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TEMPERATURE

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

THE WEEK ENDING

Table with columns for dates (Sept. 25th, 1881) and corresponding week (1880), with sub-columns for Max., Min., and Mean temperatures for each day of the week.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, Oct. 1st, 1881.

THE WEEK.

WHILE we write the minute guns are booming that mark the passing away from the earth of JAMES A. GARFIELD. He is gone and all eyes are turned upon ARTHUR, almost before he is laid in his grave. "Le roi est mort—vive le roi."

So far as we can judge at this early date the new President seems likely to have the support of all parties to a degree which hardly could have been anticipated. A New York paper says that CHESTER A. ARTHUR is to-day the most popular man in the United States. "Le roi est mort, vive le roi" expresses a state of feeling which ensures the stability of the form of Government in whose favour it is exercised, and, happily for the country, the people at large have transferred to the new President no small share of the loyal feeling and personal devotion with which they watched by the death bed of his predecessor. In spite of sinister predictions, the Chief Magistrate will, we believe, be supported in the grave responsibilities upon which he is entering by the good wishes of a people who will honour and obey him as President however they may have opposed him in his private capacity.

Of course there is speculation enough and to spare as to what will be the new President's line of action. So far the only document of any importance which ARTHUR has given to the country is his acceptance of the Vice-Presidency, and out of that we must glean such ideas as we may of his scheme of political action. In his recent interview with the late President he acknowledged that as a practical politician he could see no way to achieve the success of his party but by admitting them to a share of the patronage of the State. To this extent at all events he stands committed to the Stalwart programme, though, to judge from his attitude since taking the oath, he is in no hurry to disturb existing arrangements. On more general grounds, President ARTHUR is an acknowledged mono-metallist. His expressions there are not to be mistaken, and we may believe that he will make use of his position and influence to endeavour to get rid of the bi-metallic standard, and confirm the coinage system of the States to the gold unit of other

nations. The new President moreover is in favour of a revision of the tariff. Such a revision is loudly called for throughout the States, and its successful carrying out would be a feather in the cap of the new Government. Such is to a casual observer the gist of the situation. Meanwhile the overflowing Treasury at Washington seems to indicate that the principal task which the next Congress will have to deal with will be a series of schemes for spending the nation's money, in which Ex-President Grant and his followers may be expected to take the lead. Altogether the new President may be congratulated on the prospect of a remarkable state of prosperity. The process of funding the National Debt is practically complete, and the Treasury officials are really at a loss to know what to do with the surplus received from Customs and Inland Revenue. With a full Treasury and a strong tide of popular favour turned in his direction the indications are that the new President is a lucky man.

THE Exhibition has closed, and the roulette table men and the car drivers are counting their profits and regretting that Exhibitions, like Christmas, come but once a year. In many respects the show may be pronounced to have been a success. The attendance on the whole was considerably larger than last year, and in many departments the exhibits were fully up to the mark, although the appearance in the early days of the opening was a good deal spoiled by the delay and failure of exhibitors to get their goods into position until long after the appointed day. This past week, however, the scene has been very gay, and the weather, with the exception of Friday, most tempting. Amongst the exhibits the most satisfactory, though perhaps not the most interesting to ordinary sight-seers, were the cattle, upon whose merits however we forbear to dilate, from the same reason. Suffice it to say that all the classes were well represented.

Apropos des bœufs a contemporary calls attention to the official guide published for the instruction of the judges at agricultural fairs, in which the description of the points appertaining to the different breeds of Hereford, Devon, Jersey, etc., are given on different pages in identical terms in each case. The simplicity of the instructions given cannot be cavilled at, and readers of the pamphlet in question may consider themselves after a short course of study as eligible for the post of judge at any forthcoming show. At the same time when after reading three paragraphs worded precisely the same, we came to the characteristics of the Jersey heifer, and found them described in the words we know so well, as characteristic of the Devon, Hereford and Durham, we were reminded of that anecdote of MARK TWAIN'S, which relates how the passengers on the overland stage route were driven nearly mad by the repetition by each fresh passenger who entered the stage as it proceeded on its journey, of one and the same anecdote. But when in a deserted mountain pass the travellers came upon a wayfarer, stripped and left for dead upon the road by a band of highwaymen, and when after being clothed and fed, and generally made comfortable, the unhappy man essayed to prove his gratitude by relating to them the identical story from which they had suffered so long—the passengers rose en masse and ordered him to proceed at his peril. It was getting too monotonous. And to any one who shrinks from monotony we do not recommend the official guide in question.

