

not generally such as are of any benefit to them. They are generally peaceable, and excepting those on Parry Island, their moral condition is good. A small band at Lake Nipissing, called "Doke's" Band, are more civilized and prosperous than any of the others. Among all these is a great want of schools. The Superintendent says, in his report for 1875, that they are showing generally more inclination to work, but in some way, liquor is supplied to them; he thinks chiefly from Penetanguishene, and all his efforts have failed to detect the offenders, or put a stop to the sale.

The Sault Ste. Marie Indians, besides those on the Garden River Reserve, comprise several bands, living between Sault Ste. Marie and Mamainee, amounting in all to 647. The Garden River Reserve contains 32,000 acres, with a population of 632 in two bands. Only 286 acres are cultivated. The personal property of the two bands is estimated at \$15,065. They raised, in 1875, 5,502 bushels of potatoes, worth from 50 to 60 cents a bushel, and manufactured 29,045 lbs. of sugar. The greater part of the corn was destroyed by frost. 241 tons of hay were cut, and furs taken to the value of \$712. The fishing return was very small, owing to the severe weather. They have a number of live-stock, are improving their houses, and show other signs of advancement. There are three schools, Church of England, Methodist and Roman Catholic, and there is also a mission house and school at Batchewana Bay; but the attendance at all these schools is small and very irregular. It seemed a pity one of them could not be transferred to the Nipissing Indians who have neither missionary nor school. There are four bands of Indians, under the care of the agent at Prince Arthur's Landing, but few particulars are furnished respecting them. They raise a few potatoes, fish enough for their own immediate wants, and get a considerable quantity of furs; but the agent has found it impossible to ascertain to what amount, they being sold to small traders. As this agent had only been lately appointed, more information would probably be obtained before another year.

Must Quebec be called the City of Doom? It is certainly the most unfortunate city on this continent, being periodically destroyed by fire. To say nothing of frequent and minor fires, there was a fearful conflagration in 1845. In 1866, the whole of St. Sauveur Suburb and the half of St. Roch were consumed, two thousand houses destroyed, fifteen thousand people thrown on the street without shelter, and a loss of over two millions of dollars incurred. On the 30th inst., a great fire broke out in St. Louis Suburbs, sweeping seventeen streets, burning 411 houses, leaving over 5000 persons without shelter, and entailing a loss of at least \$1,000,000, of which \$310,000 is covered by insurance. It is inconceivable that so large a city as Quebec should not have proper appliances for combating this terrible element. The water for the city is obtained from Lorette, a distance of ten miles, through a single eighteen inch main, and the supply has to be divided, one portion of the city being furnished with it in the morning, and the other in the afternoon. Clearly, this resource is totally inadequate, and now, at length, after so many a disastrous experience, the ancient city will surely wake up to the necessity of building a spacious reservoir, enlarging its mains, multiplying its hydrants, and organizing a brigade upon which it can rely in any emergency.

We do not know how to get up a "sensation" in Canada. Either our people are too matter-of-fact to believe, or our writers have not acquired the art of manufacturing a well-constructed falsehood. The other day, somebody tried hard to revive an interest in the McGEE tragedy, by declaring WHEELAN innocent, and making young TROTTER, the son of poor W'Arcy's landlady, the murderer. And all, because

there is a fellow by the name of TROTTER who committed some crime in New York, and was said to have confessed that he had also killed McGEE. This was lively enough, but all the romance was knocked out of it by the identical TROTTER, son of the landlady, suddenly turning up at Toronto, denying the whole story, and threatening vengeance on the papers that started or circulated it.

At the meeting of the St. John, N. B., Board of Trade, a resolution was passed protesting against the Bill passed in England affecting Canadian ships, and requesting that the Government of Canada will be pleased to endeavor to avert, by all constitutional means in its power, any such violation of the rights of Canada, and ask the Imperial authorities to keep their legislation as regards Canadian shipping within constitutional bounds. Our friends in St. John need be under no unnecessary alarm on this subject, as from the singularly forcible argumentation of the London Times—in striking contrast to the silence or indifference of our own papers—the necessary legislation on this point will be attended to in England itself, and Canada will run no risk of having her rights disregarded.

The Turks deserve credit for the quiet and thoroughly business-like manner in which they conduct a dynastic revolution, thereby teaching a lesson to their more civilized neighbors. The deposition of the Sultan ABDUL AZIZ, and the accession of his nephew, MURAD V., constitute one of the coolest and neatest little transactions which we have read of for many a day. The causes of this sudden exchange are not yet fully known, and its effects it is too early to determine. There is reason to hope, however, that the event may lead to some good understanding in the matter of the present insurrection of the Danubian Provinces, as the new Sultan can afford to make concessions which his predecessor was debarred from granting.

After much reticence, quite natural under the circumstances, it is now admitted that RUEL, the Metis Chieftain, has lost his reason, and been interned at Beauport. In the presence of such a calamity, the most awful that can befall any man, all animosities should be silenced, and it is with regret that we notice one leading paper making the catastrophe the occasion of malevolent insinuations and recriminations. When the Master himself strikes, we should all bow and be silent.

