

The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is printed and published every Saturday by THE BURLAND LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY (Limited) at their offices, 5 and 7 Bleury St., Montreal, on the following conditions: \$4.00 per annum in advance, \$4.50 if not paid strictly in advance.

All remittances and business communications to be addressed to G. B. BURLAND, General Manager.

All literary correspondence, contributions, &c., to be addressed to the Editor.

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

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TEMPERATURE,

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

THE WEEK ENDING

Aug. 14th, 1880.			Corresponding week, 1879		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon... 81°	66°	73°	Mon... 75°	53°	64°
Tues... 86°	66°	76°	Tues... 72°	52°	62°
Wed... 80°	68°	74°	Wed... 78°	54°	66°
Thur... 80°	69°	74°	Thur... 74°	55°	65°
Fri... 81°	65°	73°	Fri... 82°	55°	68°
Sat... 80°	64°	72°	Sat... 80°	55°	72°
Sun... 70°	67°	70°	Sun... 74°	64°	69°

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, August 21, 1880.

MINISTERS AND THE RAILWAY.

It will not be a surprise to the readers of this journal to be told that the Ministers in England have completely succeeded in their mission, and that men of ample capital have undertaken the task of building the Pacific Railway. We had no doubt from the first that Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, Sir CHARLES TUPPER and Hon. J. H. POPE did not go on a bootless mission, and so stated. They had, in fact, in their hands when they went, ability to command success.

We believe it will be found that the scheme they have proposed is one that is carefully guarded; and it is of a nature to command at once both the confidence of capitalists and the people of Canada. The Ministerial explanations proper will, of course, be reserved for communication to Parliament; but probably it may earlier transpire that capitalists have accepted a land payment for the work; the land only to be given in proportion to the work done.

No more important question could be proposed for the acceptance of the Dominion; and the day of its settlement may be marked as the whitest in our annals. The influx of one hundred millions of active capital, and the untold millions that will come in with thirty to fifty thousand settlers a year in the North-west as the work proceeds, will within the next ten years make such an era of prosperity as this country has never known before, and for which the most sanguine among us are not prepared.

We have noticed in some of the papers, even in one of our Montreal contemporaries, some expressions regarding the possible "calamitous" results of land monopolies, and the "disasters" which might arise from fastening them upon us. But surely the people who use language of this sort are singularly ignorant of the history of this continent for the last ten years. Why, the United States Government within that time has given two hundred millions of acres of its western lands to build railways. And what have they done? They have built many thousands of miles of railways; they have induced settlement by millions; and in

short have created a prosperity and a growth of wealth so unexampled as to constitute one of the wonders of the world. The interest of these western land companies is the most rapid settlement possible; first that they cannot live unless they sell and settle their lands; and second, that population and production are necessary for traffic by their railways.

If these facts are unfortunately unknown to some people who yet undertake to instruct others, it is happy for the people of Canada that they are known by the eminent men in whose hands, for the time being, are the reins of Government on one side, and on the other by men who have the control of capital. These latter, moreover, know that the country to be opened up is as large as the continent of Europe in extent, and almost illimitable in its great resources, especially in the fact that it contains the wheat zone of the continent of North America.

We doubt if the system of party journalism which leads to blind attack on every act of the Government, whether it is for good or ill, will ultimately bring much profit to those who are responsible for it; and we are glad to notice that the leading Opposition organ in this city has risen superior to this weakness, in the matter which we are discussing, at least. We hope that yet many of the Opposition papers will rise above party for the sake of the prosperity of our common country.

BOHEMIAN JOURNALISM.

An incident which occurred in Montreal, last week, has perhaps been made too much of from a personal point of view, but professionally, as it affects the standing and good repute of journalism, it deserves more than a passing notice. One morning we read in the papers that a "Bohemian Club" had been established in Montreal. The *modus operandi* seems to have been of the simplest and most primitive character. Some two or three persons met, and without further ado proceeded to the election of officers, choosing gentlemen, the majority of whom were not present, who knew nothing of the objects of the meeting, and who especially had not the slightest acquaintance with the prime mover in the matter. This rather cavalier style of doing things might perhaps have been overlooked had the objects of the association been clearly and definitely placed on a high plane, and had a reasonable guarantee been furnished of its stability. But neither of these requisites was made apparent and a flavour of the direct contrary was furnished by the name of the club. Thereupon nearly all the newspaper men of the city resolved to hold aloof from it, and several sent their recusal to the press, accompanied by some severe commentaries.

