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TEMPERATURE.

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

THE WEEK ENDING

| Feb. 28d. 1880. | | | Corresponding week, 1879. | | |
|-----------------|------|-------|---------------------------|------|-------|
| Max. | Min. | Mean. | Max. | Min. | Mean. |
| Mon.. 35° | 15° | 25° | Mon.. 32° | 4° | 16° |
| Tues.. 32° | 10° | 21° | Tues.. 13° | — 5° | 4° |
| Wed.. 45° | 35° | 40° | Wed.. 14° | — 3° | 5° 5 |
| Thur.. 43° | 30° | 36° 5 | Thur.. 14° | zero | 7° |
| Fri.. 38° | 16° | 23° | Fri.. 24° | 3° | 13° 5 |
| Sat.. 26° | 16° | 21° | Sat.. 17° | 4° | 10° 5 |
| Sun.. 25° | 15° | 20° | Sun.. 16° | — 2° | 7° |

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, February 28, 1880.

We are glad to see from the reports that our townsman, Mr. MACMASTER, member of the Ontario Legislature for Glengarry, is already making his mark, with the prospect of becoming one of the leaders of his party. Mr. MACMASTER is a man of solid ability, studious habits and facile eloquence, and his success, so early in his career, while gratifying to his numerous friends, does no more than justify their high estimate of his talents.

That crucial question, the legalizing the marriage of a sister-in-law, has at length, and for the first time, been brought before Parliament. Pending the discussion, we may state that Mr. GIROUARD's bill proposes a permission of marriage between a man and the sister of his deceased wife, or the widow of his deceased brother, provided there be no impediment of affinity according to the rules and customs of the church or clergyman celebrating such marriage. The second clause is retrospective, providing that all such marriages, contracted in the past, shall be declared valid, except such cases as may be pending in the Courts.

The press of Canada is largely and ably represented in the present House of Commons. We may mention Mr. Anglin, of the *St. John's Freeman*; Mr. Royal, of the *St. Boniface Médis*; Mr. Rufus Stephenson, of the *Chatham Planet*; Mr. Thomas White, of the *Montreal Gazette*; Mr. C. W. Bunting, of the *Toronto Mail*; Mr. Houde, of the *Nouveau Monde*; Mr. Vallée, of the *Courrier du Canada*; and Mr. Tassé, of *Le Canada*. We may mention also several former journalists, as Hon. Messrs. Langevin, Macdougall, Mackenzie Bowell, Laurier, and Messrs. Mousseau, DeCosmos, Desjardins and Ouimet.

The Dominion Parliamentary Library is by far the largest in Canada and one of the largest on this continent. Last year it contained 92,713 volumes; this year, the number is 96,596 volumes—an increase of 3,883. Complete catalogues have for a long time been in course of

preparation by the officials. Mr. TODD, the distinguished Librarian, states in his last report that there is not room enough for all the books that are constantly accumulating, and he asks that the Supreme Court room be annexed for that purpose. We may add that the Library building is admittedly one of the finest and most commodious in the world.

ONTARIO is always taking the lead, bearing out its proud title of the Empire Province of Canada. Its Government, with commendable foresight, has appropriated \$4,500 toward the sale of its manufactures in France. A warehouse and office are to be established in Paris under the charge of the agent Mr. CORMAN, who has gone to work already and is meeting with much success, having already several orders for cheese, barley, and agricultural implements generally. This surely is an example which the Province of Quebec ought eagerly to follow, the bonds of kindred nationality serving as a powerful incentive toward the establishment of extensive trade relations.

We have not yet reached the real facts connected with the stoppage of the wires at Ottawa on the night of the accident to the Vice-regal party. The press have stated their case, and the Telegraph Companies have made explanations. We are still in the dark as to the precise orders delivered from Rideau Hall. It seems clear that some one has blundered. This is the more to be regretted, as it would have been easy, by a polite request, to secure the concurrence of the reporters in a delay of their messages, until the full facts were known. We are sure that not one of these gentlemen would have refused to carry out the wishes of His Excellency to their utmost extent. But between a wish and an order there is quite a gulf. In a country like this, none but the Government has the right to control the wires, and that only in cases of extreme emergency. We can allow, of course, for much haste and confusion on the night of the accident, and can only hope that the lesson imparted will not be wholly lost.

