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TEMPERATURE,

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

THE WEEK ENDING

Table with columns for 'January 16th, 1881' and 'Corresponding week, 1880'. Rows include days of the week (Mon-Sun) and temperature readings (Max, Min, Mean).

CONTENTS.

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Black Board Studies—Philadelphia Art School—Montreal Abattoir Company's Buildings—Chief Justice Most—The Band in Trouble—Sketches of Character in Glasgow—A Wintery Sabbath—The Great Fire in New York—The Village King.

THE WEEK.—Vennor—Judge Dunkin—Literary Ladies—Society in Town—Jack Sheppard—Mr. Proctor on the End of the World—A Snake Story—Blanqui—Dr. Ruge—Horse-Racing and Evolution—Chief Justice May.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Parliamentary News—Our Illustrations—Review and Criticism—Against the Law—Financial Education of Women—Musical and Dramatic—Scientific—The Two Ages—Twixt Cup and Lip—Literary and Artistic—Varieties—In Memoriam, January 22nd, 1780—Hearth and Home—Review and Criticism—Our Chess Column.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, January 22, 1881.

THE WEEK.

WHILE we in Canada have been making little of our native prophet, "VENNOR'S weather," we are told has passed into a proverb in the States. Truly a prophet is not without honour save in his own country.

THE Province of Quebec has reason to mourn the loss of a prominent lawyer and a courteous gentleman in the death of CHRISTOPHER DUNKIN. Though of late years he led a retired life, it was only in the enjoyment of a well-earned repose after an active and useful career devoted to the good of his country. We have been obliged to delay the production of his portrait till our next issue when we shall also give a more detailed account of his life. These few lines are only in memoriam.

IN the midst of much discussion and argument as to their place in creation, the women of to-day are taking a position to which no exception can be made in the ranks of literature. Amongst the publications of the new year, by no means the least noteworthy are the recently published works of such ladies as Mrs. STOWE, Mrs. MORTON DIAZ, Mrs. JAMES T. FIELDS, and Miss LUCY LARCOM, while on our table this week lie two small, yet by no means unimportant, contributions of the fair sex to our own literature.

To those who have known something of the normal state of London society in past years the news will be strange that society year by year goes less out of town. The dingy metropolis is beginning to have the same attraction for its children as Paris for the true Parisian who is happy nowhere else. Many reasons are suggested for the change, but the chief of them is to be found, we believe, in the growing passion for news, and the reluctance to be out of reach of it. To get our Times a day late is an infliction which we of to-day cannot submit to, whose grandfathers waited with far greater equanimity for their weekly news-letter, delayed perhaps a fortnight in transmission.

THE tender reminiscences of our youth which linger yet around the historical name of JACK SHEPPARD have received a rude blow. The ruthless hand of modern civilization has swept away the houses in Wych

street so well known to the readers of Mr. AINSWORTH'S novel. The carpenter's shop, the beam on which the youthful aspirant to fame carved his immortal name, the old Lion Inn where Jack and his friends were wont to hold high carnival; all are gone. The church in which he committed his first robbery alone remains, a memorial of his greatness, noteworthy too to meaner souls as the last resting-place of PHILIP MASSINGER.

A MORE alarming prophet than Mother SHIPTON has appeared in the person of Mr. PROCTOR of "popular scientific" renown. The end of the world, or what amounts to the end of the world as far as we are concerned, is, it seems, dependent on the caprice of a comet, which has, very inconsiderately, returned before its time, and which, in Mr. Proctor's opinion, is "getting up steam," for a final plunge into the sun. We should have ignorantly supposed, some of us, that this was a matter which concerned our great luminary rather than ourselves, but it seems we should be wrong. Mr. Proctor calculates confidently that in his annoyance at so unjustifiable an intrusion, Phebus Apollo will treat us to such an outburst of fiery indignation as will effectually cook not only our goose but ourselves.

THERE may be some husbands to whom the disappearance of a wife would cause but little perturbation; but even such a one would probably be a little more than astonished should the disappearance take place down the throat of a monster serpent. Yet this, according to the Straits Times, is an experience which nearly befel a certain Malay. Awakened from sleep by his spouse's cries, he sprang up to find his better half en route for the digestive regions of an enormous python who had invaded the sanctity of the nuptial chamber in search of his supper. Believing that exchange is no robbery the Malay adroitly substituted two large sand bags for his consort, an exchange which the python somewhat unwisely accepted. The bags, however, apparently did not taste as well as he anticipated, and he attempted to take it out on the Malay. This prudent gentleman, however, had by this time possessed himself of his parang and was all ready for the serpent, who, after a spirited skirmish, retired to die of his wounds in the garden. The Malay was somewhat consoled for the disturbance of his night's rest and the recovery of his wife by the sixty dollars for which he sold the skin to an enterprising neighbour.

