

chosen to fill the highest office in the order, that of Grand Master and Sovereign, the position which had for many years previously been occupied by the Hon. John Hillyard Cameron, M. P. As a journalist, Mr. Bowell has had the best of all rewards—that of success. He is now the proprietor of the establishment into which when a lad he entered as an apprentice. The *Intelligencer* has been for some years issued daily, and as a proof of its growing prosperity it has been twice enlarged, the last time but a couple of months ago. We believe that in the management of his paper, Mr. Bowell is very ably seconded by his assistant editor, Mr. W. A. Shepard, who has been long connected with the press, and whose industry and ability contribute much to making the *Intelligencer* a spicy and entertaining journal, and such as well deserves the liberal patronage which the people of Belleville and neighbourhood bestow upon it.

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, AUG. 27, 1870.

SUNDAY, August 21.—*Tenth Sunday after Trinity.* Prince of Wales landed at Quebec, 1860.  
 MONDAY, " 22.—Warren Hastings died, 1818.  
 TUESDAY, " 23.—Sir William Wallace executed, 1305.  
 Sir Astley Cooper born, 1768.  
 WEDNESDAY, " 24.—*St. Bartholomew, Ap. & M.* Victoria Bridge opened by the Prince of Wales, 1860.  
 THURSDAY, " 25.—F. Gore, Lieut.-Governor, 1806. Jas. Watt died, 1819. Faraday died, 1867.  
 FRIDAY, " 26.—Adam Clarke died, 1832. Louis Philippe died, 1856.  
 SATURDAY, " 27.—Julius Cæsar landed in England, B. C., 55. Thomson died, 1748.

### THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1870.

THE subject of infant mortality comes up for periodical discussion in the press of Canada as well as of other countries; and though very many and very forcible reasons are given for the fact that it is excessive in certain places, and many ways for its mitigation are suggested, the death-rate among infants continues so high as to arrest the attention not only of sanitary reformers but of the public. Of all places in Canada Montreal is signalized as giving an example "positively frightful," and the weekly returns of the interments at the City cemeteries, so far as the naked figures go, are really calculated to excite a feeling of horror. But figures are not always safe guides. Unless the facts incidental to the causes which lead to the results expressed by them are taken into account the conclusion arrived at can seldom be correct. With respect to the infant mortality in Montreal it would undoubtedly be utterly erroneous. In fact the vital statistics of this city have been fearfully mangled by well meaning advocates of sanitary reform and others, until the city has acquired an unenviable, and we think undeserved, reputation for being unhealthy. An instance of this unfair manipulation of figures was given by us some months ago, in which the statist, taking the recorded interments for one basis of his calculation, and for the other, dividing the population into three classes—French Canadian, R. C. Irish, and British Protestant—on the mere jumped-at-figures of a few well intentioned gentlemen who knew nothing whereof they were talking more than their neighbours, he proved, to his own satisfaction, no doubt, that the death-rate was enormously higher among the French than among the other two classes, while it was also higher among the Irish than the British Protestants. The calculation seemed conclusive; but it lacked just one important fact to make it worth notice, *i. e.* the proportion of the birth-rate among the three classes named.

Errors equally inimical to a fair conclusion are allowed to creep into the question of the infant mortality of Montreal. The Foundling Hospital, to the existence of which a very large, if not the whole of the excessive death-rate is due, has its patrons scattered throughout the whole of the Province of Ontario, a great part of Quebec, and, according to the *Montreal Herald*, a careful and impartial authority, also in the neighbouring States of the American Republic. Now it is not alone that these children are deprived of maternal care at the time when their very existence almost depends upon it; but they are exposed to neglects of every kind, and as our contemporary already named recently said: "There is abundant evidence to show that illegitimate children have been kept till so 'exhausted that there was scarcely the possibility of their being recovered, and then they have been conveyed to the Foundling Hospital, all the care of whose nurses is utterly 'powerless to keep them alive.' Many considerations would dispose those who are entirely ignorant of the facts which the *Herald* so positively states, to believe, at least, in the very strong probability of their existence; but there is scarcely the possibility of applying a remedy, for the sufferings of the infant are inflicted either from the effort of its parents to cover their own shame, or from their desire to avoid the still greater crime and con-

sequent risks which it would entail, of summarily murdering their offspring. There is, however, one way by which the city might be saved the scandal of an apparent death-rate so high; and that is, by distinguishing, in discussing the local death-rate, between those who, being interred from outside the city limits, or from the Foundling Hospital, have no right at all to be computed as among the citizens of Montreal.

