

PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

Our agent, Mr. O. Aymong, will visit Ottawa and all places on the Q. M. O. & Q. R. to Hochelaga during the next fortnight, for the purpose of collecting subscriptions due to this paper, and obtaining new subscribers. We trust that those who are in arrears will make a special effort to settle with him.

TEMPERATURE

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

THE WEEK ENDING

March 27th, 1881.			Corresponding week, 1880		
Max.	Min.	Mean.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.. 45°	33°	39°	Mon.. 32°	23°	27° 5
Tues.. 41°	31°	36°	Tues.. 40°	25°	32° 5
Wed.. 36°	24°	31° 5	Wed.. 39°	19°	29° 5
Thur.. 36°	24°	31°	Thur.. 30°	15°	22° 5
Fri.. 36°	22°	29°	Fri.. 25°	4°	11° 5
Sat.. 34°	20°	27°	Sat.. 33°	9°	21°
Sun.. 31°	19°	25°	Sun.. 38°	11°	24° 5

CONTENTS.

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Dressed for the Ball—April—The Snow-Plough in Thuringia—The old Montreal Barracks—Sketches of General Skobelev's Turcoman Expedition—Traits of Domestic Life—A Mexican City—The Electric Light in Photography.

THE WEEK.—Peace in the Transvaal—A National Grievance—Colonization of the North Pole—Railroad Travelling in Russia—Photographing by Electric Light.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The Seat of Government—Our Illustrations—Amusements—News of the Week—The Lord of the Harvest—Scientific—Tom Many Fur Him—Three Evenings in a Life—New York Fashion Notes—Health and Home—Literary and Artistic—Domestic—Varieties—Musical and Dramatic—The Giant—Adelina Patti—Indian Education in Virginia—Stock Raising in the West—Our Chess Column.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, April 2, 1881.

THE WEEK

THE news of the termination of the war in the Transvaal would have been welcome on almost any terms. As it stands, however, it is impossible to shut our eyes to the fact that the war has been in its result an absolute failure, and that a large expenditure of money and blood has gained absolutely nothing. The terms of peace amount in a word to the acknowledgment of the independence of the Boers in return for an acknowledgment of the sovereignty of the Queen. That there never was any unwillingness on their part to acknowledge such sovereignty may be gathered from the tenor of the original petition to Her Majesty. But, as we said before, peace on whatever terms is most welcome, though it seems a little hard that Sir GEORGE COLLEY and so many other brave men should have laid down their lives for an idea, and that idea never consummated. And, if we sympathize most, as we naturally do, with the sufferers of our own race and country, we may feel a pang of regret for the suffering entailed upon a brave race whose only contention was for that loyal independence which the Government has been driven after all to grant them. And we cannot even console ourselves with the thought that even if we do not know "what they killed each other for" at all events "it was a famous victory."

WE have a genuine grievance, and one which we recommend to the attention of Mr. BLAKE and the Opposition generally for ventilation during the recess. Time was when we had some distinctive national features, when 'Ary as he walked down the Quadrant would unhesitatingly pronounce upon the identity of a Canadian portrait in the windows of the Stereoscopic company. Toboggan, snow-shoes, with a sleigh and possibly a snow-plough in the middle distance, and an ice railroad puffing in the background would even now lead many a man to say with Sir WALTER, "This is my own my native land," if he happened that is to be a Canadian. And yet such a man would have too much, far too much confidence in the traditions of his country. We had reluctantly some time ago to admit that snow was to be found elsewhere than in the Dominion, and that the delights of bursting water-pipes and blockaded passenger trains were not unknown to outer barbarians—but now, with an ice railroad in St. Petersburg, "Montagnes Russes"

(which being translated become toboggan slides) by the dozen in Paris, and, worst atrocity of all, a snow-plough in Thuringia, which, with shame at our fallen glory, we illustrate on another page, how are we to distinguish the genuine Canadian from the European variety? And there are rumours—but these we refuse steadfastly to believe—of snow-shoes, actually, gentlemen, snow-shoes—being used in Great Britain! Heaven grant that we may be preserved from this last humiliation.

COLONIZATION is the means by which it is now proposed to conquer the difficulties connected with the journey to the North Pole. Colonies are to be established amongst the Esquimaux as near as possible to the Pole, and gradually pushed to the north. Nothing could be more charming for everybody except the colonists and possibly the Esquimaux, who may have objections not hitherto published to being pushed pole-wards and made to do "all the hard work," as the proposal contemplates. The pleasures of the climate, the abundance of game and other luxuries, and the delightful sensations attending the three or four months during which it is not necessary to get up in the morning, or rather when there is no morning to get up in, will, it is expected, attract colonists in large numbers to this favored region. It is understood that a Syndicate has been formed for the purpose of providing proper means of transportation, and that alternate blocks of territory between Smith's Sound and the Pole will belong to them. This is expected to greatly encourage forthcoming settlers, and applications for allotments should be made early to insure attention.