Two notable revolutionists have breathed their last within the past few weeks. With BLANQUI has come to an end a life that was one continued struggle against the powers that be. Amongst the official list of ruling members of the Paris Commune appears after the name of BLANQUI the annotation délénu. "The world," says the London Daily News, might be taken as a condensed history of the greater part of that strange and turbulent life." For more than forty years BLANQUI had been at war with the Government of his day, be it what it might, and when at last his party for the moment was victorious and he became a member of a Government himself, it was his lot to be marked délénu still. The recent amnesty set him free after he had been elected to the Chamber while yet in prison. He was for a short time the leading figure in Paris after the fall of the Empire, but the New Revolutionary Government brought him to the ground with its own fall, and after Gen. TROCHU and his Bretons had scattered his party in a few hours, BLANQUI was a délénu once more, to whose release M. THIERS was violently opposed. His life was a curious instance of that perverse antagonism to existing institutions which prompted the Irishman's answer to one who questioned him as to the way he intended to vote: "I don't know bedad, but agin the Gouvernement anyway."

A MAN of more solid worth, if not of the same ephemeral reputation has passed away almost simultaneously. The father of the German Revolution, as he has been called, Dr. ARNOLD RUGE was at the same time one of the most remarkable of English political exiles. Dr. RUGE suffered a long term of imprisonment in early life for his connection with the Tugendbund, the German student's secret political society. The literary world was however the gainer by his detention, for while in captivity he courted the Muse, and composed a patriotic drama of some merit besides a translation of the "Edipus Coloneus." After his release he devoted himself mainly to Radical journalism, and after the suspension of the Hallischen Jahrbücher, in 1843, he went to France for a time, returning however to Leipsic to start a new Radical paper The Reform. His revolutionary tendencies got him into trouble in 1850, and he had to fly to England, where, until his death, he followed his literary pursuits, being principally engaged in the translation of standard English and French authors. A frequent contributor to London journals on all questions connected with the revolutionary movements he had fathered, he died as he lived a staunch Republican and a bitter enemy to conventionalism. The latter phase of his character he emphasized by the expressed desire that none of his family should wear mourning for him.

A CURIOUS alliance between two apparently incompatible objects has been placed on record by the Paris Municipal Council. There does not at first sight seem to be much in common between horse-racing and evolution, yet on a proposal of the committee of that august body to stop the annual subscription of 50,000 francs, given towards the Grand Prix de Paris a supporter of the turf proposed a remarkable resolution which averred that "horse-racing serves for the evolution of the equine race," and, pointing out to the Council the scientific value of Mr. DARWIN'S theory, declared that the Paris Municipal Council could not remain "a stranger to the study of so serious a scientific problem," and that the subscription was accordingly a sine qua non. In the end the curious ingenuity of the mover of the resolution won a triumph for this novel alliance.

CHIEF-JUSTICE MAY has laid himself open to much unpleasant criticism by the elaborate defence of the expressions used by him with reference to the trial of the Home Rulers. His withdrawal from the bench and refusal to take any part in the trial was perhaps the most eligible course to pursue, in view of the strong comments which had been made upon the matter; but we question whether the Chief-Justice was not unwise in giving his reasons at such length and even committing them to writing, thus as it were acknowledging himself to be in a certain sense on his trial at the bar of public opinion. Qui se excusat, se excusat is a proverb which his enemies, as might be expected, are not slow to quote against him; and it seems most unfortunate that the Lord Chief-Justice has placed it in the power of the popular party in Ireland to assert that their accusations of partiality were not wholly without foundation.

THE "FINANCIAL EDUCATION" OF WOMEN.

