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When an answer is required, stamp for return postage must be enclosed.

## NOTICES.

To prevent mistakes we may inform our readers that if they desire indexes of the two preceding volumes they will receive them on making application at this office.

In order to prevent any delay in the delivery of the NEWS, or loss of numbers, those of our subscribers who change their place of residence will kindly advise us of the fact.

### TEMPERATURE,

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

#### THE WEEK ENDING

April 25th, 1880.

Corresponding week, 1879.

	Max.	Min.	Mean.		Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.	57°	31°	44°	Mon.	51°	26°	43° 5
Tues.	60°	49°	54° 5	Tues.	60°	38°	49°
Wed.	64°	40°	52°	Wed.	57°	33°	46°
Thur.	61°	45°	53°	Thur.	63°	37°	50°
Fri.	44°	28°	36°	Fri.	56°	48°	53°
Sat.	50°	34°	42°	Sat.	57°	35°	46°
Sun.	54°	34°	44°	Sun.	56°	42°	49°

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## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, May 1st, 1880.

### THE WEEK.

We present again to-day one of the best pictures exhibited at the late Canadian Academy of Arts—"The Pioneer Mill," by H. R. WATSON, A. C. A. What adds to the value of the picture is the fact that it is one of the few in the exhibition which were bought for Her Majesty. We congratulate Mr. WATSON upon this high honour.

At the moment of going to press, the despatches inform us that the Hon. GEORGE BROWN is not so low as he was some days since, and that there are still faint chances of his recovery. We trust next week to be able to chronicle his convalescence. Mr. BROWN is not yet properly an old man and, in the natural course of things, he has still many years of public service before him. He is, in many respects, one of the few great men of the Dominion, whose loss would be seriously felt, even by those who disagree with him. His death from the effects of an assassin's pistol would render the regret still more general and profound.

The conflagration at Hull was a most disastrous catastrophe. Some three or four hundred families were suddenly left homeless and the total loss is in the neighbourhood of \$200,000, little of which is covered by insurance. The people of that locality are generally poor and unable to bear up against such a calamity, without ready and abundant assistance. That assistance, we are happy to say, has been forthcoming with the most commendable generosity. Furthermore, the Chaudière mills will commence running next Monday, thus giving employment to a great many idle hands. We publish this week a map of the burnt district, and next week we shall present a sketch of the scene of conflagration.

In confirmation of what we wrote last week on this subject, we learn from the emigration returns made by the Board of

Trade returning officers at Liverpool, that the stream of emigration from the Mersey has reached a point never before experienced, and in striking contrast to figures which have been presented during the past few years of commercial depression. During the month of March, 83 vessels left the Mersey with 13,363 passengers, an increase of 7,409 persons over the previous month, and of 8,461 over March, 1879. The returns for April show a still further increase. The intelligence from New York is to the same effect. Indeed, we are informed that the immigration this year will be the largest of the whole century. We are anxiously waiting to see how much of this will be secured by Canada.

As we foresaw last week, Mr. GLADSTONE has been called upon to form a Ministry. This could hardly be otherwise in view of the responsibilities which he assumed in conducting the late electoral campaign. The change is almost entirely his, and he must bear the burden as well as the glory which it entails. There is a long despatch received, just as we pen these lines, which bristles with sensational details of an intrigue, whereby the Queen's mind was being poisoned against her great subject. We beg leave to discredit the whole story, and to repudiate in advance the Earl of Beaconsfield's connection with it. That is not the Disraeli style of tactics. The late Prime-Minister is no stranger to misfortune, and there is, perhaps, no man in Europe who can face it with so much calm and silent dignity. The members of the Cabinet, so far as known at the last moment, are, besides Mr. GLADSTONE, who resumes the Chancellorship of the Exchequer, Lord GRANVILLE, for Foreign Affairs; Lord HARTINGTON, Secretary for India; Lord NORTHBROOK, First Lord of the Admiralty; Lord SELBORNE, High Chancellor; Right Hon. Mr. CHILDERS, Secretary for War, and Right Hon. Mr. FOSTER, Chief Secretary for Ireland. The names of the full Cabinet will be given in our next.

