

TEMPERATURE in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Saturday, April 22, 1871, observed by JOHN UNDERHILL, Optician to the Medical Faculty of McGill University, 293 Notre Dame Street.

		Aneroid Barometer compensated and corrected.					
		9 A.M.	1 P.M.	6 P.M.	MAX.	MIN.	MEAN.
		9 A.M.	1 P.M.	6 P.M.	MAX.	MIN.	MEAN.
Sun.	April 16.	37°	44°	55°	46°	33°	39°5
Mon.	" 17.	40°	47°	45°	49°	39°	44°
Tu.	" 18.	43°	50°	51°	52°	39°	41°
We.	" 19.	50°	60°	55°	62°	39°	46°
Th.	" 20.	44°	47°	46°	50°	46°	46°
Fri.	" 21.	50°	50°	54°	60°	46°	50°
Sat.	" 22.	54°	53°	51°	50°	44°	49°

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1871.

SUNDAY, April 30.—Third Sunday after Easter. Montgomery died, 1854.
 MONDAY, May 1.—S. S. Philip and James, App. and M. M. Prince Arthur born, 1850.
 TUESDAY, " 2.—St. Athanasius, Bp. Camden born, 1551. Battle of Lutten, 1813.
 WEDNESDAY, " 3.—Invention of the Cross. Jamaica discovered by Columbus, 1495. Tom Hood died, 1845.
 THURSDAY, " 4.—St. Monica, C. Seringapatam taken, 1799.
 FRIDAY, " 5.—St. Hilary, Bp. Napoleon I. died, 1821.
 SATURDAY, " 6.—St. John ante Port. Lat. Battle of Prague, 1757. Siege of Quebec raised, 1776. Gold found in Australia, 1851. Sir James Simpson died, 1870. Sir John A. Macdonald taken ill, 1870.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1871.

THE first census of the Dominion of Canada, taken for the night of the second of April, has evoked a large amount of newspaper criticism. The mode adopted is new to Canadians, and un-British. This fact alone is sufficient to account for much of the censure with which it has been visited. But it must also be confessed that the incompetency of some of the enumerators has given an edge to the censures of those who are disposed to find fault that would have been entirely wanting had the Commissioners properly discharged their duties. It is, indeed, a matter for much regret that the well considered plans of the Government should have been discredited before the actual results of the enumeration were reached; but we must accept the consequences as inevitable, from the very free and easy manner in which every official act is left open to criticism. Had the old plan been followed—that is, the plan with which Canadians and Britons are alike familiar—of enumerating all that slept in each house on a certain night, we think that much of the odium attaching to the system adopted would have been avoided. But the enumeration of the *legal population* was undoubtedly that required by the constitution, and having the example of the United States before us, it was hardly to have been expected that the Government should have been blamed for adopting a policy that seemed to promise the best and most accurate record of the people.

It is clear, however, that the enumerators have not in every instance, perhaps not in any, been up to the work. Girls, living in Montreal at service, where they may stay, get married, and spend their whole lives, have been excluded from the census sheets because their fathers and mothers lived in Ontario. Will they be enumerated in the Upper Province? Very doubtful. But if so, why should they be? Again it is notorious that people visiting friends have been excluded on the ground that they would be enumerated in their own families: but who knows whether they will or not? We have also heard of questions put to nuns and other religious, which, to say the least, were little short of scandalous. These things all come of an unreasonable devotion to economy. Cheap and incapable men have been charged with the work of enumeration, and permitted to extend their labours over weeks, when by a properly organized staff the whole census might have been taken, as heretofore, in a single day.

It is this change, perhaps, more than anything else, that has shaken the public confidence in the census. But it would be wrong to be carried away by the notion that it must be all wrong because a few errors have already been discovered. It is to be remembered that the enumerators have to make up their sheets from the schedules filled from house to house; that the Commissioners have to supervise this work, and, we may suppose, they will subject the enumerators to a rigid examination as to the mode and general principles which guided their enumeration, so that errors made in the first instance through ignorance may be afterwards corrected. In this respect the newly-adopted manner of taking the census offers great facilities for the correction of errors, and we are in hopes that, despite the bad odour into which the census has already fallen, it will be found measurably correct in the end. That it will be thoroughly reliable we can hardly hope; for, if those of the working population of Montreal who were born in Ontario are to be credited to that Province, it is beyond dispute that Quebec will be robbed of its just share of credit in the general enumeration. The same holds good in respect of every other locality, and the whole affair

shows a jumble between very excellent ideas and very incapable administrators that will take the bureau of statistics a long time to unravel.