It is more than probable that the same class of children whose premature fate does so much to swell our infantile death rate, contributes materially to another disturbing force which militates against the reliability of our vital statistics; we mean that probably their births are not registered. Unless returns are accepted from the hospital of all the infants received, and these returns checked by the deaths and the numbers placed out, it would be very much better, for nearly all practical purposes, and certainly for all ordinary purposes of comparison, that the record of the institution were omitted altogether. The ordinary social and sanitary laws do not apply to these little waifs of humanity, and hence their enumeration with respect to the actual condition of the health of the city—in which, through Christian charity, they find an asylum, and their parents a hiding place for their shame—is merely calculated to blast that city's reputation and put philosophical enquirers astray as to the true state of health prevailing, in the community, under given conditions of social customs and sanitary rules.

While upon this subject, the *Herald* makes one assertion which, we think, is somewhat contrary to experience, when it says:—"It has now come to be recognized that 'the chance of children living, when deprived of a mother's care, is not to have them in large numbers in one institution, but boarded out in families, in which by proper enquiry it has been ascertained they will be 'kindly cared for.' Surely this new experience has not been acquired through the revelations connected with the horrid system of 'baby-farming' as recently revealed in England! That system, based upon the very idea of the victims being 'boarded out,' is said to have given rise to persistent cruelty and organised murder, as well as to crimes of social or family imposture which the chance possessor of an infant, conveniently sized and appropriately sexed, may readily be supposed to have facilities for practising, when tempted with money and unrestrained by conscience. The boarding out of 'pauper children in Scotland' can have but a very remote analogy with the case of such infants as are received at the Foundling Hospital, for the 'pauper children' so boarded out are generally, if not in every case, of a much larger growth; and their boarding out is merely a matter of practical economy and convenience on the part of the institutions of which their mothers, for the time being, may happen to be inmates. The system may perhaps receive a wider application in Scotland than our remark above would imply; but of a certainty it has not been carried out in that country with respect to the class received in the Foundling Hospital here, except in isolated cases, and at the expense of some one of the parents. Nor have the 'partial trials' in England 'proved successful,' but given rise to great scandals, and led to horrible cruelties; so that it may fairly be concluded that with respect to the care of such unfortunates as find their way into the 'Foundling Hospitals,' as yet no better or more humane means have been devised for their protection from the neglect and ill-treatment of their inhuman-parents than those which such hospitals afford. There may, no doubt, be ample field for the exercise of philanthropic ingenuity in discovering new appliances for improving their condition, but under present circumstances it is surely better that they should be cared for in 'large institutions,' than in none at all. At the same time, statisticians, before compiling such horrifying 'tables of mortality' for this city, should inform themselves of the birth-rate, whence the victims come, and whether the 'infantile debility,' or other assigned cause, did not arise from bad treatment, want of proper food, or undue exposure to the weather. These are fruitful causes of disease and death, yet their operation proves nothing against the sanitary condition of the city in which they operate, nor against the general salubrity of its climate. The fatal consequences of ignorance and vice can only be averted by the spread of intelligence and virtue.

The Members of the Illinois Press Association closed their annual session at Chicago on the 18th, when they left per steamer for an excursion to Canada and the Eastern States. The party will visit Toronto and Montreal, and very probably the intermediate places of interest on the Lake and river route. They then go to Boston and other Eastern American cities. In Toronto it has been proposed to give the excursionists a hearty reception and show them all the 'sights' which the Western capital affords. The same design has been mooted

here, and at a preliminary meeting held some days ago, a committee was appointed embracing some members of the City press and a few of the leading public men, to carry out the arrangements. We hope the reception accorded the Western journalists will be alike agreeable to them and creditable to Montreal.

On the 17th inst. a very successful meeting was held at Ottawa, to forward the project of the Caughnawaga Canal. The Mayor of this city was called to the chair, and a series of resolutions adopted, strongly favouring the construction of the canal in the interests of the Ottawa lumber trade, as well as of the general trade of the west. A committee of prominent mill-owners was appointed to canvas for stock. Among the speakers were Governor Underwood of Vermont, Hon. John Young, Hon. Messrs. Skead and Cameron, Mr. Currier, M. P., &c. The project appears to be justly regarded as a most important one for the Ottawa lumber interests.

