

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is printed and published every Saturday by THE BURLAND LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY (Limited,) at their offices, 5 and 7 Bleury Street, Montreal, on the following conditions: \$4.00 per annum, in advance; \$4.50 if not paid strictly in advance. All remittances and business communications to be addressed to G. B. BURLAND, General Manager.

## TEMPERATURE

as observed by Hearn & Harrison, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

## THE WEEK ENDING

March 12th, 1883.				Corresponding week, 1882.			
Mon.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Mon.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.	36°	30°	33°	Mon.	38°	16°	27°
Tues.	33°	17°	25°	Tues.	42°	24°	33°
Wed.	10°	1°	5°	Wed.	40°	23°	31°
Thur.	20°	5°	12°	Thur.	46°	25°	37°
Fri.	28°	14°	21°	Fri.	47°	23°	35°
Sat.	34°	23°	31°	Sat.	44°	22°	33°
Sun.	15°	1°	8°	Sun.	22°	5°	13°

## CONTENTS.

ILLUSTRATIONS—Female Portraits—The Malagassies and Madagascar—A Tea Fleet in the China Sea—Wreck of the Steamer *Picardie*—View of the Town of Granby, E.T.—Snaring Robins in the Ardennes—The Rehearsal—Spring Paint.

LETTER-PRESS—The Crisis of Quebec—A Dangerous Measure—The Week—Our Illustrations—Personal—Fools' Mosaic—Lisette's Penance—Miss Carlsford's Radical Change—Ignorance in England—Good Cooking—Varieties—Had I a Crown—Granny's Vagabond—Acquaintance—Chinese Classics—Mad!—Symbols and Signs—An Inquiring Mind—Monologue from Longfellow's "Michael Angelo"—The Scientific Argument for Theism—Tight Lacing—The Washington Monument—Miscellany—Musical and Dramatic—Our Chess Column.

## CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, March 17, 1883.

## THE CRISIS OF QUEBEC.

The title of this article is written advisedly. There is no intention of sounding a needless cry of alarm, but it is necessary to face the facts as they are. The finances of the Province are in a grave condition. We are not bankrupt, but we are fast traveling in that direction, and it behooves us to look around to see whether there is any means of averting a final catastrophe. The recent debate on the budget has left no doubt on the true state of the provincial exchequer. We need not refer to the speeches of the Opposition leaders, Messrs. Mercier and Stephens, although their utterances were singularly dispassionate, and pitched rather in the key of concidence than of aggressive hostility. The speech of the Treasurer is evidence enough, and the impartial exposition of Mr. Robertson makes it only too painfully clear that we have reached the limit of our borrowing capacity. Retrenchment is imperative, but it will not suffice, of itself, because it can hardly be introduced on a large scale during the next twelve months. As the estimates have not yet been all voted, it may be proper to mention a few of the items of expenditure which must absolutely be curtailed and about which there can be no hesitation. The cost of Spencer Wood is exorbitant at the best of times, but it is simply intolerable in the present crisis. We hope that the Legislature will be inexorable on this item when it comes up for consideration. We regret to say that we have not the slightest hope that the members will reduce their sessional allowance, unaccountably raised last session to the surprise and annoyance of the whole Province. If the business were properly conducted, there is no reason why any session should be prolonged beyond six weeks, as is generally the case in Ontario, and for that period of service, \$500 are quite adequate remuneration or indemnity. We trust this subject will be thoroughly ventilated at the proper time. The Civil Service Commission cannot possibly report this session, for the excellent reason that it is scarcely in operation as yet, but when it does get to work we shall look for a thorough pruning. Let us have fewer civil servants, and let the necessary ones be amply paid. It is only those who have personal knowledge of the inside of the public service who can tell how many useless people are living on the Province. The enormous roll of societies receiving aid from the Treasury must be thoroughly overhauled. There is no reason why every little society, literary, musical, scientific, agricultural, or other should go a begging in this manner. The money is really frittered away, for it consists of only a hundred or two dollars in the majority of cases, and does no

good, while the total reaches the extraordinary figure of \$300,000. It is safe to say that this sum can be cut down one-half.