It is not merely for the statistics of the census that the people have concern. The representation of the several Provinces in the House of Commons depends upon it. Probably this political character with which the constitution has invested an act that ought to be, as far as possible, removed from politics, has had something to do with the almost universal censure with which the census has been visited. It should, however, be remembered that the errors, so far detected, and others which may occur without being exposed, are of that class that are likely to proportionately compensate themselves. Thus, if, as we have good reason for believing, Montreal will not be fully enumerated, the presumption is decidedly in favour of the opinion that neither will Toronto, and so on, throughout the whole country, so that even if the population given be less than the actual number, the errors stand a reasonable chance of being pretty equally distributed, so that no section of the country can be aggrandized at the expense of another. Indeed, the appointment of Census Commissioners from the different Provinces, and the whole organization of the census staff precludes the notion of any other design than that of obtaining a full and complete census; and should it fail, as we fear it will—at least in the public estimation—the fault must be traced to the incompetency of the men to whose conduct was entrusted the details of the work, and not to any design on the part of those who organized the mode of its execution.

But, at the worst, the mistakes revealed are few and far between. It is wrong undoubtedly that girls, living and earning their bread in Montreal, should not be counted as of its population. But that error has been exposed and very likely corrected. So also with regard to ladies and children absent for the time being visiting friends. They may or may not be taken at the proper place; but surely there is ample opportunity for correcting such errors. It is for the Commissioners to see that their enumerators have done their duty according to a settled principle, and wherever they have failed in this to make them do their work over again. We cannot believe that the census will be half so incomplete as some writers represent it, nor can we imagine for a moment that the errors already exposed, all of which may be corrected, should be held to furnish *prima facie* evidence that the whole census is wrong. On the contrary, we believe that the timely discussion which has taken place will impose upon the Commissioners the duty of seeing that the enumerators have faithfully performed their work, and that the mistakes so soon exposed will be corrected before the final returns are made up. If our surmise should prove correct, the result of the census will be far from being the un-reliable document which so many predict; in fact, it will, even at worst, be equal, if not superior, to the last, which, though taken in one day, was taken in such a loose and imperfect manner, that nobody accepted its results as anything more than an approximation to the truth. In the present case, if the Commissioners do their duty, we shall have somewhat better guarantees than we had before that truth has again been approximated, even if we cannot affirm that it has been fairly hit.

LITERARY NOTICE.

LA REVUE CRITIQUE DE LEGISLATION ET DE JURISPRUDENCE DU CANADA, No. 2, AVRIL, 1871. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

We have already had occasion in a former number to notice the appearance in Montreal of a quarterly magazine devoted to the interests of the legal profession in Lower Canada. We have now received the second number of the Review, which shows, both by the ability displayed by the writers who fill its pages and the variety of subject matter treated therein, that the direction have determined to sustain the reputation they won for themselves by their first number, and, if that be possible, to earn for themselves fresh laurels. It is always a matter of great difficulty to procure a general circulation for a purely party or professional journal, whose columns are filled with discussions and explanations of interest only to its immediate supporters. The case of the *Revue Critique* is, however, different. Not only does it treat of mere questions of law, but also of other great questions of sufficient general interest to be regarded in the light of "questions of the day." Thus in the first number there appeared able papers from the pens of well-known Montreal advocates on such important questions as those of the "Alabama" Claims, the Fisheries, and the Provincial Arbitration. In the present number we find, in addition to the usual legal treatise, an interesting paper by Mr. W. H. Kerr on the Free Navigation of the River St. Lawrence by the Citizens of the United States, and another by Mr. D. Girouard, discussing the Joint High Commission—either of which would prove attractive reading for any average educated citizen of the United

States or Canada. It is to be remarked, however, that Mr. Kerr seemingly assumes that the navigation of the St. Lawrence has really been refused by Canada to the United States, than which there could hardly be a graver mistake. In point of fact the St. Lawrence is *not* navigable, and if Canada, who owns, also chooses to keep for her own use, the canals that she built upon her own territory, and with her own money, there is no nation under the sun that has any right to object to her doing so. The navigation question was only raised by the crass ignorance of President Grant and his counsellors, and we believe that every intelligent American has already blushed more than once for his and their stupidity.