It is reported in the city papers that a movement is on foot among the French Canadian population to get up a fund in aid of the French soldiers wounded in the present war. Large contributions in aid of the wounded on both sides have already been made in the United States.

Sir George E. Cartier and Sir Francis Hincks have returned from their trip down the St. Lawrence, and reached Ottawa on Wednesday last. During Sir George's visit to Rimouski he was presented with an address on behalf of the people, and other popular demonstrations were made in his honour.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Mr. Frederick Robinson, after a very successful run of six nights at the Theatre, is to be succeeded on the boards next week by the great favourite, Mr. Vining Bowers. Mr. Bowers' reputation is so great that it is needless to say anything in his praise. The people of Montreal have already frequently seen him, and will be able to appreciate his talents.

#### THE WAR NEWS.

The battles of Wissembourg and Wörth were followed by several days' rest, which the French employed in concentrating their forces, and the Prussians in pushing on towards the Moselle. After the defeat at Buschweiler, McMahon retreated in good order to Saverne, and left that city by the western gate as the Prussians entered at the eastern. He then made his way to Nancy, which he subsequently evacuated, and retired to a stronger position at Toul, twelve miles west of that city. The positions of the different armies at that time (the 12th inst.) were as follows:

The first Prussian corps d'armée was stationed at Philipsburg, to the north of Carlsruhe, the Bavarian army was encamped in the vicinity of Saarbrück, and a large Prussian force surrounded Strasburg. McMahon was at Toul with the remainder of his forces, and Bazaine and the Emperor at Metz. General Canrobert had been recalled from the front, to succeed Gen. Baraguay d'Hilliers in the command of the army of Paris, and Gen. Trochu was posted at Châlons with a strong body of reserves. Gen. Lebœuf had resigned his position as Major-General. All communication between Paris and Strasburg was entirely destroyed. The only towns which still held out in the country now overrun by the Prussians were Bitch and Palsbourg; and the Prussians besieging Strasburg had commenced to bombard the city, and had given the besieged a respite of twenty-eight hours to decide whether they would surrender or not. The army of the Crown Prince was in full possession of Nancy, and had destroyed the railroad between Frouard and Paris, thereby cutting off all supplies from the French troops sheltered under the *glacis* of Metz. They also imposed a fine of 50,000 francs upon the city, and made extensive requisitions for a supply of food and fodder.

Such was the state of affairs up to Friday of last week. On that day some sharp fighting took place in the neighbourhood of Metz. A considerable force of Prussians advanced into the environs of the city as a reconnoitering party, to discover whether the reports of the town having been evacuated by the French were true. They were met by a sharp fire from the batteries, and forced to retire. It would appear the Prussian advance received a decided check at this point. On Saturday morning several battalions of French who were moving towards Metz, were encountered in the neighbourhood of Pont-à-Mousson and were forced to retire, leaving their baggage in the hands of the enemy. On that day the Crown Prince's army took possession of Pont-à-Mousson, half-way between Nancy and Metz. An engagement took place on Sunday in the vicinity of Metz, which is thus described in a despatch sent by the Emperor to Paris; the despatch is dated Sunday night: "The army commenced to cross to the left bank of the Moselle this morning. Our advanced guard had no knowledge of the presence of any force of the enemy. When half of our army had crossed over, the Prussians suddenly attacked it in great force. After a fight of four hours they were repulsed with great loss to them."

During this engagement, according to the *Moniteur*, Marshal Bazaine had in position a battery of "mitrailleurs," and four regiments of the Prussian Royal Guard approaching, the battery was unmasked and two of the regiments were completely annihilated. A very different account of Sunday's affair was given by King William in the following despatch to Berlin, dated Sunday evening, at his headquarters at Falquemont, near Metz.

"A victorious combat occurred near Metz to-day, the troops of the First and Seventh corps participating. I hasten to the scene of conflict." A despatch to the *New York Herald* also speaks of this engagement. It says:—"The French while retreating to the west side of the Moselle, were attacked by the Prussians under General Steinmetz's command. The French were thrown into great confusion, and after a gallant stand were routed by the Prussians. The slaughter was great."

On Monday evening King William sent a fuller despatch to Berlin, dated Herry, 7.30 p.m., in which concerning the Sun-