EPHEMERIDES.

That most ingenious and interesting writer for the press, Mr. George Augustus Sala, whose initials at the foot of his "Echoes of the Week," in the Illustrated London News, make one irreverently think of "gas," quotes the word "scheme" with inverted commas, as if its signification of plan or system were incorrect. Mr. Sala evidently holds that scheme is applicable only to a plot of mischief. Now, he, of all men, ought to know that the word scheme comes from *schemata*, a form, shape, outline or plan, and that it is secondarily, not primarily, used to denote a mischief. Macaulay says: "his whole scheme of life." Theodore Parker, one of the most correct of American writers, says: "my scheme of theology is briefly told."

I heard a discussion, the other day, in regard to the word "specialty." Some said that it was English, others held that it was American. On investigation I find that it is one of the many so-called American simplifications. Few modern English writers use it, and it is studiously eschewed in the English press. And properly so. It has the Low Latin termination *alitas* as in *generalitas, universalitas*, which are written generally, universality. Shakespeare appears to have used "specialty," but Shakespearean orthography is hard to determine. The Americans seem to have obtained it chiefly from their law writers, Chitty and others.

The New York *Horn Journal*, one of the most accurately worded papers on this continent, ostentatiously and persistently uses the word "program," instead of "programme." I think the innovation is a judicious one. We say telegram, epigram, monogram. The Germans have "program." The advantage is that we thus have an English word instead of a French one.

In Debrett's Illustrated Peerage, for 1870, I find the following:—VICTORIA, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland,

and of the Colonies and Dependencies thereof, *Empress of India &c.* Debrett is an official guide, a recognized authority, and as reliable as the Almanach de Gotha. Who will explain to me how the Queen is thus styled Empress of India? Some one suggested that it was a Title of Courtesy. But a fellow journalist remarked to me very truly that the Queen is the Fountain of Honor, and can accept no Titles of Courtesy.

A correspondent of the New York *Sun*, at the Centennial Exhibition spoke lately of the "particularly large feet" of Canadian ladies, and forthwith Nicholas Flood Davin wrote a letter denying the soft impeachment. We doubt that Canadian ladies have reason to thank Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin. Large feet are a feature of female beauty, not a deformity. We care nothing for the small feet of the unfortunate Mrs. Belknap, wife of the fallen Secretary of War. Go to the Institut Canadien, of this city, view the splendid cast of the Medici Venus in the large hall, and admire her broad spreading feet. Atalanta had large feet. Cleopatra had large feet. Lucrezia Borgia had large feet. Madame Recamier had large feet.

We are too much in the habit of belittling our own little Canada. But in the matter of education we have to make honorable reparation. Ontario leads the world in the number of her children attending school. And poor, maligned Quebec stands only two removes behind. Here is the table:

Table with 2 columns: Location and Pupil population. Rows include England, France, Prussia, Quebec, United States, and Ontario.

And at the Centennial Exhibition, Ontario stands so well that a London correspondent writes: Her school exhibit is not only better than that from any State of this country, but it is the only thing which retards the British School Exhibit.

The sewing machine is a great boon, and Elias Howe ranks as one of the greatest benefactors of the human race. Still the sewing machine is not an unmixt good. It causes many maladies, is the source of much nervous irritation, and in the cases of certain females cannot be used without positive harm. What I have been long watching is the invention of a motive-power for the machine, independent of the foot. Such an invention would make the machine perfect, besides securing a fortune for its author. The latest attempt I have heard of in this direction is that of a miniature undershot water-wheel, which can be applied to the sewing-machine. It is so constructed that it can be used in any room of a dwelling-house, and is, moreover, ornamental. The wheel is a very narrow one, with a groove divided at regular intervals into buckets and compartments. A cap fits on at the point where the water is let in, and, closing the compartment at the other end, water-packs it. A stream flowing through an aperture but one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter, and with the pressure derived from the Holly-work, is sufficient to run a sewing-machine. The invention can be used in any place where the Holly water-supply has been introduced, and is applicable to the running of all light machinery.

Montreal. A. STEELE PENN.

THE GREAT FIRE AT QUEBEC.

The sketch which we furnish to you to-day has been hastily taken, but will give your readers some idea of the extent of ground the fire passed over. Those who are familiar with Quebec can imagine themselves standing in what is called the Tower Field, just opposite to the Martello Tower, and looking eastward towards the fortifications, and from that point to the ramparts, almost every house has been entirely consumed, and nought remains to intercept the view but the spectral chimney stacks, tottering to their base and which the first strong wind will prostrate to the ground. The authorities should take immediate steps to remove the shattered walls of the brick houses which threaten to fall, at any moment, upon the passer-by. The greater portion of this suburb consisted of wooden houses and sheds, with a perfect connection of galleries leading from houses to sheds and interwoven in every way. Insurance offices that can venture their capital in insuring such a network of inflammable material deserve to suffer their present losses, and it behooves them to make a decided stand against a repetition of such faults.

