

against the monarchical government, and had established internal order.

In 1799 Bonaparte was chosen First Consul.

1804—Bonaparte Emperor.

1815—Waterloo and St. Helena, and the restoration of the Bourbons in the person of Louis XVIII.

1830—The revolution and expulsion of Charles X. for general disregard of constitutional government, and in particular for Polignac's decrees against the press. Louis Philippe ascends the throne.

1848—Louis Philippe abdicates; popular dissatisfaction at peace policy abroad; tampering with elections at home and limiting the powers of the press, and Louis Napoleon elected President.

1851—Louis Napoleon elected President for ten years by 7,839,216 votes.

1852—The Second Empire by a vote of 7,824,129 citizens.

1870—(Sept. 3) Republic again proclaimed at Paris.

THE NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL. LAYING THE CORNER STONE.

On the afternoon of Sunday the 28th ult. at three o'clock the ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new R. C. Cathedral was performed by His Lordship Bishop Bourget in the presence of an immense concourse of people. The site of the new cathedral is on the corner of Dorchester and Cemetery streets on the elevated grounds attached to the Bishop's palace, one of the most commanding views of the whole City. It is designed that the building shall be of vast proportions, modelled after the design of St. Peter's at Rome, and while the exterior will be mainly composed of substantial stone work which will be grandly imposing from its immense extent, it is also intended that the means for the purposes of decoration will be reserved for the interior. The great undertaking will no doubt extend over many years in completion, but it will be a fitting monument of Bishop Bourget's Episcopate. Before the hour appointed for the ceremony hundreds of people had collected, waiting in anxious expectation to witness the grand event of the day. And by half-past three not much less than 10,000 people were present, standing shoulder to shoulder over the whole area this vast building is destined to cover. Hundreds were also collected on the roofs and balconies of the neighbouring buildings, and on every wood pile, fence, or other elevation in the vicinity that afforded any means of getting a glimpse of the distinguished persons who were to officiate in the imposing ceremony. On the south side of the foundation walls of the new edifice a platform was erected overhung with a beautiful canopy surrounded with flags and evergreens—on this dais seats were placed for His Lordship the Bishop, the most distinguished of the clergy, and the Presidents of all the Catholic National and Benevolent Societies in the city—on the ground in front and at each side of the platform seats were arranged and occupied by members of the above societies and about one hundred and fifty of the clergy, many of whom were from the country districts.

The Grand Vicar of Three Rivers was expected to be present and deliver an address specially prepared for the auspicious occasion. Through unavoidable causes he failed to appear and after the singing of a hymn by the choir His Lordship ascended the temporary pulpit on the west side of the grounds and delivered an extempore address in French, in which he showed the necessity of a suitable Cathedral being erected in the diocese and pointed out the duty of members of the Church to extend a helping hand towards the completion of so needed a work. The choir then gave another selection of music, which was listened to with much pleasure and interest. Father Lanigan, Parish Priest of Hochelaga, next addressed the assembled multitude. After a few introductory remarks he said he was going to narrow his subject down to one simple question, to which he begged an answer from all. He was not going to indulge in a long argumentation, for it was quite unnecessary to appeal even to their good sense, but he would simply call attention to one palpable fact. He would ask them was that building (pointing to the one in connection with the Bishop's Palace) to remain the Cathedral of the Bishop of Montreal; that was the whole question. Was that miserable hovel going to be the Cathedral of the largest city in the whole Dominion, when in is centred the emporium of commerce, the mart of industry, the centre of art, science and literature. (Cries of no, no.) Was that building going to be the Cathedral of this city—the largest in population and the greatest in wealth of any city in the Dominion from Halifax to the farthest West. Was it to be the Cathedral of 400,000 Catholics? Was that going to remain the Cathedral of this large diocese? (Cries again of no, no.) The Rev. gentleman concluded his earnest and eloquent address by referring to the numerous elegant and costly church edifices erected by the several Protestant denominations in Montreal; and by the expression of the hope that the Roman Catholic Irishmen of Montreal would come forward with their accustomed liberality to aid their Bishop in the completion of the pious work he had designed.

The ceremony of laying the stone was then performed by His Lordship the Bishop, and after the conclusion of the religious ceremonies His Lordship briefly addressed the people, inviting all to contribute towards the erection of the sacred edifice. The vast concourse of people then dispersed.