THE REVOLUTION IN PARIS.

But little change has taken place within the last fortnight in the state of affairs inside and around Paris. Fighting still continues with varied success—victory sometimes leaning to the Communists, and at others to the Assembly troops. But there can be little doubt that the days of the Commune are numbered. Internal dissensions have already arisen in its ranks, and were Thiers for once to abandon his wretched policy of procrastination and delay, and delegate the direction of the siege to more able hands—to McMahon, for instance—order would soon be restored in the capital. The Prussians have commenced so surrender the forts on the north to the Versailles troops, with whom they are co-operating as far as their position as non-belligerents will allow them, mainly by preventing supplies reaching the city through their lines. This, however, is a very important advantage for the Assembly, whose main object appears to be to blockade the city and starve the rebels into submission—a policy which they at present seem to be unable to carry out unaided, in consequence of the limited number of troops at their disposal. The bombardment still continues, but occasions far less apprehension inside the walls than the scanty supply of provisions and the appearance of epidemics, among which the cholera has already been recognized.

THE JOINT HIGH COMMISSION.

The reporters have not been very successful in ferreting out what has been done by the Commissioners at Washington. The following, dated the 23rd, contains about as much intelligence as any despatch that we have seen, and those who read it will have no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that it is entirely optimistic:—

"The large and splendid party given by Earl de Grey to the most distinguished persons in Washington, both native and foreign, is regarded not only as showing a generous and friendly disposition, but expressive of an approaching satisfactory conclusion of the work of the Joint High Commission, and as indicating that the British portion of it will soon leave this country for their home, their party last night being in nature of a farewell entertainment. Although the points of settlement of the questions of the dispute are agreed upon, they have not yet been reduced to treaty or convention form—delay being occasioned by waiting for responses from the British Government to the communications submitted to it by the British Commissioners. They, however, have no doubt their official transactions will be fully approved. It was in this confidence, united with the suggestions of our own Commissioners, that President Grant called an extraordinary session of the Senate, thus allowing ample time for the perfection of the measures to be submitted. In the adjustment of the Fisheries question, the navigation of the River St. Lawrence will be secured to our citizens at least. This proposition is now pending, and will be definitely decided this week. There is no doubt that the Joint High Commission have agreed on the "Alabama" and similar claims, leaving their adjudication and award to a Commission of Jurists. The question involving the ownership of the Island of San Juan will, according to the best attainable information, be submitted to arbitration of some friendly powers. The island is not regarded by either party as of much value; but the decision of the question of possessive right, which has been so long in abeyance, is considered of importance in view of a series of measures to be adopted by the two Governments in order to bind more closely two countries in friendship by removing every cause of dispute. All the Commissioners, while scrupulously guarding the rights and honour of their respective countries, have, from the first day of their meeting, shown a disposition to accommodate their differences, as will be generally satisfactory to the great nations immediately concerned."

THE ENTERTAINMENT IN AID OF THE FRENCH WOUNDED.—The Montrealers are certainly not open to the accusation that they have closed their eyes and tightened their purse-strings to the many appeals made to their charity in behalf of a suffering people, broken down and all but ruined by the misfortunes and cruelties of warfare. Not only has private generosity eagerly responded to these appeals, but large public subscriptions have been taken up, which were further swelled by the proceeds of an entertainment given on Monday week in the Mechanics' Institute. This entertainment consisted of two parts, the first being a French opera, *Le Moulin des Tilleuls*, in which Mdles. Perrault and Doucet far exceeded the anticipations of the most hopeful of their friends, the corresponding male parts being most happily rendered by MM. Beaudry and Lamothe. Loud applause frequently greeted the efforts of the chorus, which was composed of the following members:—Madame Davidson, Mdles. Desbarats, Rennie, Gariépy, Beaudry, and Joseph; MM. McCullum, St. Germain, Michaud, Desjardins, Saneer et Lafflamme. The opera was followed by the ancient, but none the less acceptable comedy, *Box & Cox*, in which Mdle Beaudry and Messrs. Roy and Bawtree took the leading characters.