AN amusing scene was provided in the House of Lords the other day—and they don't have many amusing scenes there either—by the absent-mindedness of Lord BEACONFIELD. Whether he was thinking out the plot of his new novel, or engaged in the preparation of some peculiarly pungent criticism of the Government will probably never be known. So far at all events was his mind from the consideration of purely mundane affairs that he seated himself upon those sacred benches whence but a short time since he was wont to "reign supreme," and was only recalled to a sense of the mistake he had made by the Conservative cry of "An omen! An omen!" which filled the House. When he did discover his position the ex-Premier joined heartily in the laugh which attended his crossing to the ranks of the Opposition.

It is probable that managers of railroads in Russia as elsewhere conceive that in setting apart a *coupé* on their passenger trains for ladies only, they have done all that could be reasonably expected of them to ensure the fair sex that convenience and comfort which they naturally expect as their due in travelling the world over. Neither is it strange that it has never occurred to the said officials to place any restrictions upon the behaviour of the ladies who occupy such compartments, or to provide, as in the case of the more objectionable male, a special compartment for those addicted to the consumption of the fragrant weed. Consequently when a lady recently at the St. Nicholas Station in St. Petersburg, applied to the conductor for a seat in the ladies' *coupé*, and found it for the most part occupied by lady smokers, and filled with smoke to an extent which would have rendered even a non-smoking male thoroughly miserable, the lady was surprised, and the conductor was in a difficulty. Application to the chief station agent revealed the fact that no rules existed prohibitory of such indulgence on the part of lady smokers in the compartment reserved for their sex, and the complainant had the choice of being asphyxiated with the approval of Mrs. GRUNDY or of sharing the comparatively small space allotted to the few outer barbarians of the male population who do not smoke. For be it remembered, instead

of one or more cars set apart for smokers as in this country, in Russia and Germany and elsewhere on the continent it is the compartment reserved "for non-smokers" which is alone the subject of any restriction. Our correspondent does not relate the choice of the fair traveller, but we may conclude that she preferred the temporary society of dreadful men to the stifling atmosphere of the sacred refuge of unprotected females.

THE applicability of the electric light to photographic purposes has been known for some years, and made occasional use of for the photographing of objects where sunlight was not procurable, as in subterranean chambers, or in the night time. It is a new thing however to find electricity in direct competition with the sun, as the source of light for portrait photography. Mr. J. von Ronzelen has recently arranged his studio in Berlin expressly with a view to the accomplishment of this object, and has succeeded beyond expectation. The time of exposure is scarcely longer than that required in ordinary daylight (from 7 to 9 seconds) and the portraits are said to be actually superior in sharpness of outline and distinctness of feature, no less than in the delicacy of their shading. The motive power which supplies the electricity is a 4-horse power electro-dynamic machine situated in the cellar of the house, and the studio is placed on the first floor, in itself no small convenience to those who are accustomed to climb up sky-high to the operating room. It has been found that the direct impact of the light casts too deep and sharply defined shadows, and to obviate this, the light itself is enclosed in a parabolic mirror which throws its beams upon a metallic reflector of about 1½ meters diameter, fastened to the ceiling, thus distributing the light over the whole surroundings of the sitter. By this means the original light power, equivalent to 3000 candles, is reduced 30 per cent. The reflector is arranged for easy adjustment, and the light can be directed at the pleasure of the operator. The advantage of the new system in a country where the photographer, especially in winter time, is so much at the mercy of fine weather, is very marked, and the process will no doubt speedily come into more general use. We give an illustration of the studio in this issue.

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

CLOSING SCENES—A REVIEW OF PROCEEDINGS, &c.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, March 26th, 1881.

On Monday afternoon the Parliamentary session was brought to a close by His Excellency the Governor-General. The prorogation took place with all the ancient forms. His Excellency was driven up in a carriage and four, escorted by the Princess Louise Dragoons, who rode very well, and looked very handsome. At the Parliament buildings the Foot Guards, with their band, formed a guard of honour. A salute was fired as His Excellency entered the grounds. The day was fine and there was a large crowd. The cheering was hearty.

The members of the House of Commons who had remained, while waiting to be summoned manifested great good humour. The Speaker was complimented; and he being a thoroughly able man, much above the common, deserved it. Sir John gave notice that next session he intended to move a resolution in recognition of the services of Mr. Patrick, the late clerk, of whom he spoke in the highest terms. Mr. Alonzo Wright good-naturedly remarked that the Opposition had not followed the advice of the late Abraham Lincoln, in that they had "swapped horses," that is, had changed their leader, while trying to cross the stream. Mr. Trow, who was the acting leader for this day, Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie having left, asked the Minister of Agriculture some question about the Mennonites. Mr. Pope did not immediately respond, and Mr. Kirkpatrick caused a good laugh by remarking that he was gathering his census (senses). Mr. Pope, however, very well retrieved his position by remarking that it was not everybody who had senses to collect. Amidst this good humour the three traditional knocks were heard, and the order given to admit the messenger. The Black Rod entered, with his three profound obsequies, and stated that His Excellency desired the presence of the Commons at the Bar of the Senate Chamber.