But, as we have said, there is reason to fear that reduction will not be sufficient. We must stiffen our nerves to bear the brunt of increased taxation. Our people, especially those of the country parts, have a singular aversion to the very idea of direct taxation—a feeling which we could never understand. They have been spoiled by too much paternal government. But those good times are past now, and our farmers must fall back on themselves. The Conservatives cannot carry out this reform alone. Neither can the Liberals carry it out. To accomplish that object there will have to be an understanding between both parties, and the sooner such a union is effected the better. Politicians may rant and rail against coalition as much as they like. Patriotism is above partisanship, and country is paramount. Let our leading men on both sides take up this question without delay, and make provision for next year's financial operations. While the situation is not desperate as yet, it is very critical, and if not remedied must needs end in disaster.

## A DANGEROUS MEASURE.

There is a measure at present pending before the Legislature of the Province which cannot be viewed with equanimity. Indeed, it is of a nature to provoke alarm and indignation. It bears the high-sounding title of an Act to incorporate the General Colonization and Industrial Enterprise Company, and is said to be backed by a large outlay of French and other foreign capital. Some of the clauses of this precious measure are simply prodigious. The Company propose to advance or lend money to any incorporated companies, purchase their properties and effects, acquire their debentures, and in the event of the Companies being unable to fulfil their obligations, have their corporate obligations transferred to them; to undertake, contract, sell, work and run the railways and steamboats. They seek to acquire wild and cultivated lands, chapels, schools, stations, warehouses, elevators, wharves, docks, buoys, and so on; to have the power to run branch lines from their establishments to railways, providing their lines do not exceed fifteen miles in length; in other words, as has been properly observed, they can put a small factory anywhere within fifteen miles of an established railway and proceed to expropriate the intervening lands for their branch railways.

Another clause provides that the Company shall have the power of establishing settlers on the lands, and "of making them advances gratuitously or otherwise in money or in kind, and the ordinary articles of a settler exempt from seizure \* \* \* other than that contracted by the settler in favor of the Government." There is a further provision that "the joint-stock Companies general clauses Act and its amendments shall not apply to this Company."

It is safe to say that no such extraordinary measure was ever presented to a legislative body. Something like it, indeed, was brought before the House of Commons, but it was mercilessly laughed out of Committee. In Quebec, however, we are sorry to say that the result was somewhat different. It met with violent opposition even there, but finally went through the House by a vote of 30 to 27. This is a narrow majority, indeed, but still quite sufficient to ensure its passage, unless some other means are employed to thwart it. The solid Government majority was broken on it, and it is significant that one of the Ministers, Hon. Mr. Lynch, did not vote at all.

We are not of those that are used to be frightened at the bare mention of the word Monopoly. Some monopolies are good, and even necessary. Several of these have been the making of a young country like Canada. But, to be thus beneficial, they must be hedged in by restrictions of powers and of time, so as not to lapse into intolerable tyrannies. In the present instance the privileges demanded are practically unlimited, and we do not see that any attempt was made to curtail a single one of them. Our only hope now lies in the Legislative Council. That much-abused and derided body may now retrieve itself and win the gratitude of the whole Province by defeating this gigantic bill, or send it back to the House so shorn of its dangerous clauses as to bring it within the range of beneficial monopolies. We shall look with keen ni-

forest to the action of the Legislature during the current week, and trust to be able to give our readers better intelligence in the next issue of the NEWS. We have no hesitation in saying that if the Bill finally passes, as it now stands, our Provincial Parliament will be disgraced, and poor Quebec saddled with a burden of dire oppression.

We learn at the last moment that this obnoxious Bill has been withdrawn by Mr. Senecal. Whether that gentleman did so through patriotic motives, or on account of the certainty of ultimate defeat, the Province is to be congratulated on a happy deliverance.

## THE WEEK.

A NUMBER of commercial failures have taken place in the last month or two, but they need create no uneasiness. They only serve to clear the atmosphere, and give solid men a firmer footing.

THE prospective incorporation of the New Gas Company is a matter of universal congratulation in this city. It means an immense benefit to householders. After 1885, the maximum cost of illumination will be one dollar a thousand.

IT is a sign of healthy public opinion that the holders of tickets in the recent Masonic lottery resident at London have been prosecuted for contravening the Provincial law in this important respect. Ontario herein gives Quebec a rebuke as well as a lesson.

FROM all accounts the immigration to the Dominion will be unusually large this year; and our Provincial authorities should make such practical exertions as to secure a fair portion of it for the Montreal district, the Eastern Townships and the Upper Ottawa country.