We fear it shall have to be said that our American cousins have displayed an unaccountable narrowness through every phase of the Halifax Fisheries Award. Not only did Congress, the Secretary of State, and even the President, submit with ill grace to the payment of the \$5,500,000, but the press, with singular unanimity, have complained that the award was five times as much as the conceded privileges are worth; and now we are startled with the announcement, said to be made on Canadian authority, that the statistics laid before the Commission were fabricated for the purpose, the official records of the Dominion Government being deliberately falsified. It is further stated that when this extraordinary discovery was made, both the Dominion and British Governments were notified of the fact, and that neither the one nor the other paid the slightest attention to it. The matter is now brought before the American Senate, and the Executive is requested to publish whatever information regarding the alleged fraud it may have in its possession. We can only trust that the Dominion Parliament, now in session, will probe this matter to the bottom.

We are glad to be able to state that the first exhibition of the Canadian Academy of Arts will be opened about the 3rd March, and continue for two or three weeks. On the inaugural night there will be a conversation, at which, it is hoped, His Excellency and Her Royal Highness will both be present. In any event, a speech from His Excellency is expected. The exhibition will be held in the Clarendon Hotel building, Ottawa, the walls of which have been coloured in "academy red," for the better distribution of the pictures. The main dining-room

is to be the main room, and a screen has been run down the centre and will be covered with antiquated tapestries, to be contributed by His Excellency. Oil paintings will be exhibited there, and also in the room in the rear, in the centre of which is to be placed a statue, now being executed by Mr. VAN LUPPEN, of Montreal. On the flight above, some twelve rooms six on either side, have been connected the one with the other, and will be devoted to the exhibition of water-colours, architectural designs, drawings, etc. Pictures for the exhibition are beginning to arrive in large numbers, and the success of the first public display appears to be assured. As it will be the first Dominion exhibition of the kind, a good deal of interest will naturally centre in the event, and it is to be hoped a happy inaugural will form a suitable introduction to a long and successful career. We are glad of all this, for there were not wanting croakers who opposed the Academy as a premature creation, and predicted its failure.

AN ELECTION LESSON.

The election of the Conservative candidate for Liverpool by a majority of 2,200, although our correspondence did inform us a majority of 5,000 was expected, is a political event of marked interest. This by-election had more significance than a mere contest in a great town. The eyes of all England were upon it, and it will not do as *The Times*, with much point, contends, simply to say that the constituency was Conservative, and the result natural. It is a proof that the attacks with which the government of Lord BEACONSFIELD has been almost overwhelmed, are not judged by a very large and intelligent constituency to have been founded on truth; and further that it is considered advisable that that Government should complete the policy it has begun. It is certain that the very vigorous and eloquent attacks of Mr. GLADSTONE in his tour in Scotland have been met by most damaging criticism, especially with respect to his financial statements, the point which ought to be his forte, and failure in which would leave him poor indeed. He has been greatly damaged on this point, and no stronger proof of this could be found than that which was contained in an explanatory note which he himself published. The Liverpool election is, certainly, not calculated to make him happy in view of the tirades which he indulged in. It cannot be considered, either, the most comfortable answer to Lord DERRY's "gunpowder and glory" denunciations of the Government. We think the instinct of the people undoubtedly is that even the commercial prosperity of England depends upon her exhibiting the will and the power to maintain it. If, in her too eager pursuit of the ordinary industrial and commercial avocations, she should let drop her Imperial position, her commerce would very soon follow, and she would be unable to feed the millions within her borders. It is beyond question that her commerce has always and everywhere followed her flag, and only a few days ago, Mr. BRASSEY, M. P. established before the Bradford Chamber of Commerce that the *per capita* consumption of British merchandise was, in the United States, 7s. against £2 2s. 9d. in the North American Colonies; and as between her neighbours, France and Australia, the figures are still more striking, being in the former 7s. 8d. and in the latter £8 10s. 8d.

