years of our Lord, or A.D. in the received chronology, which is that of Dionysius Exiguus in the sixth century, and four years later than the advent took place. We count the years from A.M. 1004. So that Christ was born B. C. 4, and 1884 years ago instead of 1880 years."

Another journal replies to this as follows: "The year in which our Saviour was born has always been a matter of more or less dispute amongst ecclesiastical writers, and there is no probability that it will ever be fixed with absolute certainty. The day of his birth seems to be equally doubtful."

A third writer thus comments thereon: The above reply states a fact which cannot be controverted. It is true that the scholarship of the Christian world from the earliest times to the present has not been able to fix with certainty the day or the year of our Saviour's birth, the length of his ministry or the day or the year of his death. But the day or year of the birth of Julius Cæsar, the length of his life and the year of his death are equally unknown to us, as also is the year of the birth or death of Augustus Cæsar. Indeed any one has but to read with care and diligence the ancient writings to assure himself that the years of Rome, or the consulates, or the Olympiads, or even the years of the canon of Ptolemy as they come down to us are at fault. For instance, our astronomers teach that the period of a lunation is now sensibly shorter than it was before the Christian era. They tell us this is ascertained by comparing the recorded date of an eclipse which occurred in 721 B. C. with the time of any recent eclipse. Now this is simply a learned error, and yet all our astronomers and chronologists teach and believe this.

Again, we are taught that Julius Cæsar corrected the Roman calendar, and instead of beginning the first day of January at the winter solstice, as had been usual, by the advice of the learned man who wore

assisting him in this work, he commenced it seven days later, so as to begin the new year with the new moon, which took place that year about midnight, seven days after the 25th of December, which the astronomers believed to be the day of the winter solstice. But astronomers in measuring back to that date find by our tables (which are nearly correct) that the new moon was on the night of the 2nd of January, and teach that Cæsar began his new year twenty-four hours before the new moon, notwithstanding all the historians of that day affirm that he waited from the 25th of December seven days, so as to commence it with the new moon.

Again, in the editorial above it is said: "Twenty or thirty years ago there was, perhaps, some excuse for ecclesiastical indorsement of Dionysius Exiguus; but now that indorsement is unpardonable as it is ridiculous." Notwithstanding this expression of opinion, the writer affirms without fear of contradiction, that he is right as to the date of the year of our Lord's nativity, and that we have misunderstood him is caused by a mistake in the writing of the so-called Venerable Bede, and the error can easily be rectified, as also can the mistake of "Cæsar's new moon," and the three eclipses of Ptolemy, so that we need not fear that the moon has changed the time of her lunations.

A well-known authority, Wm. M. Page, purposes in a western journal to give the true time of our Saviour's birth, and consequently the true length of his ministry; also the true date of the death of Julius Cæsar and the true date of the birth and death of Augustus Cæsar, thus fixing the true date of the fifteenth year of Tiberius. He will also show that the Ptolemy canon may be relied on, and that if we look a few years later, say in 717 and 718, B. C., we shall find his three noted eclipses. He will show that the Roman senate and Augustus made a blunder by which we have the 2nd instead of the 1st of January for Cæsar's new moon. These corrections, if properly made, will not only satisfy the curious, but will be a benefit to every minister and Christian instructor—for who would not wish to know the true date of our Saviour's birth, the length of his ministry and the day and year of his death?

FRENCH AND ENGLISH.

OLD STORY OF THE CAPABILITIES OF THE TWO LANGUAGES RETOLD.

The story, whether strictly true in all its details, is just as interesting as though it were true; besides, it is generally believed to be literally true. The Rev. John Wallis, D.D., professor of geometry at the Oxford University, in the seventeenth century, was considered the most thorough in his department, as well as in etymological teaching, of any scholar then living. As a linguist he also excelled, and in the pride of his native tongue, he never wearied in proving it the most copious and flexible of all languages. A French professor of modern languages, in a discussion of the relative merits of the French and English tongues, was requested by Prof. Wallis to test it by a tetrastich, and accordingly gave the following on the manner or skill of

ROPE-MAKING.

Quand un cordier, cordant, veut corder une corde. Pour sa corde cordier, trois cordons il accorde. Mais, si un des cordons, de la corde décorde. Le cordon décordant fait déborder la corde.

The translation of the above by Prof. Wallis will be noted as gracefully literal:

When a twister, a-twisting, will twist him a twist. For the twisting of his twist he three times doth entwist. But if one of the twines of the twist do untwist. The twine that untwisteth untwisted the twist.

It will be observed that the translation is a complete match for the Frenchman's remarkable line in inflection parts of speech, number and force of the radical word. The able professor desired the Frenchman to proceed and try another test, but he declined, whereupon Professor Wallis proceeded to enlarge upon the theme as follows:

Untwisting the twine that untwisted between. He twists with his twist he three times doth entwist. Then, twice having twisted the twines of the twine. He twisteth the twine he had twisted, in twine.

The Frenchman, astonished, enthusiastically acknowledged his opponent's ability, though hardly yet convinced of the equal disposition of the flexibility and copiousness of the two languages, and it was finally agreed that if the learned professor would at once produce a third quatrain, confining himself to the same subject