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## TEMPERATURE

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

## THE WEEK ENDING

| February 27th, 1881. |      |       | Corresponding week, 1880 |      |       |
|----------------------|------|-------|--------------------------|------|-------|
| Max.                 | Min. | Mean. | Max.                     | Min. | Mean. |
| Mon.. 30°            | 9°   | 21°   | Mon.. 26°                | 16°  | 21°   |
| Tue.. 32°            | 19°  | 25°   | Tue.. 25°                | 15°  | 20°   |
| Wed.. 32°            | 14°  | 23°   | Wed.. 35°                | 21°  | 28°   |
| Thur.. 14°           | -10° | 2°    | Thur.. 30°               | -1°  | 14°   |
| Fri.. 11°            | -5°  | 3°    | Fri.. 35°                | 4°   | 19°   |
| Sat.. 20°            | zero | 10°   | Sat.. 45°                | 34°  | 39°   |
| Sun.. 30°            | 15°  | 22°   | Sun.. 40°                | 30°  | 36°   |

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## PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

Mr. J. H. Gould is at present on a tour through Ontario in the interests of the NEWS, and is now in Toronto, where we trust that he will meet with a good reception from our friends that are and those that are to be.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, March 5, 1881

## THE WEEK.

MONTREALERS are distinguishing themselves in the Chess Congress at Ottawa, an account of which will be found in another column. Of the four gentlemen named as likely to win prizes, and from whom we may probably have to select the winner of the cup, three of them—Messrs. BARRY, HENDERSON and SHAW—are amongst our own citizens. Mr. SCHULL of Guelph, is the only competitor these gentlemen will have to fear in the final contest, the result of which we are expecting as we write. We are glad to hear that Mr. LE DROIT of Quebec, whose name is so familiar to chessplayers of the Dominion is to be the President for the coming year.

THE recent prognostications of a peaceful settlement with the Boers have been anything but fulfilled. The news which was received here on Monday details another serious reverse to the British arms at the Cape. According to telegrams from the seat of war, Sir GEO. COLLEY was driven from his position on Mageta Mountain by the attack of the enemy. The loss is feared to be heavy, and at the head of the list stands the name of General COLLEY himself. This loss will probably prove a very serious check to the advance of the troops, and renders the defeat a most disastrous one. We shall anxiously await fresh news of the catastrophe, the certainty of which is beyond a doubt.

A MOST important discovery has been recently made of a Phœnician inscription from the pool of Siloam, the deciphering and translation of which may be shortly expected, as a *fac simile* copy has just reached England. It was discovered a few months since by the Jerusalem correspondent of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and is composed of letters almost identical with those on the Moabite stone. The Palestine Exploration Fund have been doing excellent work on the west side of Jordan, and have now finally decided on a painstaking and accurate survey of the east side, which as it stands today is a blank upon the maps. Much assistance may be expected for Biblical scholars in the recovery of local names, which in the Eastern exploration have already thrown so much light upon the historical books of the old Testament. Many personal appellations have been already identified with geographical names

as *Belka* with *Balak*, *Shihân* with *Sihon*, and a host of others, while the scripture names of *Oreb*, *Zeeb* and *Salmuneh* are of frequent occurrence among the Arab tribes under their modern forms of *Ghorab*, *Diab* and *Selameh*. The expedition will have started in all probability by the time these lines are read.

THE London *Daily News* points out a lesson to be learned from the war in South Africa with regard to the usefulness of a somewhat neglected branch of the English service, the Volunteers. The loss of our men in the various encounters with the Boers has been quite unprecedented in the annals of modern warfare, and for the first time we have been fighting against marksmen. The Boers are themselves Volunteers and bear in many respects a strong similarity to the home branches of that service, and it may be safely said of the Volunteers that whatever disadvantage they may labour under in the matter of regimental discipline and familiarity with field manoeuvres, they have a decided pull on the regulars in the superiority of their shooting. Moreover the Boers are doing just that which our home service may be called upon to do any day, repelling an invasion; and to our shame and their credit be it said, repelling it for the time at least right effectually. The lesson comes home to us in Canada no less than in England, where however, our volunteers are as a rule treated with more consideration than at home, owing to the absence of an "elder brother" branch of the regular service, as a rule, be it said, to which Montreal should blush to be a signal exception. Let us hope that our City Council will continue no longer to be a by-word in militia circles for meanness and illiberality. It is nearly nine years now since the roof of the drill shed fell in, and nine years of petitioning and agitating have at last produced a truly magnificent offer from the municipality of a little more than the principal and interest of the Government grant in return for—and here comes the disgraceful part of the proposed bargain—the surrender of the Champ de Mars for street making purposes. The mere record of such a bargain is sufficient. The City Council truly need to "mend their ways" in this matter of the volunteers at least.