THE LOSS OF THE "CAPTAIN."

The sinking of the iron-clad "Captain," off the Spanish coast, on Thursday morning last week, with all on board, is a calamity such as has not befallen the navy since the "Royal George," with Kampenfelt and twice five hundred men, went down at her anchors at Spithead. At night the vessel rode the waves the finest war ship, perhaps, that ever sailed the sea. At dawn her consort swept the horizon in vain for the least trace of her. Only later in the day some stray spars and small boats that the great deep had given up attested her dismal fate. In the face of so horrible a disaster as this—a disaster which not only swallows up the most superb specimen of naval architecture ever known, but carries down with it five hundred gallant English sailors—it may seem harsh to dwell on mere points of technical precision; and yet in the interests of humanity it is proper that the build of the "Captain" should be touched on, that the revelation of its now lamentably well-proven defects may help to avert such dreadful casualties in the future.

In its build, its plan, its armament, the "Captain" was, up to the hour it foundered, to all human insight, simply perfect. It was a huge ship of 4,372 tons burdon, armed with a

battery of six guns—300 pounders, if we are not mistaken—which had in their trials penetrated every obstacle; and, in order that its defensive armament might equal its offensive, the ship was clad in a mail of 8-inch wrought iron. Moved at great speed by engines of 900-horse power, manned with a picked crew of 500 men, and steaming out under the banner of St. George for a trial trip on the French coast, no wonder the pride of England was stirred by so magnificent a witness that she still was "Captain" of the glory of the sea. By any adversary of human contrivance the great ship would probably have been irresistible; but the wind rose, and in a storm that many a wooden whaler would have laughed at the iron leviathan went down. Under the stress of a sudden squall the staunchest iron-clad ever put in commission sinks as swiftly as one of her own shot, and by so sinking demonstrates that the limit of naval armoring has been fatally reached. Like the Admiral Earl of Sandwich, she was carried down by her armour of proof. Ranging from 8 inches in the most exposed portion of her hull, to 7, 4, and 3 inches as the exposure lessened, the weight of her protection became her destruction; and in contemplating that destruction it would be well for the British Admiralty, and for that matter naval constructors every where, to take instant pause. With 8-inch armour the Captain succumbed to a squall; and yet there are now in the English dock-yards the Invincible, Iron Duke, Swiftsure, Triumph, and Vanguard, all to have a like maximum plating, with a 6-inch armour as minimum, double the Captain's minimum; the Hercules and Sultan to have 9-inch armour; the Hotspur to have 11-inch; and the Glutton to have the monstrous thickness of one foot. With the evidence afforded by the terrible fate of the vessel which has just foundered that the armour limit is overstepped for safety at eight inches, no matter what the calculations may say about sufficient buoyancy under that or greater thickness, it would surely be criminal for the naval authorities of Christendom not to arrest the further construction of vessels so heavily plated as to be but mere man-traps in reality, however imposing or efficient to the fancy or the eye. The sea will not sustain fabrics that with the offensive also possess the defensive strength of forts, and the sooner the effort to realize that impossibility is abandoned the better for life and art. Naval architecture must recognize the facts of nature; and such disasters as that of the Captain—a disaster originating obviously from a system, and not, like the loss of the Royal George, in an abnormal circumstance of carelessness—must cease to appal humanity.

Five hundred men dragged down—in an instant of time, in an iron box—is a terrific commentary on over-armouring. It is simply awful to reflect on what must have been the circumstances of this frightful casualty. One lurch, and all must have been over. Perhaps but a single wave was shipped, and under that weight of water, the ship already burdened to within a hair's breadth of her resisting power, went down like lead. No rocket was shot, no gun fired, not so much as one boat was cleared. When we consider how brief a time is required on a man-of-war for either of these operations, we can dimly realize the heart-rending suddenness with which the finest vessel in the world disappeared for ever. At night, says Admiral Milne's simply pathetic despatch, the Captain lay "near us." At dawn "she was missing."—*New York World*

[A boat with eighteen of the crew has been picked up. Another boat was launched, but it quickly swamped and the occupants perished. Among the victims were Capt. Coles, the builder of the "Captain," Lord Northbrook, a son of Mr. Childers, of the Admiralty, and other men of note.]

