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TEMPERATURE.

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

THE WEEK ENDING			Corresponding week, 1878.		
April 6th, 1879.					
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon. 36°	16°	26°	Mon. 47°	25°	41°
Tues. 30°	22°	26°	Tues. 47°	35°	41°
Wed. 31°	18°	24°	Wed. 48°	34°	41°
Thur. 26°	34°	30°	Thur. 55°	34°	44° 5
Frid. 29°	10°	19°	Frid. 50°	37°	43° 5
Sat. 34°	20°	27°	Sat. 45°	33°	39° 5
Sun. 44°	18°	36°	Sun. 46°	35°	40° 5

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, April 12, 1879.

THE LETELLIER CASE.

If M. LETELLIER ever intended making a name for himself, he has succeeded with a vengeance. His case has been a stormy one all along, but now the tempest has drifted into a hurricane. Wild pens are writing wild things; heedless tongues are uttering menaces, and the very street corners are vocal with murmurs of disquietude. Yet amid all this turmoil, it behooves one to be calm, especially if entrusted with the delicate mission of guiding public opinion by either tongue or pen.

For ourselves, we may state at once that we rather like the turn which things have taken. We are altogether of opinion that it is the best, in view of the morbid state of political feeling at present prevailing, that the final settlement of this very important and delicate matter should be referred to the Home authorities. According to the strict and literal interpretation of the constitution, this would perhaps not be necessary, but every political student knows that there is a great deal of unwritten law in English constitutional procedure which has never been defined, but which still retains a strong traditional authority. The Union Act of 1840 gave us Responsible Government; the British North America Act of 1867 virtually established our autonomy, and it is remarkable that the powers and privileges of the Marquis of LORNE have been so curtailed as to give him less initiative in the matter of reservations than was enjoyed by the Earl of DUFFERIN. Still, in spite of these facts, there remains the old pivotal fact that this is a Colony of Great Britain, and in certain cases, where the grasp of statesmanship may fail or a point of prudence may be stretched, no harm need be feared from a reference to the Mother Country.

The removal of a Lieutenant-Governor may be a mere matter of administration in one sense, but in another it is much more than that—involving a high principle of constitutional law for the regulation of which a precedent derived from unbiased and ultimate authority is desirable. The advantages of this appeal are clear enough. The Home authorities will take one of two courses—either they will refer the case back to the Governor-General and his Council as coming solely within their attributions, or they will reserve it for their own action. If they pursue the first course, the matter is simplified at once and one of the principal objections raised by the Quebec Liberals as to the

right or jurisdiction of the Federal Government in the premises will be quashed. We may mention incidentally that the *Globe* and the Ontario Liberals do not deny the competence of the Federal Government. This objection being eliminated, the Federal authorities will be empowered to act at once. If the second course is pursued, then a new reading will have to be given to the Confederation Act, and the country will have to open its eyes to the fact that our Responsible Government has very important limitations. What would come of this issue it is not now the time to inquire.

Pending a reply from Downing-street, it is pertinent to remind our readers that when that very disquieting New Brunswick School Act, which may be pronounced fully as delicate and far reaching as the LETELLIER case, was referred to the Colonial Office, no action was taken upon it, but the reply given that it came within Canadian jurisdiction, as determined in 1867 by the British North America Act. Furthermore we have Lord CARMARVON'S despatch subordinating the Lieutenant-Governors to the Federal Council, and Lord DUFFERIN'S famous declarations at Halifax which doubtless reflected the views of the British Privy Council.

The Conservatives, who feel the most chagrin over the present state of affairs, should, in the interests of their logic, remember one thing. Neither they nor their leader, Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD, in his great speech last year, deny the abstract right of M. LETELLIER to dismiss his Ministers. Their grievance was that he *abused* the power. Similarly they cannot deny the Governor-General's abstract right to withhold his signature for a few weeks, pending advices from England. And surely they will not dare to charge him with *abuse* of his prerogative, when he expressly declares, through the written memorandum of Sir JOHN, that he does so purposely to obtain a precedent and settle *for ever* a most critical issue.

The very first time we had occasion to write on this subject, we contended that it was absolutely necessary for the tranquility of the public conscience and the stability of our institutions, that the act of M. LETELLIER should be pronounced upon by an ultimate authority. It could not remain in abeyance, as would have been the case if the Liberals had retained power. Now we are on the point of finding out where this authority is vested—here or in England. Wherever it is we shall have a judgment on M. LETELLIER, and we feel certain that that judgment will be generally accepted.

MAISONNEUVE.

We present our readers, to-day, on our first page, with a design of the monument which is intended to be erected to the memory of Sieur de MAISONNEUVE, the founder of Montreal. The spot chosen for the erection is the Place d'Armes, the very centre and heart of the city, consecrated by the bravery of this great man, who there repulsed, almost single-handed, a band of two hundred Iroquois, slaying their chief with his own hand, spreading terror among the rest, and thereby saving from absolute destruction the infant colony over whose fortunes he presided. The artist who designed the monument is M. NAPOLEON BOURASSA, well known throughout the Dominion not only for his fine talent and taste, but for the works of enduring merit which he has achieved. The modelling of the statue is due to one of his pupils, M. HEBERT, a young man of very great promise. A committee of influential citizens, composed of men of every creed and nationality, have undertaken to carry out this enterprise to a successful issue. This is no speculation on the part of M. BOURASSA, who is wealthy and needs no compensation beyond what is required for the material outlay. But he presents this design of a monument to his countrymen, confident that when they see a really artistic at-

tempt to perpetuate the memory of a great man, they will unite to carry the work to completion. Of the success of the movement we have not the slightest doubt, judging from what we have heard even in these preliminary stages. So far as Montreal is concerned there is no one unwilling to admit the appropriateness of a memorial statue to its founder, especially when that individual is an historic personage, distinguished for civil and military virtues, and really one of the most important figures of the heroic era of New France. In our subsequent issues we shall have more to say on this subject, intending to do our full share toward the success of the undertaking. Meanwhile, as our first contribution, we call the attention of our readers to the artistic merits of the model, a sketch of which we publish in the present issue.

