

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 18, 1871.

SUNDAY,	Feb. 12.— <i>Sezagesima Sunday.</i> De Courcelles retreats from Schenectady, 1686. Sir Astley Cooper died, 1841. Funeral of General Windham at Montreal, 1870.
MONDAY,	" 13.—Massacre of Glencoe, 1691. Duke de Berri assassinated, 1821. Lieut.-Gen. Sir Hastings Doyle named Commander of the Forces in B. N. A., 1870.
TUESDAY,	" 14.— <i>St. Valentine, Bp.</i> Captain Cook murdered, 1779.
WEDNESDAY,	" 15.—National debt of England commenced, 1500. Galileo born, 1564. The Irish Land Bill introduced by Mr. Gladstone, 1870. Opening of the Federal Parliament, 1870.
THURSDAY,	" 16.—Lindley Murray died, 1826. Dr. Kane died, 1857.
FRIDAY,	" 17.—Michael Angelo died, 1564. Partition of Poland, 1773.
SATURDAY,	" 18.—Canada settled by the French, 1534. Martin Luther died, 1546.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1871.

Affairs in France continue to engross the world's attention. The spirit of dissension, which has, like an inevitable fatality, always heretofore spoiled the cherished schemes of French Republican leaders, does not spare the "Provisional Government of National Defence," for already there are two Governments, one at Paris, under the leadership of Favre, another at Bordeaux at the head of which is the irrepressible Gambetta. The last named gentleman, whose chief power consists in the fact of his being an "orator" (and perhaps an "essayist?"), has been the evil genius of France since the Emperor's fall. He was among the first to fly from Paris on the plea of rousing the country to arms; but though the French people did rise with commendable patriotism it has not been shown that he evinced the slightest administrative capacity either in arming and provisioning or in organizing the new levies. By his inflammatory appeals to the people he doubtless contributed to thwart the early efforts of Favre and Thiers in the cause of peace; and now that an armistice has been granted the broken-down and beaten nation he insanely calls upon the people to improve the three weeks of rest by preparing to renew the struggle! Were he not bereft of common sense he would see that France must be less prepared on the 19th February than she was on the 27th January, to continue the war. By the articles of armistice, two hundred thousand French soldiers become prisoners of war, with all their arms and munitions in the possession of the Prussians, and Paris falls into the hands of the enemy without a shot the moment hostilities are resumed. Now there can be no possibility of the Provinces retrieving such a loss by any process of recruiting and training within the short space of time allowed by the armistice; and even if it were retrieved there would be no rational ground for renewing hostilities on the part of France; because from the beginning of the war up to the signing of the armistice the Prussian progress was scarcely interrupted; while the disengagement of the greater part of the besieging force before Paris would enable the Prussians to strengthen their armies operating in other quarters, and thus render still more hopeless a cause virtually lost before. There is still, therefore, hope for peace despite the reckless violence of Gambetta and his fanatical supporters.

It is not merely in this ill-timed zeal for the prosecution of the war that Gambetta has injured the cause of his country, and of the party which he hopes to serve. His call for preparation might have been excused as a ruse to extort the best possible terms from the enemy; but his decree disqualifying for election to the National Assembly all members of families reigning over France since 1789, all persons who had acted as Imperial official candidates in past elections, or held office as Ministers, Senators, or Councillors of State under the Empire, and all prefects who had accepted office between the 2nd of December, 1851, and the 4th of September, 1870, is so manifestly intended to enforce the Republican yoke upon the necks of the French people, in defiance of their will, that his selfish and revolutionary designs are completely exposed. He places a political triumph before peace, the cause of the Republic before the cause of France. Against this Bismarck righteously objects, and demands a free assembly to constitute a government with which he can negotiate. And M. Jules Favre is equally energetic in condemning Gambetta's decree, declaring on the part of his wing of the Provisional Government that the elections shall be free—that the people may choose their candidates without restriction. Thus it comes that the

government at Paris, led by Favre, seeks the expression of the will of the French people, not only on the question of peace, but on that of the future form of government; while the government at Bordeaux, under Gambetta, subordinates the question of peace to that of the establishment of the Republic. An election held under the proposed restrictions would not be the unfettered expression of the popular will, and the assembly so elected could not frame a government that would satisfy the country; hence, even if they succeeded in making peace with Prussia, it would only be a preliminary to civil war or fresh revolution. On the other hand, the moderate course of Jules Favre, if successfully carried out, will result in the formation of such an executive authority as the German Chancellor will be bound to recognize, and peace will be the happy consequence—even if bought at a very high price. In making terms for peace France should remember at what rate she has been paying for war, for a very dear peace will appear cheap in the light of her last six months' experience.