THE WHY AND THE WHEREFORE OF PECULIAR NAMES—MANNERS AND CUSTOMS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN.

BY THE REV. J. D. BORTHWICK.

(Continued.)

NEIGHBOUR.—This word is derived from *nigh*, or next, and *boor*, which formerly meant a farmer—hence to this day the settlers in South Africa are called the Dutch Boors. The word now signifies next door inhabitant, the nearest person living to you.

O.

"OLD DOMINION."—Few things are so well calculated to awaken in the mind of the proud Virginian, when wandering in foreign lands, touching reminiscences of home and kindred, as the simple mention of the "Old Dominion." And yet there are comparatively few who are aware of the term which has so long and so generally been applied to Virginia. It originated thus: During the protectorate of Cromwell, the colony of Virginia refused to acknowledge his authority, and declared itself independent. Shortly after, when Cromwell threatened to send a fleet and army to reduce Virginia to subjection, the alarmed Virginians sent a messenger to Charles II., who was then an exile in Flanders, inviting him to return in the ship with the messenger, and be King of Virginia. Charles accepted the invitation, and was on the eve of embarkation, when he was called to the throne of England. As soon as he was fairly seated on his throne, in gratitude for the loyalty of Virginia, he caused her coat of arms to be quartered with those of England, Scotland, and Ireland, as an independent member of the empire, a distinct portion of the "Old Dominion." Hence arose the origin of the term. Copper coins of Virginia were issued as late as the reign of George III., which bore on one side the coats of arms of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Virginia.—(Notes and Queries.)

ORDEAL—called "The Judgment of God;" it was first used by Edward the Confessor, and disused by the royal proclamation of Henry III., A.D. 1261. This superstitious custom was anciently very prevalent in Britain. There were three kinds of ordeal; that by fire, that by cold water, and that by hot water. In that by fire, the accused were to walk blindfolded and barefooted, over nine red-hot ploughshares, placed at unequal distances; in that by cold water, the person accused was bound hands and feet, thrown into a pond, or river, and was then to clear himself by escaping drowning; in that by hot water, the hands and feet were thrown into scalding water.

OSSEFRAGE.—The Scavenger of Egypt; so called because it eats up all the offal, &c., which otherwise would rot and vitiate the air. The word comes from *frango*, I break, and *ossa*, bones. It has powerful muscles in its head wherewith it can break up the bones, &c., lying about, especially in the streets of Grand Cairo, where it is contrary to the law to molest or kill them.

ORCHESTRA.—Every one knows that this term is now applied to the place set apart, in theatres and other resorts of the kind, for the band of musicians. The haughty patricians of Rome, could they become eye or ear-witnesses of this employment of the word, would feel very indignant, seeing that orchestra had once the honour to signify the seats or gallery (next the stage in the theatre, and next the arena in the amphitheatre) appropriated to the use of their lordly order in the places of assembly of their city.

OSTRACISM.—Ostracism is a term, in our own and other tongues, synonymous with banishment or exile. The word is derived from the Greek *ostrakon*, a tile. Banishment was decreed in Athens, at the will of a fierce and often ungrateful populace, in the following way:—In a certain part of the market-place of the city, there was a spot of ground, inclosed with wooden rails, and having ten gates leading into it, that being the number of the Athenian tribes. When the doom of banishment was sought against one or more persons, and a popular vote was to be taken on the subject, each citizen provided himself with a tile, or, frequently, a piece of a broken earthen pot, and, after marking on it the name of the man against whom he voted, carried it to the market-place, where it was deposited in a heap with others, within the inclosure. If less than 6,000 tiles in the gross were collected, the vote was void; if more, the accused was banished. If, again, two persons of opposite sides were put on their trial at the same time, the one whose name appeared on the majority of the tiles was banished. And this balloting, by tiles and broken flower-pots, gave rise to the term *ostracism*. A similar practice prevailed in other parts of Greece, as well as in Athens. In the latter city the custom was put an end to by a trick of Alcibiades, a celebrated Athenian captain, and the pupil of Socrates. Alcibiades was the head of a powerful faction in his native city, at the same time that his rivals, Nicias and Phœax, headed two other parties of considerable strength. The whole three of these chiefs, however, were put in danger by a demagogue named Hyperbolus, who persuaded the people to put them to the tile-trial, believing himself certain of thus getting rid of one of them at least. But Alcibiades and his two rivals secretly laid their heads together, and induced all their friends to write Hyperbolus's own name on their tiles. The consequence was, that when the tiles were divided into four lots, Hyperbolus, to his extreme surprise, had more votes against him than any of the others individually, and was accordingly banished. The Athenians felt offended and affronted, and never *ostracised* another person afterwards.