## THE MENDELSSOHN CHOIR.

On the 22nd of February this Society gave a complimentary concert in the Queen's Hall, which was filled to overflowing with a select and highly appreciative audience. The programme was well suited to display the special excellencies of the choir's training, while the performance as a whole may be characterized as quite remarkable for delicacy and finish. As it was the first time I was privileged to hear the Society, I may be permitted to express a general opinion of their merits. The rendering of the part songs and concerted music was undoubtedly very far ahead of any similar organization in Canada or, as I believe, in the States either, and I have no hesitation in saying that the Mendelssohn Choir, if they always sing as well as they did on the occasion to which I refer, would receive an undoubted musical recognition in London or elsewhere in Europe. The principal part of their success is due obviously to real hard work on the part of the choir and conductor, a fact which Canadian musicians would do well to observe and take a lesson from. The great fault of our amateur singing as a rule is the want of honest application without which the best voice, and even the most excellent training is thrown away. We hear many good voices; in fact, as compared with England, the superiority of the material at the command of directors of choirs has often struck me. Many too of our singers do not lack good taste and musical feeling, while we have musicians undoubtedly capable of directing their efforts. The poor result to be met in so many instances I believe is due princi-

pally to this want of the will to work hard for an end, to spare no labour to accomplish a thoroughly harmonious result. Mr. GOULD himself possesses many of the best qualities of a conductor, and in this his choir are exceptionally fortunate, but while we congratulate them on the good taste and musical abilities of their leader, we must not forget to congratulate him on the excellent way in which the members of his Society have responded to his efforts. Once more I would repeat to young musicians the moral of these lines. To be a musician, to produce any satisfactory musical result, you must be willing to work. Your good voice, your musical taste, your self-confidence (and believe me the last is by no means the worst quality a musician can possess) will go for nothing in the production of the higher artistic result which you should aim at, if unsupported by application and honest hard work. And if this is true of individuals it applies with double force to all musical Associations whatever. Remember too that, in the case of these latter, constant practice *together* is a *sine qua non*, and any choir master will tell you how hard it is to drive this into the heads of his choir. You may know every note of the music to be sung and yet your presence at the performance may be a drag and a hindrance instead of a help, if by continual absence at rehearsal you have missed practising with the other members of the chorus. *Verbum sap.* This notice of the Mendelssohn Choir has unwittingly strayed into a discussion of which the results shown by their concert were the theme. Of criticism of the concert itself I have little to offer additional or in detail. Miss HOLMES played with less brilliancy than Montrealers are accustomed to expect from her, but to an outsider she was charming. Mr. NORRIS and Miss MALTBY were the vocal soloists, the former possessing a pleasant voice though scarcely sufficient for the building, while Miss MALTBY suffered so obviously from a cold that only good nature prevented the omission of her number.

## MUSICUS.

## THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, February 26th, 1881.

The debating of the week in the House of Commons was principally on the Budget. It must be said that there have been several very able well considered speeches. But after all to a great extent it has been like threshing straw. The policy of the Government is settled. It was carried by a large majority, almost specially elected on that issue. Everybody has thoroughly made up his mind. Not a vote can be changed; and opinions are so hard and fast that not even an impression can be made. It has, therefore, been useless debating in so far as the sense of the House is concerned. But these debates are not meant for the House; they are intended for the country.

Sir Richard Cartwright followed Sir Leonard Tilley, making a very elaborate speech which has been duly published in his party papers with every display of capitals. Sir Richard has great fluency and probably the bitterest tongue in the House. Nothing was right according to him, but everything had been made worse, and the prosperity of the country had arisen in spite of what had been done. He was particularly strong on the exodus question, actually insisting that depopulation is going on, that parts of certain counties are being emptied, and some of the cities going back in population. He gave figures, and one of the members, Mr. Rykert, asked him his authority for them. The answer in substance was that the authority was quite as respectable as the member who made the interruption. But surely this is lamentable. Figures of this kind are either facts based on a census record, or they are the wild statements of a *gobe-mouche*. But while Sir Richard did not scruple to use figures without foundation, he yet ventured to say that the figures from the railway companies presented were not reliable, asserting at the same time his confidence in the American statistics. I will venture to suggest that this style of thing may be carried too far. I have heard men of mark on Sir Richard's own side of the House openly say that they did not wish to tie the fortunes of the Reform party to a cry based on such palpably false figures as those published by the Port Huron Collector. And there is a further consideration for the party. They will find that it will prove a perfectly bootless task to cry "Exodus!" and "Ruin!" and "Decay!" in face of a strongly advancing tide of great prosperity which is plain before all men's eyes. If even this were not so plain, it would be unpatriotic, as if it could be established

that Canada was a country to flee from, it would be plain that it is not one to come to, and the use that has been, and would be made of this, has already inflicted cruel injury, and rendered nugatory many of the expensive efforts to promote immigration.