EUROPE IN ARMS.

The sight of the military armaments on the continent of Europe is rather discouraging to those enthusiastic natures who cling to the ideals of universal peace and the general amity of nations. So far from advancing, the world is positively retrograding in this respect, and the nineteenth century, with all its mental lights and moral improvements, makes a sorry display alongside the dark ages, at which we are all pleased to scoff. One would have thought that France had

learned a lesson in 1870, which would have quelled her martial spirit for at least the remainder of this century. The Marseillaise would find no echo in the hearts of a conquered people, and the click of the Chassepot would not be heard outside the schools of gunnery. The loss of life and property was tremendous, the national humiliation incalculable, but the blood-money, which the unfortunate country was called upon to pay, reached a figure hitherto unknown in history. The official returns show that the war cost France the sum of 13,939,000,000 francs, or about \$2,700,000,000. Yet, in spite of these drawbacks, not only has the gallant nation recovered her prosperity, but has actually increased in productive wealth, and devoted a large sum every year toward the restoration of her military efficiency. Her annual outlay for military purposes is now \$180,000,000, and the consequence is that, according to the unimpeachable testimony of the *North German Gazette*, she is to-day better armed and numerically stronger than her victorious rival. The fact is that the present French Army is 1,600,000 strong. It is easy enough to say that so mighty an army is kept up for defensive purposes alone, but whose is acquainted with the character of the French must be aware that, on the first favourable opportunity, a terrible conflict will be entered upon for the recovery of Alsace and Lorraine. And here is where the grim farce becomes more ghastly in its hypocritical effrontery. If France kept on arming through fear of Germany, the latter now declares her intention of increasing her armament through fear of France. The philanthropic fancy of reducing all European armies to a peace footing is thus blown to the winds as a hollow mockery. Indeed, following the example of France and Germany, Austria and Russia find a pretext for strengthening their military resources, and the grand result is a total of panoplied men, whose tread, if they marched in measured time together, would shake the continent from its hinges. As nearly as we can ascertain, there are in Europe to-day, excluding England and the lesser States, not less than 6,500,000 men under arms, torn from peaceful pursuits in the field or the workshop, and absorbed in the sole practice of engines of destruction. Such a standing army the world has never seen before. It exceeds that which Xerxes reviewed from his granite seat on Mount Athos. The Roman Empire in its widest grasp, from the Tweed to the Euphrates, had no more than 300,000 legionaries under arms.

There is no use wasting sentiment on this stupendous exhibit. Man is a fighting animal, whether singly or in herds. He has been so from the beginning and will remain so to the end, and when his blood is up he will fight in spite of the teachings of philosophy or the remonstrances of religion. It is more to the purpose to take a practical view of the subject. That these armaments are exaggerated is clear; that they must prove ruinous to any nation's exchequer is a simple question of arithmetic; that they are destructive of the happiness of families and the normal laws of society is so true that we need look no further for the present revolutionary symptoms that threaten the existence of every throne in Europe. There is a limit to the patience of even the most debased clodhopper, and the time will come when he will refuse to waste the best years of his youth in a barrack, or devote the hard earnings of his middle and old age to the paying of taxes to support military establishments. Such as can emigrate to more peaceful lands will do so, while those who must remain will have recourse to violence in order to shake off the yoke of an intolerable military despotism.

ENGLISH cricketers are learning to play on skates. A fortnight ago a cricket match came off on the ice which covered a pond near Neath, the players wearing skates. The teams being composed of well-known cricketers some good scores were made, though the mishaps were numerous. Swansea scored 126, and Cadoxton, 241.