

Current Events.

Canadian.

The Government have decided to send an exploring expedition to Hudson's Bay with a view to establishing a route from there to Europe as an outlet to the traffic of the North-West.

The calico print works at Magog, P.Q., will soon be at work, and they are the first of the kind in Canada. Over a thousand cases of castings for them have been imported from England.

The Six Nation Indians, occupying the Grand River Reserve, near Brantford, intend to hold a grand centennial celebration in October, in honor of the fact that the Reserve has been occupied over one hundred years by the tribe.

A new railway bridge is projected to span the St. Lawrence at Quebec, uniting for railway purposes, Quebec and Point Levis. The bridge is to be of the cantilever pattern, 3,100 feet in length in all, with a centre span of 1,400 feet.

An old woman, named Isabella McWean, died recently at Essex Centre, where she had lived a sort of hermit life. There was found concealed in drawers, in her clothes, and in bed \$15,000 of money. A cousin a year out from Scotland, falls heir.

The Ladies' Medical College, established at Kingston, is reported to be in a very successful condition, financially and otherwise. Steps are now being taken to have it affiliated with Queen's University, for the purpose of conferring degrees.

The Canada Pacific railway steamers are all to be lighted with the Edison Electric light. The necessary apparatus has been ordered from the company now doing business at Hamilton, and all the inside and outside lights of the boats, including masthead lights are to be of that kind.

The descendants of the U. E. Loyalists of Adolphustown, Lennox County, have made arrangements of a U. E. L. centenary celebration there on the 16th of June. It was there, on the shores of the Bay of Quinte, that the first settlements were made in June 1784.

The Canada Pacific railway authorities are stated to have effected arrangements with the steamship companies whereby immigrants for the North-West will be landed at Montreal instead of Quebec, and taken direct to their destination, thus preventing their crossing into the United States.

Nearly six months ago an old man was choked to death at a hotel table, Niagara Falls, and an enterprising embalmer of that place preserved the body, expecting some friends would come and claim it and pay him well for his work. In this he has been disappointed, however, and now he is exhibiting the body as a specimen of his business skill. The body is said to be well preserved, and attracts a good deal of interest.

No fewer than 430 Ontario public school teachers retired from the profession in 1883. During the period 578 third-class certificates were extended by the Minister of Education, and 279 temporary certificates were authorised. Seventeen teachers in Wentworth County had their certificates extended; 820 third-class certificates were granted, 308 second-class, and 30 first-class. Of the latter 28 were granted to males and two to females.

A couple of young ladies, Miss McPherson of Kingston and Miss Armour of Toronto, had an exciting time of it on the ice opposite Kingston a few days ago. They were out driving with some others when the spirited horses ran away, throwing out the gentleman driving and one lady. The two ladies, left thus to themselves, cautiously got up the reins, lying on the whiffletrees, and tried to stop the team but could not. They then took turns in guiding their horses in a circle

and ran them round and round for more than half an hour, until the horses became tired out. Miss McPherson's hat was gone and her hands somewhat frost bitten and benumbed by her long pull and strong pull. A good many from the city saw the exciting drive, and watched it with great interest.

Great Britain.

An enormous crowd was gathered to hear Mr. Gladstone's opening address when he presented the Reform Bill to Parliament.

The Cunard Steamship Company has decided to invite subscription to the amount of £250,000 to defray the cost of the steamers "Umbria" and "Etruria," which are now building.

In Glasgow two boys have died, and about a dozen other persons have been ill, as a result, it is thought, of eating tinned mutton. Inquiries are being made into the circumstances of the mishap.

The earliest known musical instruments in Scotland were the harp and bagpipes; the exact date of their introduction is unknown, but both instruments were well known to the early Greeks and Romans.

Sir Henry Brand for so many years Speaker of the House of Commons, has been granted a retiring pension of \$4,000 a year, and elevated to the House of Lords, with the title of Lord Hampden of Glynde.

Saturday, Feb. 16th, was the anniversary of the commencement of the British National Debt, which took place on February 16th, 1689. It amounted in 1697 to about £5,000,000, and now amounts about £786,000,000.

A Parliamentary paper just published shows that the number of paupers in receipt of relief in England at Christmas last was 26,203 fewer than at the same period in 1882, and 26,130 fewer than in 1881. The decrease is about 3 per cent.

One of the speakers at a meeting the other night of the Manhattan branch of the Irish National League said that "dropping dynamite from balloons upon every city and village in England would be an expeditious way to obtain Irish independence."

The Great Eastern after having laid idle for years at her dock in England, has just been sold to the Government and will be used as a coal hulk in some of the outlying naval stations, probably at Gibraltar. The mammoth ship has always been too large for any practical service.

Instructions have been received at Chatham dockyard from the admiralty for the following vessels to be sold out of the navy, they having been condemned as unfit for further service:—The troopship "Dromedary," the armour-plated vessel "Erebus," the paddle steamer "Widgeon," and the line of battle ship "Gloucester."

The report of the Commissioners appointed by the British Home Secretary to inquire into the effects of excessive sizing of cotton manufactures on the health of the workpeople, states that during the last ten years there has been a large increase in the quantity of sized goods manufactured and in the average amount of sizing used; and that the balance of evidence shows that the dust and moisture, and more especially the absence of ventilation in the weaving sheds, has a deleterious effect on the health of that large proportion of the workers who have a predisposition to pulmonary and rheumatic diseases.

United States.

A perfectly white peacock, the only one in this country, is on exhibition in Boston.