We thoroughly agree with the gentlemen who acted thus, and for two reasons—because the time is not yet ripe for a permanent journalistic society here, and because, when it is established, it must be Bohemian neither in name nor in deed. Several attempts have been made within the past five or six years to institute a Press Club, in Montreal, but with the exception of the Kuklos, which survived through a whole winter, thanks to exceptionally favourable circumstances, all trials have resulted in ignominious failure. We shall not stop to discuss the reasons therefor. The fact is there and should stand as a deterrent against any similar efforts for some time to come. And we strenuously object to have the reproach of Bohemianism attached to our profession. There are tainted wethers in every flock, but, as a rule, we make bold to say that no class of men deserve public respect and recognition more than do the toilers in the field of journalism. Almost all of them are men of education and culture, and as such cannot but have gentlemanly instincts and affiliations. Their work is necessarily of the wear and tear description, especially on a morning paper, where the terrible strain of night labour

is indispensable, but it is the best tribute to their mental and moral habits that they bear the burden so well. Some people may be charitable enough to interpret the word "Bohemian" in a mild sense, but those who know the origin of the term, and the associations linked to it by the writings of MURGER and THACKERAY, cannot feel complimented in having it applied to them, when once they have got through sowing their wild oats, and have taken to a profession from which they contemplate deriving both an income and a measure of reputation. With the return of better times, we trust the journalists of this city will soon be enabled to establish a club that shall faithfully represent them socially as well as professionally.

THE CANADIAN ANTIQUARIAN.

We are glad to see that the regular publications of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal have resumed in their old form, and in a typographical dress which reflects much credit upon the printers, Messrs. English & Somerville. The contents of the present number are varied and interesting. Among other features is a paper by Mr. Edward Murphy entitled: "Some Notes on old Montreal" which has the only defect of being too short. It is satisfactory to know, however, that Mr. Murphy's project of a work on the "Streets of Montreal" will be taken up by a prominent member of the Society and put through without delay, taking for its basis the copious notes which Mr. Murphy has been collecting for years. A great want will thus be supplied and we shall soon have for Montreal what Mr. LeMoine did for Quebec—in papers which originally appeared in the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

OUR MINES.—The front page cartoon of the present issue has reference to the remarkable development of our mining interests, which has taken place of late. The Government of Quebec have passed a most elaborate Act in this sense, and reports from Nova Scotia and the Ottawa Valley, received only last week, leave no room to doubt that these countries are exceptionally rich in even the precious metals. With the return of prosperity we may look forward to operations on a large scale for the development of our mineral sources, which, with lumber, the fisheries and grain, form the pillars of the Dominion.

BULL-FIGHTING IN NEW YORK.—The long-talked of bull-fight came off in New York on Saturday afternoon, July 31st, in the new amphitheatre on Seventh Avenue, after an unexpected legal fight for possession of the entrance money at the box-office. At about 5:30 the band struck up a march, and light Spanish toreros, dressed in gaudy costumes, and with their richly-colored capes hanging on their shoulders, advanced into the arena. None of them seemed to be under forty or forty-five years of age. They were led by Senor Angel Valdemore, the chief, and took off their curiously-shaped black hats when the crowd cheered them. The toreros separated in the centre of the ring, after the manner of opening the "grand cavalcade" of a circus, and selected their cloaks, which had been hanging on the inner barrier; then the bull-fight began, but it was a farce all through, and the fizzle was so transparent that it was not repeated on the following day.

THE WIMBLEDON PRIZES.—The meeting terminated with the presentation of the prizes. The Princess of Wales, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and the Princesses of the family and the Duke of Cambridge, arrived at four o'clock. The presentation took place on a raised platform erected near the front of the enclosure, before the Cottage. The Royal party were received by the Earl and Countess of Stanhope, Colonel Lloyd-Lindsay, Colonel Stephens, Col. Oxley, Captain St. John Milmay, the Secretary of the Association, and other members of the Council, Mr. Childers, Secretary of State for War, Sir Stafford Northcote, Colonel North, Earl Waldegrave, and others. An interesting part of these proceedings was the presentation by the Princess of Wales, who is a Dame Chevalière of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England, of the silver medal awarded by the Duke of Manchester and the Chapter to Captain G. Fred. Harris, 3rd Buffs (Camp Adjutant), for his gallantry in saving the lives of five persons at a fire in Dublin. The presentation was made before the distribution of the prizes, Her Royal Highness graciously addressing a few words to the recipient, and pinning the medal on his breast.

