

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY. JANUARY 11, 1873.

SUNDAY.	Jan. 5.—Catherine de Medici died, 1589. Damians' attempt on the life of Louis XV., 1757. Marshal Radetsky died, 1858.
MONDAY.	" 6.—Epiphany. Joan of Arc born, 1402. Metastasio born, 1688. Benjamin Franklin born, 1706. Madame d'Arblay died, 1840.
TUESDAY.	" 7.—St. Lucian, M. Fenelon died 1717. Allan Ramsay died, 1757.
WEDNESDAY.	" 8.—Galileo died, 1642.
THURSDAY.	" 9.—De Courcelles Expedition against the Mohawks, 1694. Fontenelle died, 1757.
FRIDAY.	" 10.—Linnaeus died, 1778. Miss Mitford died, 1855.
SATURDAY.	" 11.—Parmegiano born, 1503. Roubiliac died, 1762. Cimarosa died, 1861. Schlegel died, 1829. Fenians sentenced at Toronto, 1867.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS taken at 26 Beaver Hall, Montreal, by THOS. D. KING, Dec. 15-26, 1872.

	Mean Temp. 7 A. M. to 9 P. M.	Max. Temp. of day.	Min. Temp. previous night.	Mean Rel. Hum. 7 A. M. to 9 P. M.	Mean Height of Bar.	Gen. Direction of Wind.	State of Weather.
Dec. 16	22.3	25.3	9.0	80	29.98	S W	Snow.
17	21.5	25.0	15.0	75	29.14	W	Clear.
18	21.0	24.0	15.2	80	29.08	W	Snow.
19	15.7	22.5	12.0	74	29.33	W	Clear.
20	20.6	31.2	14.0	85	29.04	N E	Snow.
21	16.0	20.0	12.0	75	29.00	S W	Clear.
22	4.0	9.0	5.0	70	29.11	S W	Clear.
23	6.5	11.0	-3.5	85	29.84	S W	Snow.
24	-12.0	6.0	-16.0	70	29.40	W	Clear.
25	-9.5	-6.5	-17.5	72	29.50	W	Clear.
26	-7.5	-4.0	-15.0	70	29.15	N E	Snow.

The first cold term of the present winter commenced at midnight of the 23rd, when the thermometer stood at zero. During the early morning of the 25th the temperature fell to 17.5 below zero, and it did not rise above zero until noon of the 27th; consequently, for the space of eighty-four hours the temperature of the air was at and below zero.

Extreme Range of Temperature between the maximum of the 24th and the minimum of the 25th, 18.7. Extreme range of Barometer between the minimum height on the 24th and the maximum height on the 25th, 0.060 inches.

OUR NEXT NUMBER.

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"ILLUSTRATED NEWS"

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ST. JOHN.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1873.

THE year that has just gone by has been, taken all in all, one of almost unexampled peace and prosperity. War has left no unseemly stain upon its pages, and until within the last few weeks no rumour of war has arisen to shake the general feeling of security which has prevailed. In this respect the record of 1872 offers a pleasing contrast to that of its two predecessors, which were characterized by one of the bloodiest struggles the world has ever witnessed. True there have been complications, but these, though of a sufficiently grave nature, were at no time expected to lead to serious difficulty, and, thanks to the spirit of conciliation in which negotiations were entered upon and carried out by the two powers who were parties to the litigation, matters were smoothed down, and the way was paved to an amicable and honourable understanding. The Geneva Arbitration will stand for all time as a monument of diplomacy casting honour alike on England and America, and showing to the nations an example of forbearance that they will do well to follow in the future. The verdict of the Geneva tribunal has undoubtedly caused considerable dissatisfaction in certain quarters at home, but in this country it has very generally been greeted, if not with entire approval, at least with a feeling of relief that a question involving results so important for Canadians was settled without an appeal to arms which must have proved eminently disastrous to this country.

In the United Kingdom, if we except its share in the settlement of the "Alabama" and other difficulties with the United States, little has occurred to signalize the past year. The Zanzibar expedition, inasmuch as nothing has been actually accomplished as yet, more properly belongs to the record of 1873. The introduction of the Ballot in both parliamentary and municipal elections; the rapid strides of Republicanism among the lower and less educated classes; and the fatal riots between the Catholics and Protestants at Belfast, make up the sum of the principal characteristics of the year 1872 in the history of the Sister Isles.

Very different has it been with France. For her 1872 has been a most eventful year; a year to be remembered long hence and to be marked in the calendar of time. Eighteen months ago the country was struggling for almost very existence. Only twelve months ago, though she had in some measure recovered from her death-struggle, she was yet in very poor case, bankrupt alike in money and prestige. But now, thanks to the wise and energetic rule of President Thiers, and the unhesitating patriotism of her sons, her coffers are refilled, and she bids fair soon to take her true place once more among the nations. The close of the year was indeed marked by a crisis which, at one time, threatened to be fatal, but which, happily for the nation, was safely tided over.

With her antagonist, Germany, things have not been altogether quiet. There has been a troublesome Reform Bill to carry, the passage of which through Parliament was only effected by making a large addition to the Peerage. There have been difficulties with the Roman See, arising from the expulsion of the Jesuits, and the discontinuance of the stipend of the Bishop of Ermeland. There has been the ominous illness of Prince Bismarck, followed by his resignation of the Presidency of the Council. And, as if to counterbalance these, there has been a gathering of the Kaisers, over which all Europe has been set wondering and prophesying.