AFTER Toronto comes London. The by-law providing for the establishment of a Free Library in that thriving and enterprising city, has been ordered to be voted upon at the next municipal elections. When will Montreal emerge from its apathy in this respect?

NOW that Wiggins' equinoctial storm has passed and gone, our next cause of apprehension is the spring floods consequent on the immense quantities of snow that cover the country, and the solid ice that blocks our rivers and streams. Here is a rare chance for another swarm of prophets.

THE Marquis of Lorne is always doing gracious things. One of his Aids was in attendance at the Ottawa railway station to receive Madame Nilsson, on Friday, and the gifted lady was a guest at Rideau Hall during her stay at the capital. Thus is the nobility of art appreciated by a noble mind.

ONCE more the authorities of the Roman Curia have written to forbid the interference of the clergy in the elections of this Province. The late decrees were pretty generally accepted and observed, but it seems that in certain quarters there was a misunderstanding, which the present orders will probably set right for good.

WE are to have our Arbor Day. At the instance of Mr. Joly, the Provincial Government have taken steps to arrest the wanton destruction of our forests, and a day is to be set apart for the planting of trees throughout the Province. Mr. Lynch deserves commendation for his prompt and energetic action in the premises.

THERE is not a better advertised man in America to-day than Wiggins, and by the same token is Canada advertised. It does not make a particle of difference whether the prophet is right or wrong, so long as his name is bruited about. The famous March storm has been the occasion of more cheap wit than any other event of the season.

THE Americans have lost another of their great men in the person of Alexander Stephens, of Georgia. Never was the power of mere intellect so strikingly exemplified as in this man, who was a dwarf and a martyr to disease from his childhood. He rose to the highest positions of the State, and leaves an illustrious name behind him.

A CAREFUL scrutiny of the late Ontario elections does not materially alter the estimate which we made last week. The Government have a good working majority of at least ten, and if they continue to devote themselves to a strict and practical Provincial administration, they need not have any fear of being much disturbed.

WE are anxiously awaiting the official figures in order to ascertain whether it is really true that the Mowat Government have been left in a numerical minority of the popular vote in the late elections. As we said last week, this is a matter of extreme importance, affecting the very essence of Parliamentary representation, quite irrespective of parties.

TWO hundred women left Limerick last week for New Hampshire, where work will be provided for them in the factories. If our agents abroad were to send as many more to Montreal and Toronto, for instance, they would be guaranteed employment within thirty-six hours. This year bids fair to be more urgent than last in the demand for all kinds of labor.

THE Phoenix Park murder trial presents no new features this week. Byrne has been released by the French authorities. Nothing has yet been done in the matter of Sheridan's extradition by the United States, and the mysterious "No. 1" has not been discovered. The existence of an armed band of assassins is, however, only too painfully confirmed.

THE members of the Royal Society of Canada have received official notice that the second annual meeting of that body will be held at Ottawa, on the 20th of next May. As the Society is now in full operation, it is intended to make the forthcoming meeting a notable one, both by the quality of papers to be presented, as by other transactions of an administrative nature.

ART is cosmopolitan, and has always been looked upon as neutral ground. But even here, a pretext has been discovered to wage the miserable war of nationalities. Fault has been found in certain quarters that the Canadian queen of song, Albani, is to appear in Montreal under the auspices of an English manager, and in an English hall. Verily, this was discouraging if the movement did not defeat itself by its own fatality.

WHILE a great revival of duelling is announced in the German universities, the French Senate have prepared a very stringent bill against this unnatural mode of warfare. Principals, seconds and all accomplices shall be heavily fined and imprisoned, and papers are not to be allowed to publish accounts of such encounters. As France has given the world the worse example in this regard, a measure of the kind will go far toward discountenancing duels in all civilized countries.

THE page of sketches, illustrative of Madagascar and the Malagassies, which we publish in the present issue of the NEWS, will be found interesting, as coincident with the arrival at Washington of the Malagasy Ambassadors, whose mission is to renew and revise the commercial treaty of 1874 between their island and the United States. The inhabitants of Madagascar are quite a progressive people, having abjured paganism about fifteen years ago, and devoted themselves to education and other phases of Christian civilization.

THE American Passenger Act of 1882 provides that the officers, sailors and other employees of a vessel shall not visit the portions of