Congressman Stewart, of Texas, is the tallest member of the House. He measures a few inches over six feet.

A plain gold ring in New York has "officiated" at 185 weddings in two years. It is kept at Castle Garden, and loaned

for use by immigrants who want to marry there.

Roller skating is indulged in with undiminished ardor at the American Institute, with over a thousand skaters on the floor in an evening.

Mrs. Mary Brown, the widow of the late John Brown, the noted abolitionist, who was hanged for his zeal, died recently at San Francisco.

Lincoln's tomb at Springfield, Ill., is going to ruin. Two of the supporting arches have collapsed, and one corner of the monument has settled several inches.

In deference to the wishes of Mrs. Phillips the movement for a statue of Wendell Phillips in Boston has been abandoned. It is, however, probable that a portrait of the great orator will soon adorn Faneuil Hall.

A woman has been tending a switch at a railroad junction near Macon, Ga., since 1862, having succeeded her husband, who was switchman for ten years previous. She is at her post from 6 in the morning till six in the evening, and during the whole long period of her service has never misplaced a switch. She is 62 years old.

This recent mortality in the rich Packer family, of Pennsylvania, is remarkable. The three possessors of an estate of some \$3,000,000 have followed each other to the grave in about two years. The father died of old age in 1882; the elder son, Robert, died unexpectedly in Florida last year; and now the second son has gone quite as suddenly. The two sons leave wealthy widows.

Religious.

Of 484 ministers who left the Established Church of Scotland at the Disruption in 1843 over 100 are still alive.

Bunyan will now tell his dream to the Persians, thanks to the Rev. Mr. Porter, Presbyterian minister at Teheran, who has translated the "Pilgrim's Progress" into their language.

A new university has been located at Chattanooga, Tenn. It will be the central Methodist university in the South, and \$80,000 will be spent on it this year.

A Protestant Episcopal cathedral is to be built at Albany, N. Y., under the supervision of Bishop Doane, at an estimated cost of \$450,000. Its dimensions will be 260x95 feet, with spires 203 feet high.

The Methodist women of Baltimore, Md., propose to commemorate the approaching centennial of American Methodism, by raising \$200,000, for the founding in that city of an institution for the higher education of women.

A very successful reception was given the other evening by the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston, Governor Robinson and Mayor Martin being among the honored guests, both of whom made happy and cheering addresses.

One of the lay delegates to the Wisconsin Conference was ninety-five years old. He seemed scarce eighty. When invited by Bishop Hurst to sit upon the platform he did so, but when invited to speak, modestly declined. That longevity is greatly increasing in this country is beyond doubt.

Bishop Robertson, of the Episcopal diocese of Missouri, says:—"For some time past almost all our accessions by ordination (to the ministry) have been from other religious bodies. It is difficult for me to recall when we have had a candidate who presented himself from the families of our own people."

The Lutheran churches in Saxony are introducing liturgical evening services, which meets both the wants and the favor of the people. The pastors take also the principal part in Sunday-school work, preferring children's services conducted by themselves to the English graded system.

Charles Bradlaugh, the infidel member

of Parliament, has a brother who is actively engaged in evangelical work. The latter disclaims any differences with his brother, except in religious opinions, and, though there is no fraternal companionship between them, he says he loves him as much as ever, and confidently looks for his conversion to Christianity.

The Scandinavians in Minnesota and Dakota give a cold shoulder to the Mormon missionaries. It is reported that sixteen of them were lately sent among the Scandinavians in those regions, who worked hard to make converts, but finally suspended their efforts, complaining that the "wicked Scandinavians would not receive them in their houses, nor listen to them, nor have anything to do with them."

The English Baptists have within the limits of the London postal district 231 churches, exclusive of mission-halls, while in England and Wales they have 2,476 churches, of which 540 are in the Principality. In Scotland there are 92 churches, and in Ireland 25, giving a grand total for the British Isles of 2,593 churches, as against 2,573 in 1882, showing an increase of 20 during the past year. The number of chapels is 3,738, and members 304,802, being an increase of 13,884 on last year.

The Rev. Jacob Freshman has been spending a few days in Baltimore, describing in various churches his Hebrew Christian work in New York city. So great an interest has been excited that a meeting has been called in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, to endeavor to establish a branch of his mission in that city. Mr. Freshman is a Canadian, and a member of the Methodist Conference here. His father, Rev. Jacob Freshman, was a converted Jewish Rabbi.

Personal.

The Duke of Edinburgh having expressed a wish to be employed on active service the Admiralty have consented to give him command of a naval detachment, selecting his men from any three ships of the Channel Squadron.

The betrothal of the Princess Elizabeth of Hesse with the Grand Duke of Serenus of Russia is officially announced. The Princess is the second daughter of the Grand Duke of Hesse and the late Princess Alice. She was born on Nov. 1st, 1884.

Garibaldi's statue, to be set up in Turin, represents the General standing on the summit of a rock in Caprera, his eyes directed to distant Italy. On the pedestal stands a female figure with a star on her forehead and a majestic lion—the latter being a symbol of Garibaldi's strength.

Of the late Mr. Chenery, editor of the London Times, Mr. Labouchere says:—"He passed much of his time at the Athenaeum and Reform clubs, where he was more given to listen than to talk. No one would, had he not been aware of the fact, have supposed that the quiet, unassuming gentleman, whose only wish, apparently, was to pass unnoticed through the world, was the redoubtable editor of the Times."

The largest city in Japan is Osaka, which contains 1,585,595 inhabitants.

NEW GOODS!

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