The masculine world has been racked of late by the breaking of a financial bubble in Boston. It is not, of course, that misplaced confidence and culpable gullibility have never before fallen victim to fraudulent schemers, for "man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn," and those who most loudly bewail this latest development can hardly have escaped in person some experience of pecuniary loss from such sources, to say nothing of the "countless thousands" of sufferers with their knowledge. In this case the special sting seems to be that the fraud emanated from and entrapped women. It is to be hoped that this legitimate, if somewhat disproportioned, horror will work reform of a pestilent evil in our households. The Na-

tion, in one of the best articles called forth by the Boston catastrophe, makes the schools responsible for the ignorance of those recent sufferers. This is just, so far as the schools go or can be made to go, but is there not back of the schools a certain responsibility so inwrought with the very essence of paternity that it can never be righteously cast off upon our teachers, or clergymen, or statesmen?

In this matter of "financial education" (as in those other weighty matters of morals and manners which we are glad to see begin to insist on their rightful place in the curriculum of our schools) the uttermost that can be done by the most skillful teacher will be disappointing in its results unless backed and supplemented by home-teaching and home-practice. How our common schools with their twenty minutes' recitations, can meet the obvious deficiencies of our common homes, in these particulars, it is not easy although an indispensable question for decision in this our day. Many a boy and girl recites glibly in the school-room not alone the essentials of grammar, but its most eccentric vagaries who at home uniformly doubles negatives and divorces substantive and verb. Perhaps nothing short of genius in the teacher and special inspiration in the pupil can suffice to reveal to a child who hears only incorrect and rude speech at home that the rules of his grammar and rhetoric have the remotest connection with the language of his own daily life; and it would be passing strange if a similar obtuseness as to the practical application of manuals of morals, manners, and finance should not prevail were these to be added to the list of text-books. But it is in behalf of the better half of our households that this plan is offered,—better in wealth and intelligence and moral sense.

"I am amazed at the presumption of parents," cried the principal of a famous young ladies' boarding-school. They send me their children again and again with the cool demand, 'Make my daughter orderly,' or 'truthful,' or 'gentle,' requiring from me during six months or a year of less intimate association and hampered opportunity what they have failed to accomplish for her in sixteen years or more of closest contact, and with every advantage of supreme authority and interest!"

But confining ourselves to the subject of financial education among our better families, where can it be so safely and thoroughly taught as at home and by the father, who, either as the custodian of inherited wealth, or the alert maker of his own fortune, has hourly opportunity not only to instruct theoretically, but also to point the moral and adorn the tale? It will require thoughtfulness and long patience to impart trustworthy theories, and much anxiety and occasional loss in subjecting them to the test of illustrative experiment, but surely the result will more than justify the outlay. It is easier for the husband and father not only to withhold this effort, but to confide all his business affairs solely to the grim silence of his wife and bank-book, and to lavish or dole (according to his natural disposition or passing mood) money for family bills without any word of instruction therewith; but he often purchases with this momentary ease to himself sad complications for his unenlightened family after his death if not for himself through their ignorance beforehand. A man has no right to bring into such a world as this, and leave behind him when his own life ends, beings to whom money will be a necessity, without doing his utmost to assure to them not only a competence, but the requisite knowledge and practice to keep and expend it wisely. Yet from thoughtlessness, misapprehension, or deliberate design the majority of men act all their lives on the plan of concealing from wife and children their true financial condition, and cherishing ignorance of money matters in these limp dependents, as if that very ignorance were the Palladium of their safety!

Surely a man should not dare to make any woman his wife and the mother and trainer of his children who, though she may come to him ignorant through her parents' neglect, has not sufficient capacity to receive and probably exercise his wise instructions in regard to the intrinsic value and proper use of money. If she be too dull or too treacherous to share his confidence in pecuniary affairs, alas for him and for those who shall be born of them in every graver concern of their joint lives!

What boots it at one gate to make defence And at another to let in the foe!"

But not a few men who would not think of affirming that "a mare could not be taught to pace," and do not really doubt woman's capacity and loyalty, yet act as if they so doubted in money matters at least. Their own families know less than the merest acquaintance of the amount and disposition of their property until death or financial ruin reveals all the past, and thrusts upon wife and child frightful, because unfamiliar duties in the present and dread responsibilities for the future, for all of which they are utterly unftted by previous education and habit. Not seldom in these last years of multiplied bankruptcy and defalcation has the bitter cry been wrung from the women of the stricken household, "If I had only known that we were living beyond our rightful income!" and again and again have these women, who were not trusted nor instructed financially in prosperity, taught themselves speedily, in adversity, lessons of thrift and the wise exercise of talents which if earlier learned and employed might have saved husbands and homes.

Sometimes through arbitrariness,—the determination to keep the reins of power in his own hands,—but oftener through mere short-sighted-