Speculation grows keener as to the future government of France, and it need hardly be said that the dissension—the wide breach—between the two wings of the Provisional Government has much improved the prospects of the Imperial family. Orleanist and Bourbon look on and wait, their fortunes depending upon eventualities not yet developed. The extreme Republicans have been unfortunate in their leaders, who, in risking a continuance of the war—and, as a consequence, further humiliation and greater calamities for France—for the sake of their own theories of government have thrown away the opportunity they once had of winning confidence by making an honourable peace the chief aim of their administration. But whatever party may be called upon to administer, the task will be a difficult one. A wasted country, a heavy debt, an empty exchequer, and a starving population, impose a serious responsibility upon those who undertake the administration of affairs, and ought, we think, to dispel all notion of courtly extravagance and the maintenance of an expensive military system, by whatever title the ruler of the nation may be designated. It will take many years to restore the crippled industries of France to the state of prosperity they enjoyed in July last; and still longer for the nation to pay off the enormous burden of debt which the war has created. There are other injuries which the nation has sustained that are irreparable and others again of an irritating character—those to the pride and national sentiment of the people—which it will be the duty of wise administrators to calm and the privilege of demagogues to excite and aggravate. Perhaps the hardest task now before the French people is to learn to accept defeat with equanimity; as it will be for the Germans to carry their victory without exultation. But the struggle has already been severe and exhaustive enough on both sides to give reasonable ground for believing that when peace is made, it will be—as between France and Germany, a lasting one.

A most outrageous deed was recently perpetrated at Lachine, where on the night of Friday, week before last, three or four young men broke into the dead-house and carried away the bodies of two nuns and a girl named Boyer. Instant and vigorous search was made, and a clue to the identity of the perpetrators found, but the most singular part of the proceeding is that the bodies, after having been hawked round the dissecting-rooms of this city for sale, without success, were returned to the proper authority at Lachine, on the payment of \$112 and a pledge not to reveal the names of the sacrilegious burglars. The facts have been exposed through the columns of the *Montreal Gazette* to an extent that must, we think, compel a rigid investigation; and while no one can blame the intention of the two good gentlemen who, in their anxiety to recover the bodies, agreed to the outrageous condition of allowing the villains to go unwhipped of justice, yet there is an offence known to the law as "compounding felony," and we think the obligation to society is greater than any that ought to be contracted to shield the desecrators of the dead. The matter is said to be under investigation.

Sir John Rose has been in the city during the present week. The rumours set afloat by the American press as to his having been sent to Washington to negotiate away the Canadian fisheries have been contradicted—unanimously we think, for surely nobody in Canada believed them.

The following gentlemen have been appointed Senators to fill vacancies recently created, viz: Hon. E. Perry, in the place of the Hon. G. Crawford, deceased; Frank Smith, Esq., in the place of the Hon. Walter MacLac, resigned; and E. Churchill, Esq., in the place of the Hon. M. Anderson, deceased. The last named new Senator represents Nova Scotia; the two former Ontario. There is another vacancy in the representation of the latter Province caused by the death of the Hon. John Ross.

It is considered probable that the Marquis of Headfort will be succeeded in the Lord-Lieutenancy of Cavan by Lord Lisgar. Lord Headfort was Lady Lisgar's step-father.

LITERARY NOTICE.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUEBEC, Session of 1870-71. Paper I.—Opening Address—Review of the Past Year—Moving Accidents by Flood and Field, by Dr. W. J. Anderson, President.

In his opening address, which forms a pamphlet of some forty pages, Dr. Anderson gives an interesting description of the principal events of the past year, interspersed with personal reminiscences of some of the many note-worthy occurrences of the year in this country. The pamphlet will well repay perusal, and will be found useful for reference, as it is replete with information and valuable scientific data. The Transactions of the Quebec Society should have a place in the library of every Canadian literary man.

THE CHRONICLE OF THE WAR.