The diagram of the burnt district renders it unnecessary to enter into any further details. The reader by a reference to the same can trace the line the fire took and which only ceased when the wind fell and the hungry and devouring element had nothing more to feed on.

The sight of the unfortunate inhabitants flying from their dwellings, each one bearing away some portion of his chattels, was one not easily to be forgotten. It was like an army flying before an approaching foe. Carts, carriages, caleches, even sleighs, were in requisition, hurrying away from the approaching flames with loads of household goods piled on in any shape just as they were torn from the houses. A large portion of these were first sent to friends' houses, only to be taken up again and hurried farther off, but the larger portion were dumped down in the fields around the fortifications, and on the south side of the Grand Allée. People could be seen

bending under loads that at other times they could scarcely lift—old women carrying beds on their backs, and bearing them bravely away; boys carrying off poultry or a favorite dog and pups; others, birds and flowers. Whatever way you turned, the streets seemed full of people flying as it were for their lives, but loaded like horses. The desperate driving of carriages and other vehicles by the drivers anxious to deposit their loads and return to make more money by their very acceptable services, rendered walking in the pathways exceedingly dangerous, but particularly so to those who were loaded, and it is certainly wonderful how few accidents took place.

We must certainly pay the unfortunate sufferers the highest compliment for the quiet and stoical way in which they bore their losses. There were no useless lamentations, no crying of children or of homeless mothers. Whether the shock was too sudden for them to realize the extent of the catastrophe or not, we certainly never saw a similar occurrence, where so little vent was given to, no doubt, pent up feelings. Probably this day, the poor creatures feel their loss more deeply.

Every effort is now being made by the Mayor and the citizens to provide accommodation for the homeless and helpless, and many citizens nobly did their part to help to keep down the fire and to save property, but there was no system. All was demoralization; had there been discipline, the fiery element could not have so easily mastered the city. There are many noble and generous hearts in Quebec, and the first days' suffering will be the worst. Every effort will be made to alleviate the privations and distress that must follow so great a calamity, and if I have been severe in my remarks in this article, it is far from my intention that it should apply to its citizens in the light of an unfriendly spirit. On the contrary, I would be glad to see them arouse themselves from so great indifference to their own affairs and the city's prosperity, as to allow themselves to be duped and sold by their public men, who too often have betrayed their trust. I saw some of them and one an M. P. P! of some notoriety too, promenading serenely with their friends on the Grande Allée at a safe distance from the fire and ashes, as cool and unconcerned looking, as if viewing a fine theatrical spectacle. I should have thought them better men had I seen them in their shirt sleeves helping to save from destruction even some small trifle which their own incompetence and self conceit, when in office, have been mainly instrumental in causing.

Quebec.

B.

BASE-BALL MATCH AT HAMILTON.

The sketch of the base-ball match between the Standards, of Hamilton, and the Tecumsehs, of London, at the Crystal Palace Grounds of the Ambitious City, represents the game as it was begun on the afternoon of last Friday, the 2nd inst. But at the end of the third innings, a thunderstorm broke over the grounds and rain falling in torrents for over half an hour, the ground became unfit for play and the game was postponed. On Saturday afternoon, the 3rd, the rain again interfered with the sport and the match was postponed till this week. We shall give the score in our next.

LITERARY.

HENRY KINGSLEY the author, is dead.

SIR HENRY TAYLOR, the poet and essayist, is writing his recollections.

MR. J. H. SIDONS, the elocutionist, late of London, will spend the summer in Canada.

A pension of £100 per annum has been granted to the widow of the late Shirley Brooks.

ALFRED TENNYSON heads the list of subscriptions for Walt Whitman's poems in England.

THE poet Longfellow will pass the summer in Pennsylvania, at Boya Mair, Montgomery county, where he has rented a cottage.

A new novel will shortly be begun in the Cornhill Magazine, from the pen of Mr. R. D. Blackmore, the author of "Alice Lorraine." The title will be "Marema; or, the Father's Sin."

THE death is announced of Mr. J. M. Spellen, long known by his contributions to London newspapers and magazines. Mr. Spellen will, perhaps, be best known by his clever "Sketches of Parliament," which appeared in the Illustrated London News.

THE translation of the Sacred Books of the East, under the editorship of Professor Max Muller, is now being actively begun. The editor hopes to publish about three volumes a year, the whole series being completed in twenty-four volumes, the publication of which will probably extend over eight years.

ROUND THE DOMINION.

FALL wheat is improving all over Western Ontario.

THE Montreal wharves are almost free from water.

COUNTERFEIT Canadian silver coins are in circulation in New Brunswick.

THE first Session of the Supreme Court opened in Ottawa on the 3rd of June.

THE General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church will be held at Ottawa on the 1st of July.

THE bays of Prince Edward Island are swarming with herring. Large numbers have been caught.

THE export of lumber from St. John so far this season has been double that of the same time last year.

THE Military College at Kingston was opened on the 1st with sixteen or eighteen of the twenty-two Cadets allowed by law.