THE PROTECTION OF OUR FORESTS.

The aim of the new commercial and fiscal policy now being introduced into the country is to protect and stimulate our four fields of resource and wealth—the field, the forest, the mine and the fisheries. The second of these has always been a primary interest and is still of the most vital importance. We have, over and over again in these columns, advocated the conservation of our forests and protested against the wanton waste of our most valuable timber lands. Corroborative evidence of the necessity of such warnings has been frequently adduced from various quarters.

The latest of the kind is worthy of being set before our readers. It is the testimony of Mr. JAMES LITTLE, a Montreal lumber merchant, whose views we find published in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Mr. LITTLE says that of the twenty-six States, embracing the New England, Middle, Western and North western to the Rocky Mountains, only four are now able to furnish lumber supplies beyond their own requirements. These four are Maine, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. But Maine is almost stripped of her pine forests, and lumbermen have to go to the headwaters of the rivers in search of spruce, while mere saplings, six or seven inches in diameter, are sent to the mill. In a very few years Maine will have neither pine nor spruce for home consumption. The northern portions of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are the only localities in the twenty-six States that have supplies of white pine in excess of the home demand, and they, Mr. LITTLE declares, will not be able to export any after the lapse of five or six years. The main streams are completely cleaned already, and what is procured comes from the headwaters of the tributaries. According to the census of 1870 there were in the United States 173,450 establishments, employing 1,093,202 hands, engaged in the manufacture of wooden articles. The idea prevails that when this stock of lumber fails, as it must inevitably within the next ten years, Americans can find in Canada a supply sufficient for centuries. This, Mr. LITTLE affirms, is a fatal error; for his investigations show there is not, from Manitoba to the Gulf of Mexico, as much pine, spruce, hemlock, white wood and other commercial timber as would supply the United States three years!

CENSUS NOTES.

Blue Books are very fascinating reading sometimes. But one needs to know the way of culling the information with which they teem. This is the case with the fifth and last volume of the Census of 1871 which we have just received. It is a work of immense industry and research from which a variety of most useful information may be gleaned. The first part contains comparative tables of the three Censuses of 1851, 1861 and 1871. These embrace the four Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia,

the total area of which is 337,524 square miles or 216,015,637 acres. The population of these Provinces was in 1851, 6.8 to the square mile; in 1861, 9.2; and in 1871, 10.3. The most populous Province in proportion to its extent is Nova Scotia, and Quebec is the least.

In 1851, the population of these four Provinces stood at 2,312,919; during the succeeding decade it rose to 3,090,561, and in 1871 it had attained the figure of 3,485,761. From this it will be observed that the increment was much less during the last decade than during the preceding ones.

In 1851 and 1861 there were no pagans in the land, but we have since improved in this respect and in 1871 this amiable gentry showed the respectable number of 1,886. No one probably ever suspected that there were Mormons in Canada, but such is the case. The number of the Saints, however, is diminishing. In 1851, they stood so high as 4,259, but in 1871 they fell from grace to such an extent that they numbered only 534.

The distribution of nationalities is curious. In 1871, for every thousand inhabitants there were 202.6 of English descent; 310.7 of French extraction; 244.8 of Irish lineage, and 157.7 of Scottish origin.

American influence is more potent and wide spread also than is generally imagined. The number of American born persons established in Canada is equal to one-half the number of those who hail from Scotland, and in the Province of Quebec alone there are more Yankees than Englishmen, and the number of these born in Ireland is here greater than Scotchmen and Englishmen put together.

We commend the following to our Civic Fire Department. The principle is the same as that of the chemical engines—Babcock's and others—now in use, but the application is infinitely more simple and less costly. As an agent for rapidly extinguishing fires in chimneys, a French chemist recommends the burning of a few pounds of "carbon disulphide" on the hearth. The combustion of this substance produces large volumes of carbonic and sulphurous-acid gases, both of which are effectual extinguishers of flame. The compound is said to have been experimentally tried by the Paris firemen and with good results, since it is stated that within the space of three months they succeeded by its use in extinguishing 251 fires out of 319, and that without deranging or damaging apartments in any way.

MR. JONES LYMAN, who died rather suddenly in this city, last week, was a devoted friend of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS and an occasional contributor to its columns. His special field of research was chemistry and the natural sciences. He was an authority on Fungoids, for instance. His appreciation of the beautiful in nature was very vivid and he was fond of imparting his knowledge to others. The cause of elementary education was also very near his heart, and one of the topics on which we have often heard him dilate was the popular history of the country. He was well up in antiquarian and other recondite studies, and we trust that he has left notes of his labours behind him.

THE emigration to Manitoba is worthy of notice. From Brockville, from the environs of London and from the Ottawa Valley, several large parties have already started for Winnipeg. The Prairie Province is maintaining its reputation for fertility. The crops are wonderful; the earth is easily broken and the roads are generally good. What is wanted is population. Before the Immigration Committee at Ottawa, the other day, a Mr. LOUCKS very sensibly advocated sending out a couple of thousand of young women for the matrimonial market there.