INCIDENTS OF THE WEEK.—We have another fatal boating accident to chronicle this week. A number of gentlemen were rowing at the Chats, in the Ottawa district, when their embarkation was sucked into an eddy, and one of their number was thrown out into the seething waters. Seizing a plank, he clung to it, but it turned round, till he was finally obliged to abandon

his hold and disappeared like a shot, leaving the plank still revolving. His companions lingered on the brink of the cauldron, but were powerless to assist him.—Another accident was the collapse of a house in the east end of this city, containing an over-load of grain. Three boys were buried under the ruins, and one was smothered to death.—We give also a representation of the narrow escape of a woman and her little daughter, near Ottawa, who, while picking wild berries, were attacked by a large bear. The animal chased them for some distance, but, thinking better of it, returned to the bushes, where he devoured all the collected berries and then amused himself by tearing up the two hats that had been left behind.—We add a view of a novel baptismal service which took place, a few days ago, in the St. Lawrence, near the Victoria Bridge, according to the rites of the Adventist Church.—The matches of the Twelfth Annual Prize Meeting of the Quebec Rifle Association form the subject of another sketch. The meeting this year extended over four days, and was, in every respect, a most successful exhibition, testifying to the zeal and devotion which animates the volunteers of this Province for everything connected with their improvement and efficiency.

THE FAST OF FORTY DAYS.—At noon on Saturday, August 7th, Dr. Tanner completed his feat of abstaining from food for a period of forty consecutive days. During the last week of his fast he took but little walking or carriage exercise, and experienced several severe attacks of sickness. Early on the thirty-eighth day he was taken violently ill, and declared that some unscrupulous person had tampered with his spring water. So strong was he in this belief that two of his watchers endeavored to prove his suspicions groundless by drinking of the water themselves. The result was that they, too, were taken similarly ill. One of them, Dr. Miller, gave it as his opinion that the water had been impregnated with tartar emetic. Besides exhibiting much irritability, Dr. Tanner at times acknowledged a feeling of extreme weakness, and yet at no time did he lose confidence in his ability to hold out to the last minute of the fortieth day. Music was his favorite diversion from the beginning of the fast. By it he seemed to become excited and animated. But on the thirty-ninth day he would allow no music, with one exception. Then the watchers began to realize how weak and worn the doctor was. Everything irritated him. If his attendants conversed in a whisper at the distance of the length of the gallery, he peevishly requested them to stop. Any noise or movement jarred upon his overstrained nerves. Visitors were almost unbearable. Nothing went right. Suffering terribly himself, he communicated his feelings of discomfort to those around him. His face revealed his condition more plainly than ever. It was pale and haggard, and seamed with deep lines. His fits of sickness have told upon him severely. Additional interest was created in his case on Friday morning when a letter from Dr. William H. Hammond was published. This eminent physician expressed his belief that the watching had been honestly done, that the faster had faithfully abstained from all food but water, and that he had succeeded far better than the writer had thought he would. He thought that Dr. Tanner had not succeeded in showing that his organism is differently constituted from any other, for he has suffered as others would have suffered under like deprivations, and that he had shown that these alleged instances of fasting a month or more without symptoms of inanition being produced are fraudulent or otherwise deceptive. He concluded with the belief that the investigations made of Dr. Tanner during his fast have been superficial and restricted. The amount and character of the exhalations from the skin and lungs ought especially to have been analyzed. The weighing seems to have been very imperfectly performed. That, therefore, the scientific results are not what they should have been, but that, nevertheless, enough has been shown to cause us to modify our view in regard to the effects of inanition on the human body.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

It is said that the new Dublin theatre will hold 3,500 persons or 500 more than could be accommodated by the building burnt down in February.

A PLAY called "California Through Death Valley," purporting to depict Mormon atrocities, was acted in Salt Lake City by a travelling company. The manager hoped that the Mormons would create a riot and so advertise his enterprise, but they did no such thing.

THE London Times says of "The Gilded Age" that "to conceive that the play in which Mr. Raymond is now appearing at the Gaiety theatre is believed in America to be a good play would be a libel on the national intelligence, which could be rightly punished only in the court of Judge Lynch."

THE AMERICAN theatre, Philadelphia, never had a drop curtain, but used instead a painted scene that slid together from the sides. The shrewdness of the manager is now made manifest. A long neglected law imposing a special tax of \$500 a year on each theatre is now to be enforced, and back payments for many years are demanded. But the act defines as theatrical all places of amusement using a drop curtain, and thus the American is exempted.

AN alleged cable despatch to the New York Herald brings over the following story about Sarah Bernhardt: She is extremely sensitive of newspaper criticism. Not long ago she said: "One thing would prevent me from going to America—namely, if I felt that the newspapers would treat me too severely. Some London papers have treated me very kindly. I once complained to the Prince of Wales of the matter, and he replied, 'My dear friend, you are not so badly spoken of as my mother is.'"