THE news that Mr. H. M. STANLEY, the great African explorer, is lying dangerously ill near the mouth of the Congo will be received with general regret. There is still some hope that the story of his illness is the invention of some deserter from his party, and further intelligence will be anxiously awaited. Mr.

STANLEY has already proved himself to be a most successful and daring explorer, and his loss in the prime of life would be a great misfortune, and a serious loss to the cause of civilization.

If the reported death of "Lady Digby" be true, the East has lost a figure which filled something of the place in this generation that Lady HESTER STANHOPE did in the last. The career of Lady Digby was by no means so strikingly romantic as that of Lady HESTER STANHOPE, and in many ways it was wilder and more eccentric, but the two women had in common a long connection with the East and a peculiar and intimate acquaintance with Eastern life. Lady Digby was the divorced wife of the late Lord ELLENBOROUGH, and after a somewhat reckless career she married some five-and-twenty years ago a Damascus Sheikh when she herself had attained her fiftieth year. Whatever her youth may have been her old age was peaceful and beloved, and her end at least was agreeably in contrast with that of Lady HESTER STANHOPE. The gifted and noble ELIOT WARRINGTON, whose brave death was the fitting close of a brilliant career, has told, as only he could tell it, the desolate end of the strange woman with whom LAMARTINE and KINGLAKE had interviews, and who was said to have been crowned by the Arabs at Palmyra as Queen of the East. The moment she died all her people abandoned her, and her dead body was left alone in the great dwelling which had been given to her by the Pacha of Sidon, until the English Consul at Beyrout and an American missionary came and buried her in the grove of myrtle and bay trees which she dearly loved in life. As for Lady Digby, she has died deeply regretted by the Eastern people about her, whose affection she won by her kindness and her unflinching charity.

A serious evil of the present day is the growing tendency to compromise crime for the sake of personal advantage, as shown by the numerous advertisements offering large rewards for stolen property "and no questions asked," which are daily to be seen in the New York papers. From one of them we clip the following:—

"One thousand dollars reward, and no questions asked, for the return of the watches, diamonds, gold enamelled, diamond, ruby and emerald sets, snuff box, sapphire and diamond bracelet, etc., stolen at Atlantic City. If the thieves have already disposed of the goods and they cannot be returned I will give any one of the thieves a reward of \$500 cash if he will inform me who the "receiver" is, and guarantee the thieves no prosecution.

N.B.—I want these goods back and will stand the loss of the \$1,000 cash if returned by the 15th of September, after which date these goods will be more graphically described and more strenuous means taken to recover them."

At least this is plain speaking. The advertiser makes no secret of his desire to get back his property, and his entire indifference to the moral iniquity of the offence which has been committed, which he estimates entirely at the value of his own personal inconvenience. In the same issue from which the above is taken there were six advertisements offering rewards of from \$5 up to \$1,000 for the return of stolen property, in each instance the owner intimating that he would ask no questions concerning the theft, but the advertisement quoted above surpasses any of its predecessors in its utter disregard for judicial authority. The advertiser seems to say, "If I cannot get my property back by unlawful means, I shall have to go to law, but I prefer infinitely to pay the thieves a little for their trouble and get my property back without any bother." It is hardly necessary to point out that this is in fact placing a premium upon crime. As it is, in London the profession of dog-stealing is largely carried on by a gang of men in many instances well known to the police, who never risk exposing their victims to sale, or attempt in any way to dispose of them when caught. They simply wait for the reward which is sure to be offered within a day or two, to