Immediately upon the conclusion of the armistice measures were taken in and around Paris to carry out the terms agreed upon. The German troops occupied the forts, while at the gates of the city the disarming of the troops was actively carried on, and in the meantime, pending the arrival of provisions from points outside the line, the besieging armies fraternally shared their stores with the half-starved citizens and garrison of Paris. In the neighbourhood of the city the terms of the capitulation were carried out without the slightest hitch, but in the provinces difficulties arose on both sides. In the east Manteuffel, who was then hemming in the army of Bourbaki on the Swiss frontier, is reported to have refused to recognize the armistice, and, disregarding the protests of the French commander, continued hostilities, by which he forced Bourbaki with his army of 80,000 men to retreat into Switzerland. One corps alone, the 24th, succeeded in escaping and in making its way to Lyons. The siege of Belfort is still going on. In the north Generals Faidherbe and Dargaut refused to evacuate their positions in accordance with the terms of the armistice, but received orders from the Government at Bordeaux to comply. In this quarter the Prussians again violated the armistice by investing Abbeville, entering Fécamp, and occupying Yvetot in the neighbourhood of Havre. In the west Chanzy accepted the armistice, which has since been strictly observed on both sides.

The first excitement consequent upon the capitulation of Paris has now given way to a feeling of expectation and intense curiosity as to the result of the elections for the National Assembly which were to have been held on Wednesday, the 8th. Upon the action taken by the Assembly depends entirely the future of France, and on it too depend the chances of the restoration of the Imperial family or of the return of the Bourbons. All parties, from the extreme Red to the extreme Conservative, are to be represented. Among the latter we find the Marquis de Talhouet and Bernard Dutrieu, while such men as Thiers, Changarnier and Emile Keller will represent the moderate party. From Paris come Favre, Glais-Bizoin, Ernest Picard, Jules Simon, Pelletier, Arago, Garnier-Pagès, Ferry and Rochefort, in semi-opposition to the Bordeaux party, led by Gambetta, Cremieux and Fourichon. On the 1st inst. the latter party, whose policy is war so long as the Prussians remain on French soil, issued a decree disqualifying for election to the Assembly members of families reigning over France since 1789, and all persons who have acted as Imperial official candidates in past elections or held office as Ministers, Senators, or Councillors of State under the Empire, and prefects who have accepted office between the 2nd of December, 1851, and the 4th of Sept., 1870, or, in other words, under the Imperial régime. The result of this decree has been to throw the negotiations into confusion and to cause a complete rupture between the Paris and the Bordeaux governments. Not only have Favre and Bismarck protested against the decree as opposed to the freedom of the elections, but petitions have been sent in from parties among the people of Paris praying that it be rescinded. The German Chancellor suggested, as a solution of the difficulty, the convocation of the Corps Legislatif, but this Favre refused, and Gambetta, in return, issued a declaration maintaining the electoral disqualification, and replying to Bismarck's protest that "it (the disqualification) frustrates the plans of Bismarck and his accomplices, the fallen dynasty, and the insolent pretensions of the Prussian minister to interfere with the constitution of a French Assembly." The disagreement between the two Governments has now reached such a pitch that the decrees of the Paris government are not posted up in the southern provinces, and Favre, taking the matter in his own hands, has insisted upon the obnoxious limitation being abolished, and has intimated as much to Bismarck. A despatch gives the following statement regarding the matter, as coming from an official source:—"The duality of the French Government will apparently lead the administration at Bordeaux to the non-observance of the convention entered into by the Germans and authorities at Paris. The convention only looked to negotiations for a free assembly, and an arbitrary constituted body under the dictation of Gambetta is not entitled to such a title. Favre has informed Bismarck that he will rescind the decrees issued by Gambetta. The confusion is, however, probably only removable by the adjournment of the elections."

In the meantime a Committee of Public Safety has been nominated at Bordeaux, including the names of Gambetta, Louis Blanc, Rochefort and Duportal. Favre, however, declares himself the master of the situation, and it is possible that, if France preserves the Republic, Favre will be Consul, and if the Empire is restored he will be Premier. Gambetta's popularity, on the other hand, is decidedly on the wane. The chances of the Bourbons and the Orleanists are diminishing, while those of the Empire are increasing. The Germans themselves are confident of the restoration of the Empire, and a letter from an official in the war department at Bordeaux says there is an immense reaction in official circles and among the people against the Provisional Government, and that 10 millions of people would vote for the restoration of the Empire to-morrow. The Mobiles arriving at Bordeaux shout "Vive l'Empereur." It is rumoured that even now Rouher is at Versailles negotiating with Bismarck for a peace involving the return of the Emperor, the cession of Alsace and the fortress of Metz to the Germans, and the payment of an indemnity variously estimated at 800,000,000 and 1,000,000,000 of francs.

The effect produced upon the French people by the news of