The first and main topic of the speech was, of course, the measure for placing the responsibility of constructing and operating the Canadian Pacific Railway in the hands of a company of capitalists, an assurance being expressed that this act would be followed by the most favourable results and secure the rapid completion of this great national enterprise. The belief of His Excellency was further expressed that it would be the duty and interest of the Company to dispose of and cause settlement to be made on their lands without delay. But he added that his Ministers did not intend to relax their efforts to promote immigration. Further assurance of great importance was given from the Throne—namely, that the system of free grants of land to actual settlers would be maintained in its integrity along the whole line of the railway, while the belief was expressed that the proceeds from those lands reserved for sale would be sufficient to recoup the expenses for building the railway. Reference was further made to the Manitoba Boundary Extension Act; to the Naturalization Act; and the Railway Consolidation Act; of all of which I have given you the leading features in this series of letters.

The temperance people will be glad to learn that the Scott Act Amendment Bill which was passed by the Senate did not succeed in passing through the House. It was the same with the Patent Law Amendment Bill, which the Government did not manifest any desire to press. In fact, it was clear that it embodied at least a doubtful principle. It was really a bill to revive a number of patents, which their owners had allowed to expire, and which by proper attention they might have had renewed before the date of the expiry. It is a doubtful principle to legislate to cure carelessness.

The leading feature of the session which has closed was the extreme bitterness and persistence of the Opposition, under the leadership of Mr. Blake, to the Pacific Syndicate measure. It was attended by a failure as manifest as its own bitterness and persistence. At the first, some of the members were shaken by the boldness and confidence of the denunciations of the measure. But as the debate went on and the several lines of argument became more clearly defined and hardened, the confidence of the Ministerialists became strengthened; while it became apparent from such outside manifestations of public opinion as could be obtained, that the sense of the country was favourable to the measure, and that the violent denunciations against it had failed to enlist any active sympathy—a clear proof that they were a mistake. Notwithstanding Mr. Blake's greater brilliancy as a debater, it yet remains to be proved whether the act of deposing Mr. Mackenzie to make way for him was wise. It certainly was not gracious.

I noticed that the attacks upon the Pacific Syndicate have already been used as a very powerful handle by those who have interest to divert the current of immigration from the Canadian North-West to the railway lands in the United States. A very serious injury is thus done to the country, compared with which the mere interests of parties, as between the ins and the outs, are as nothing; and it is to be remarked that whatever other evils may find in the party strifes of our neighbours across the frontier, we do not find this particular form of suicide. There is nothing more sensitive than either capital or immigration. Both are very easily frightened away, and thus it is that the neighbouring country is enriched by the folly or worse of Canadian factions. If the operations of the Syndicate could now be discredited by streams of vituperation, this country would be put back for more than a quarter of a century, and every man in it made poorer.

There was one other short passage in the speech from the Throne, which calls for notice. The Governor congratulated the House of Commons upon sufficiency of the revenue. This is, indeed, a matter for congratulation and satisfaction. It is a proof of revival of prosperity; and a further proof how very unwise it often is when men are heated in debate to make predictions respecting matters which are certain to be answered by facts.

The session being over, this letter closes the series for this season.

SCIENTIFIC.

THREE cases of antiquities from Mr. Rassam have arrived at the British Museum. They are principally of objects found at Kouyunjik and the Nebbi Yonnis.

AT the petition of the Parisian refiners of beet root sugar, the Prefect of the Seine has proscribed bees in the neighbourhood of the city. A single refiner in the 13th arrondissement estimates his losses at 25,000 francs.

THE ingenious idea of lighting buoys with gas has been now for some time demonstrated to be of great practical value. A number of them are already in use, and one is about to be despatched to the Suez Canal.

WOOL.—Manufacturers of woollen goods may look forward for some time to a cheap and full supply of wool. The first arrivals for 1881 are the greatest known, being 310,000 bales, as against 215,000.

AN examination has taken place at Brussels of the railway employés in order to test their eyes. More than one-twentieth of them have been found defective, and consequently will be discharged as being unable to fulfil their functions with a sufficient security for travellers.

THE LICK OBSERVATORY TELESCOPE.—The trustees of the Lick Observatory have finally closed the contract for the optical part of the great telescope. There has been considerable doubt whether a refractor or an enormous reflector would be selected, but the decision is in favour of the former. The object glass is to be three feet in diameter, and the Clark of Cambridge, Mass., are to make it for \$50,000.