P

PAGANS.—The word *Pagans* is not very often used, though formerly it was the common and current designation for heathens, or infidels—for all, in short, without the pale of Christianity. In its true acceptation, the word signified merely *villagers*. It received its new application upon the public establishment of Christianity in the Roman empire by Constantine, when the pursuit of the ancient worship was prohibited in cities, and the old temples shut up. Those who were attached to the forbidden religion fled to the country, and secretly performed their former sacred rites in the secrecy of village (*pagorum*); hence they were called *Pagans*.

PURE WATER UNKNOWN IN NATURE.—Water, of all liquids with which we are acquainted, possesses the greatest power of holding substances in solution. And this solvent power is not confined to its action on solids, but extends also to gaseous matter, the solution being mechanical in some cases, and chemical in others. The power that water possesses in taking up some gases is extraordinary. In the case of ammonia gas, 750 volumes are soluble in one volume of water; and bearing in mind its vast solvent powers, there is nothing very extraordinary in the fact that absolutely chemically pure water is an unknown thing in nature. Rain water is contaminated with the ammonia and other gaseous elements with which it meets in its downward progress. Even snow, as Liebig has shown, contains a considerable quantity of ammonia. In using the word "contaminated," I merely intend to imply that rain water is not chemically pure, because there can be but very little doubt that the presence of ammonia is not altogether unimportant in its influence on vegetable life; nor is it unlikely but that the excessively invigorating effect produced on vegetation by a shower of rain may to a certain extent be due to its presence. I may just remark here that plants seem to revive more rapidly when sprinkled with water to which you have added a trace of ammonia solution, than when common water has been employed. I have tried this several times, and am convinced of its truth.—*Food Journal*.

Temperature in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1870, observed by John Underhill, Optician to the Medical Faculty of McGill University, 299 Notre Dame Street.

| | | 9 A. M. | 1 P. M. | 6 P. M. |
|--------------------|----|---------|---------|---------|
| Wednesday, Sept. 7 | 7 | 60° | 71° 5 | 64° |
| Thursday, " 8 | 8 | 62° | 72° | 66° |
| Friday, " 9 | 9 | 66° | 73° | 70° |
| Saturday, " 10 | 10 | 64° | 67° | 58° |
| Sunday, " 11 | 11 | 52° | 62° | 56° |
| Monday, " 12 | 12 | 56° | 69° | 62° |
| Tuesday, " 13 | 13 | 61° | 73° | 68° |
| | | MAX. | MIN. | MEAN. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 7 | 7 | 72° | 45° | 58° 5 |
| Thursday, " 8 | 8 | 72° | 44° | 58° |
| Friday, " 9 | 9 | 76° | 55° | 65° 5 |
| Saturday, " 10 | 10 | 69° | 54° | 61° 5 |
| Sunday, " 11 | 11 | 64° | 41° | 52° 5 |
| Monday, " 12 | 12 | 66° | 41° | 53° |
| Tuesday, " 13 | 13 | 75° | 47° | 61° |

Aneroid Barometer compensated and corrected.

| | | | 9 A. M. | 1 P. M. | 6 P. M. |
|------------|---------|-------|---------|---------|---------|
| Wednesday, | Sept. 7 | | 30.40 | 30.46 | 30.49 |
| Thursday, | " 8 | | 30.52 | 30.60 | 30.45 |
| Friday, | " 9 | | 30.33 | 30.26 | 30.18 |
| Saturday, | " 10 | | 30.25 | 30.26 | 30.30 |
| Sunday, | " 11 | | 30.38 | 30.38 | 30.35 |
| Monday, | " 12 | | 30.50 | 30.50 | 30.45 |
| Tuesday, | " 13 | | 30.50 | 30.46 | 30.42 |