restore to the owners arms the lost treasure, pocket their fee "and no questions asked." A reward itself for the recovery of stolen property may be legitimate where it is offered with the intention of prosecuting the thief as well as recovering the booty, but the offer of a large sum of money for the return of the spoil on the condition of taking no further steps in the matter is simply receiving money to compound a felony, an offence punishable by law, and one which should be recognized as such. It is time we left off paying professional thieves to rob us and we do not thank our neighbours who selfishly encourage robbery by their eagerness to recover what they have lost, heedless of what they may ultimately cost others, perhaps themselves, by fostering the crimes which prey upon society, and live by its weaknesses as well as its gold.

THE PRESIDENT'S CASE

On July 2nd President Garfield was shot and a wound inflicted which was generally, by physicians and laymen, expected to kill him in a very short time. On that day the telegraph reported him to be "dead," "dying," "sinking fast," "beyond hope of recovery," half a dozen times. When the sun of the "glorious Fourth" dawned once more upon the country, everyone expected it to be a day of extreme sadness, such as had turned out to be a day of hope and confidence. The bulletins said that the President was better, and, if nothing extraordinary happened, such as the secondary hemorrhage, which was surely "to be expected on the tenth day," according to the Washington authorities, or general peritonitis, which was "almost inevitable," the President had a fair chance of recovery.

It is true, other authorities, such as Erichsen, for example, speak of secondary hemorrhage being likely to occur between the sixth and twentieth days after the injury, but Washington's celebrities had fixed it for the tenth, and it was so generally expected then and there. It did not come; neither did the threatened peritonitis, nor any other unfavorable symptoms, and the country breathed more freely; the physicians were happy, proud of their diagnosis, which was not verified by events; proud of their treatment, which soon had to be changed essentially; and the official bulletins declared the President to be on the "sure road to recovery." This statement was repeated again and again up to a few days before his death. It is true that the fever was constantly high; the temperature rose and sank and the weakness increased, but he was "convalescent" in spite of all. Several operations had to be performed which gave temporary relief. Other physicians of national repute had to be called in, by the expressed wish of Mrs. Garfield and the Secretary of State, and they remained alternately or together in Washington. They declared the treatment to be "all right," but changed it immediately, and they signed the bulletins, either one or both of them, even those which reported that the President had slept "sweetly."

Before the first operation was performed, the facts reported in the official bulletins alarmed the country—even the lay part of it—but the President's condition was declared to be "satisfactory." Four physicians did not see or know that something had to be done and quickly, or, if they knew it had to be done, did not dare to do it! After it was done, they were reported to have known it all the time, but had preferred to wait. The second operation was performed immediately after an official bulletin had reported the President to be all right! All right, with a rebellious stomach, a temperature of 101, pulse above 100, a loss of fifty pounds in weight and an alarming general weakness. There was such a constant, almost ridiculous contradiction between the official bulletins and the facts otherwise reported, that one had to come to the conclusion that there was something to be concealed. Striking examples of such contradictions can be found in almost any daily paper of the last six weeks.

On August 15th, for example, the President was officially reported "to be doing well and resting quietly," without much fever, but at that time he was known to have vomited and to have been "in great distress," as reported in another part of the same paper. In the meantime, the bulletins and the treatment had been sharply criticised and attacked by professional and unprofessional pens. It does not require a very scientific mind to know that a man with a leaden bullet in his body, with wounds daily discharging ounces of pus, and scarcely able to keep any solid food on his stomach, is not in a very satisfactory condition. Everyone knows that a high pulse and a high temperature cannot go on for any length of time without imperilling the life of the person afflicted. If all this were clear to laymen, it was more than natural that a physician should shake his head and dread worse things than those officially admitted. Medicine is not yet an absolutely exact science, and physicians, like other human beings, are easily influenced by their hopes.

Where the possibility of a mistake cannot be denied, the right of doubt and criticism cannot be denied either. If the physicians in charge meant their bulletins for their professional brethren—as Dr. Bliss once said—they ought to