### FORMATION OF THE BRITISH MINISTRY.

Those who have had the privilege of reading "MARTIN'S Life of the Prince Consort," must have been deeply impressed by the treatment which at one period of his life that illustrious Prince received at the hands of a clique of scurrilous English politicians, the hangers-on, rather than members, of a political party. Had the life of Her Majesty's illustrious Consort been spared, she herself would probably have escaped the ordeal to which she has been subjected during the last few days. Day after day, since the announcement that the Earl of BEACONSFIELD had tendered his resignation, rumours of the most absurd description have been unceasingly circulated, and we regret to have to add, have been readily accepted as true by professing loyal subjects of the Crown. In Canada rumours have been circulated chiefly in the form of reports to leading New York journals. It is, perhaps, not to be much wondered at that the correspondents of such papers should indulge the prevailing vitiated taste for sensational reports, but it might have been hoped that the editors of Canadian journals would at least have warned their readers that Her Majesty's mode of exercising Her Royal Prerogatives during her long reign was the best guarantee that her people could have against the acts which have been imputed to her, based on rumours without even the shadow of foundation. One of the latest of these reports, dated 24th ult., is addressed to the New York Herald, and commences with the assertion that there has never been such a week of political cabal as that which was about to close. All the caballing seems to have been done by newspaper reporters and those with whom they were in league; who, long before any statesman had been charged with the task of constructing an administration, took it on themselves not

only to name the members of the new Cabinet, but to assign to them the portfolios which they would be called upon to fill. It seems not to have crossed the mind of the Herald reporter that any conversations, which may have taken place between the Queen and the statesmen whose names have been introduced into the report, would have been strictly confidential, and most assuredly would never have been divulged. The gist of the charge is an alleged personal dislike to Mr. GLADSTONE on the part of Her Majesty. For this dislike not a particle of proof has been adduced. So far as can be inferred from the facts before us, everything has been done strictly according to established practice. The proper person to send for after the resignation of Lord BEACONSFIELD, was most assuredly the Marquis of HARTINGTON, who since Mr. GLADSTONE'S voluntary abdication of the leadership of the Liberal party, has filled that position with the entire concurrence of Mr. GLADSTONE. Under the circumstances existing during, and subsequent to, the elections, and the apparent desire on the part of the victorious Liberals that Mr. GLADSTONE should resume the leadership, it is just possible that a doubt might arise in the Royal mind whether it might not be expedient to send for Mr. GLADSTONE. If such a doubt arose, the natural and proper course for the Sovereign to take would be to consult the retiring minister, and the correct advice for him to give, if consulted, would be to send for the recognized leader, who was certainly the proper person to make the Queen acquainted with the desires of the party. Whether Lord HARTINGTON was sent for by the advice of Lord BEACONSFIELD or on the Queen's own judgment, the course taken was strictly correct. What passed at the subsequent interviews cannot be known, but it is in the highest degree absurd to imagine that the Queen suggested getting rid of Mr. GLADSTONE by the offer of a peerage. In due course on the advice of Lord HARTINGTON, Mr. GLADSTONE was sent for and was charged with the formation of an administration. Those who believe that the Queen avowed a personal objection to Mr. GLADSTONE, and that Lord HARTINGTON revealed to newspaper reporters what passed between His Sovereign and himself will certainly not be found among the frequenters of well-informed circles in London. It is alleged that "two leading liberals abetted the conspiracy against Mr. GLADSTONE." We should be curious to learn the mode in which they could have done so. Their names are not given but it is to be inferred that neither Earl GRANVILLE nor Lord HARTINGTON was one. What influence could any other individual employ? The statement can have no foundation in truth. We have observed with regret the reception which has been given to the rumours imputing to Her Majesty sentiments wholly inconsistent with her conduct during her long reign, and have felt it our duty to record our conviction that they have no foundation whatever in truth.

### THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC.

PROFESSOR BELL'S PAPER.—A public meeting of this Society was held on the evening of Thursday the 22nd April, in the Hall of the National School, D'Auteuil street, Quebec, when a numerous and appreciative audience assembled to hear the reading of a paper by Dr. ROBERT BELL, of Montreal, Assistant Director of the Geological Survey of Canada. Among those present were the resident Consuls-General of Spain, France, Belgium, Norway and Sweden, and the United States; the Honourable Messrs. Garneau, Ouimet, and Solicitor General W. W. LYNN; the President, and Honorary President of the Institut Canadien, Mr. St. Cyr, M.P.P., Professor LAFLEMMÉ of Laval University, Dr. ROY, Col. STRANGE, Mr. BELLEAU; Messrs. W. WALKER and H. S. SCOTT, and other prominent citizens of Quebec.

The chair was occupied by Dr. MILES, President of the Geographical Society for

the current year, who, with a few introductory remarks, introduced the lecturer to his audience.

Dr. BELL, who had accepted the Society's invitation to furnish a paper in promotion of its special objects, had selected as his subject "Recent Explorations Around Hudson Bay"—a subject, which, of late, has excited much interest and attention on the part of the public, in connection with the vast railroad and other projects to the execution of which the people of the Dominion are more or less pledged at the present time. To illustrate his lecture, Dr. BELL—whose reputation and past services as a geographer and experienced explorer of regions situated to the north and north-west of the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario is highly appreciated at the capital, and whose reports, published annually under the auspices of the distinguished Director of the Geological Survey, Mr. SELWYN, have furnished a large proportion of the whole stock of reliable knowledge that we possess of those regions—had brought with him a set of remarkably fine, large, and well executed diagrams and charts, which were conveniently attached to the wall behind the platform. One of these was a chart which served to exhibit the geological characters of the territories upon which the geographical features mainly depend. Another chart made conspicuous to the eye the relative positions of all the northern circum-polar lands and seas, and a single glance at it uprooted the popular but erroneous notion that Hudson Bay, and its surroundings, are, in part at least, comprehended within the same terrestrial zone as those inhospitable tracts of land and water. While the northern extremity of the Bay does not protrude within the arctic circle, it is seen that the southern portion of it, called James Bay, reaches down to a parallel of latitude more southerly than that of the city of London, in England. Another large and extremely interesting chart, on which curved lines, variously coloured, were traced from points far eastward, and passing round south of James Bay, extended to the heart of the North American continent, on the west, indicated the geographical ranges and limits of the different kinds of timber, constituting the chief of the staple products and wealth of Canada. There were also on view other maps and charts, one of which, constructed on a scale of four miles to an inch, displayed the courses of a multitude of rivers flowing into the bay, from the east, south and west, and those from the last-named direction forming the natural channels for conveying into Hudson Bay, as a vast basin or general receptacle, the waters of an immense expanse of territory, extending from the Winnipeg Lake to the Rocky Mountains. Between twenty and thirty of the streams entering the bay on its eastern and western coasts were pointed out as being first class rivers of 500 miles length and upwards, and, in particular, the Nelson, was referred to as being one of the great rivers of the world. Speaking generally of the rivers and lakes awaiting exploration, but at present of unknown dimensions, the lecturer said that the former, of all kinds, were incalculably numerous, and that the latter (the lakes) of a size not inferior to Ontario and Erie, were such as the people of any country might feel proud to possess within their borders.

It would be impracticable, within the limits of a summary report, to give even a condensed account of the various interesting and novel details of Professor BELL'S instructive lecture. It is, however, to be published in full in the society's transactions for the present year. But it should be mentioned that, to complete his means of illustration, numerous photographic pictures were shown, taken under the lecturer's direction in the course of his more recent surveys, and which served, far more vividly than any verbal descriptions could possibly serve, to afford correct ideas of various scenery, &c., in the regions under consideration.

At the close of the lecture, the Hon-