In Russia, notwithstanding the presence of the Czar at Berlin, a strong anti-German feeling has sprung up, from which the seers are already beginning to augur trouble at the death of the present occupant of the Imperial throne. In connection with the Muscovite Empire a difficulty has occurred, which, though at present but small, might lead to important results. An expedition is being organized against the Khan of Khiva, which threatens consequences beyond those merely which are involved in a season's campaign against a petty, semi-civilized chieftain. Great Britain, always jealous of the encroachments of Russia in the East, has, by her ambassador, declared herself bound to the maintenance of the Afghan frontier, and determined to interfere in the case of any violation of Afghan territory.

Spain has, during the whole year, been a prey to Carlist insurrections; an attempt has been made on the life of the King; there have been more than one crisis in the Cabinet; yet we hope that, with wise and patriotic men at the helm of State, there is yet a bright future in store for the Iberian peninsula. Of Italy there is but little to chronicle. The position of parties at the Vatican and the Quirinal still remains unchanged. His Holiness resolutely declines to meet any advances made by Victor Emmanuel, never ceasing to insist upon the restitution of his States, and to protest against the sequestration of clerical property in Rome. Meantime the Italian Government is bent upon schemes of reform, one of its last acts at the close of the year being the introduction of a measure for the augmentation of the army. Austria still pursues the even tenor of the way she has followed for the last year or two. The little Swiss Republic has been thrown into an unusual ferment by the session at Geneva of the Arbitration Commission, and by the difficulties with Rome respecting

Mgr. Mermillod. The only event of importance in Turkey during the year is the elevation to power of a minister of known liberal tendencies, by whom we may shortly expect to see effected an entire remodelling of Turkish institutions on a European basis. Far away Africa, always a point of attraction, has excited more than usual interest this year, and has added another name to the list of her explorers. Mr. Stanley's undertaking, his arduous journey, and the discovery of Livingstone, share the honours of the year with the Geneva Convention.

The United States have, during the year, undergone a Presidential election which resulted in the return of General Grant by an immense majority for a second term of office. Hardly was the turmoil of the election over when the nation was thrown into mourning by the death of the defeated candidate, Horace Greeley, to whose talents and probity the whole American people united in paying a tribute of sorrow. Boston, the Parent City of the Republic, has been alternately the scene of a World's Jubilee, and of a disastrous conflagration which threatened it with the fate of Chicago.

In Canada we have also had the excitement of a General Election which has resulted, in so far as may be judged at present, in the support of the existing ministry, though apparently by a smaller majority than they were previously able to claim. Beyond this no event of any special importance has taken place. As year after year rolls on we have to congratulate ourselves on renewed and steadily increasing prosperity. Eighteen hundred and seventy-two has proved no exception to the rule. New railways are built. Lines already commenced are far on the road to completion. Already trains are running on a portion of the Intercolonial, and before many more months are passed we shall see the practical inception of our great national enterprise, the Canadian Pacific Railway. Commerce and agriculture are both in a thriving condition, and upon the whole we enter upon the New Year with undimmed prospects. May it be a Prosperous New Year for our country and a happy New Year for us all!

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

AT HIS GATES.—By Mrs. Oliphant. Toronto: Hunter, Ross & Co. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

This is the Canadian edition of Mrs. Oliphant's last and very popular novel, which, while appearing in serial form, was eagerly devoured by thousands of readers both in England and on this continent. It is an exceedingly attractive story, told in the author's best style. The characters are admirably conceived. Little "Norah," in particular, is a charming creation. The story is one eminently calculated to enlist the reader's interest, and we have no doubt that the book will meet with a large and ready sale. This edition is in every way a credit to the enterprising publishing house whose name is speedily becoming a household word in Canadian families. We trust that their endeavours to supply Canadian readers with wholesome literature will be fully appreciated, and they will meet with the support and encouragement their enterprise so highly deserves.

FORCE.—By Jacob Abbott. New York: Harper & Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros. 12mo, cloth. Illustrated. pp. 305. \$1.50.

This is the fourth volume of Harper's Science of the Young series. In former volumes Mr. Abbott has treated, in a manner adapted to the comprehension of young people, of Heat, Light, and Water and Land. In the present work he devotes himself to the important subject of Force, describing the different modes in which force is exercised, and explaining its phenomena and effects. The book is written in great part in a colloquial form, the author having apparently taken as his model the time-honoured book of our youth, "Sandford and Merton." Before we have perused many pages we are irresistibly carried back to that entertaining work of fiction, to the somewhat dry narrations of the estimable tutor, the unwonted precocity of dutiful Master Sandford, and the indifference and impulsiveness of the graceless Tommy. Lawrence makes a very excellent copy of Mr. Barlow, and his charges are ably reproduced in John and Rick. Unquestionably there is an amount of the goody-goody introduced in the book, but this is more than compensated by the real value of the information it contains. To a boy of a mechanical turn, Mr. Abbott's book would be a most welcome gift, and from its pages many an adult might add considerably to his stock of knowledge.

THE MARBLE PROPHECY, and other Poems. By J. G. Holland. Author of "Bitter Sweet," "Kathrina," &c., &c. New York: Scribner, Armstrong & Co. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

The poem which gives its title to Dr. Holland's last production is an apostrophe in blank verse to the celebrated statue of Laocoon in the Vatican. The writer is supposed to be present at a ceremony on a high feast-day in St. Peter's. The service over, he leaves the church and repairs to the Vatican to muse before the statue, the

"great embodiment
Of human life and human history!"

Speaking of all the generations past
To all the generations yet to come
Of the long struggle, the sublime despair,
The wild and weary agony of man!"

The poem is written with undeniable power, and contains passages of much grandeur. It is, therefore, the more to be regretted that its beauty is marred by a pervading spirit of intolerance and sectarian hostility. In these days, when the movement in favour of religious toleration and concord among members of different creeds is beginning to be generally recognized and supported, it is to be regretted that an author occupying so high a position as Dr. Holland should lend