For the reasons I have given I shall not attempt to furnish you with a summary of this debate. But I must not omit to say that Messrs. Plumb, White (Cardwell), Coursol, Ross (Middlesex), and Burpee each made very able speeches on their respective sides. But in the face of the facts which I gave you last week from the speech of Sir Leonard Tilley, the men who spoke in opposition did so from the standpoint of a plainly losing cause. It is proved beyond question that the tariff of Sir Leonard Tilley has not done what it was angrily said in Opposition it would do, but on the contrary, it has more than established the grounds on which it was based. It is only about half as protective as the tariff of the United States. It is not so protective as to choke off commerce, and it was never intended to be. But it is sufficiently protective to give confidence and stimulus to manufactures. This it plainly has done over the whole Dominion, and the result coupled with the natural rebound from the depression has been almost magical. It seems almost like the judicial blindness described by the poet for a great political party to stake its fortunes on a denial of these facts. It is, in truth, equivalent to knocking one's head against a stone wall.

Sir John Macdonald returned to the House this week after his long illness, and his re-entrance was greeted with cheers. Sir Charles Tupper, however, while I write these lines, still lies sick. The doctors report that while his illness is not dangerous, it is painful, and may be tedious. This is to be regretted at this stage of the session.

On Monday Mr. Blake introduced his bill for further securing the independence of Parliament, providing that any member acting as counsel or representative of parties presenting claims against the Government or any of the Departments forfeits his right to sit in Parliament.

Mr. Borgin, moving for some returns respecting the Weights and Measures Branch of the Inland Revenue, complained of the frightful cost of the Branch and small revenue derived from it, and said the people looked upon it as a system of robbery by the officials of the department. A great number of members took part in the discussion of this question, most of them approving of the law, but finding fault with its administration. Mr. Bowell said any complaints made would be inquired into, and if just, would be remedied, but he believed it was the experience of every hon. gentleman that the parties who interfered and wished to cheat the people, made the loudest complaint.

Sir Leonard Tilley introduced a Bill to make the currency of Prince Edward Island and British Columbia uniform with that of the rest of the Dominion. He also moved that Government business should during the remainder of the Session have precedence on Thursday. In answer to Mr. Blake, Sir Leonard Tilley said that the Manitoba Boundaries Act and the amendments to the Consolidated Railway Act would be introduced in the Senate first so that they could be passed there while the House was engaged in the tariff debate.

On Wednesday night there was a discussion respecting the dismissal of the late Warden of the St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary. Mr. Macdonald explained that it was in consequence of an investigation held by the Inspector of Penitentiaries, and Mr. Langevin stated that politics had nothing to do with the matter. It was and would be the invariable policy of the Government that civil servants should not be removed because they were appointed by the late Government, but should remain in office as long as they faithfully discharged their duties.

Mr. Richey's bill to prevent and punish wrongs to children was considered in Committee, and Dr. Borgin withdrew his bill respecting the hours of labour in factories, &c., on the understanding that the Government would take up the matter during the recess.

Sir Richard Cartwright moved the second reading of Independence of Parliament Bill providing for penalties for the corruption of members of Parliament or the Local Legislature by or for the acceptance by Legislatures of donations from the Pacific Railway Syndicate.

Mr. Langevin said one corporation should not be singled out especially for such a measure, and the bill was an insult to the Syndicate Company and the Parliament who incorporated it, and moved the six months' hoist, which was carried by a vote of 91 to 31.

In the Senate on Wednesday, Sir A. Campbell stated that the expenditure for the Geological Museum amounted to \$13,250 apart from the expense of the removal from Montreal. Duplicates of the specimens would be left with McGill University, which, as Custodian, would provide a museum. The European, Canadian, and American Cable Co's bill was passed, a motion of Hon. Mr. Scott to strike out a clause restricting the rate for messages being rejected. Hon. Mr. Aikins submitted an amendment to the Petroleum Inspection Bill, making the flash test of Canadian and American oils the same, which was carried. The bills to amend the Railway Act promised by Sir Charles Tupper were introduced by Sir Alex. Campbell, and fairly dispose of the monopoly cry about the tolls.

The House on Friday was again engaged in the tariff debate, and a number of private bills were moved a stage.