

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 31, 1870.

SUNDAY,	Dec. 25.— <i>Christmas Day.</i> Champlain died, 1635.
MONDAY,	" 26.— <i>St. Stephen, Protomartyr.</i> Stephen crowned King of England, 1135.
TUESDAY,	" 27.— <i>St. John the Evangelist.</i> Belgian Independence achieved, 1830.
WEDNESDAY,	" 28.— <i>Holy Innocents.</i> Buffalo burnt, 1813.
THURSDAY,	" 29.— <i>Lord Stafford beheaded,</i> 1689. Steamer "Caroline" burnt at Navy Island, 1837.
FRIDAY,	" 30.— <i>Black Rock burnt,</i> 1813.
SATURDAY,	" 31.— <i>St. Sylvester, Bp.</i> Montgomery repulsed at Quebec, 1775.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1870.

OUR SUPPLEMENT.

To this issue we have added a second sheet, or full size supplement, by way of distinguishing our "Christmas Number." Its contents are:

ILLUSTRATIONS.

- Page 421.—*GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST*  
424.—*THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT.*  
425.—*CHRIST BLESSING THE LITTLE CHILDREN.*  
Double page.—*THE ANGELS' ADORATION.*

This fine picture, after Titian, has been so produced as to be detached and framed separately, or bound in with the volume, at the option of subscribers; hence it is neither pagged nor printed on the reverse.

- Page 428.—*HUSH! HE SLEEPS.*  
429.—*PURITY.*  
432.—*THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.*

Two pictures selected from Doré's illustrations of Hood's *Fairy Realm*.

LETTER PRESS.

- Page 422.—*THE HOLIDAYS, &c.*  
" —*THE DOUBLE-BEDDED ROOM—A Christmas story.*  
426.—*A RELISH.*  
427.—*Several Notices suitable for the season.*  
430.—*A Poem by S. J. Watson—"THE LEGEND OF THE ROSES."*  
431.—*"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY"—from Tom Hood's "Fairy Realm."*

We are glad to have the opportunity of again wishing the readers of the *Canadian Illustrated News* "A RIGHT MERRY CHRISTMAS AND MANY PLEASANT RETURNS OF THE SEASON!" Those of them who have watched the progress of the paper since last Christmas will, we are sure, acknowledge the great progress it has made, and will, accordingly, accept its congratulations with the heartiness always inspired by a cordial recognition from a respectable acquaintance who is rising in the world. We have only to say, here, that we have made an effort to issue a number this week suitable for the season; and one which, while showing the enterprise of the Proprietor, will, we hope, also meet with the approbation of our subscribers, who, having thus received their "Christmas box" from the *News*, cannot do better than return the compliment at NEW YEAR'S by making it a "gift" in the shape of persuading as many of their friends as possible to become subscribers for 1871.

FIFTEEN years ago the Austrian Cabinet proposed to the Allies then engaged in war with Russia, terms of peace to which they assented without, however, agreeing to suspend hostilities. The Russian Government, though beaten in the field, was obstinate in the Cabinet. The Austrian Minister, Count Esterhazy, found Nesselrode more obdurate than the Ministers of victorious France and England. It was only when Prussia had instructed Baron Werther to earnestly press the acceptance of the terms upon the St. Petersburg Government, and when the allies had exhibited a determination to push the war with renewed vigour, that the haughty Gortschakoff recommended the young Czar to agree to the terms which his father had disdainfully refused. Seldom does death step in so opportunely to settle international quarrels as it did in the case of the late Emperor Nicholas. But it appears that even his "taking off" secured only a truce, and that the question in dispute was deferred instead of being settled. Had the Crimean war been continued for another year, it is scarcely likely that there would now have been a question about the neutrality of the Black Sea; and had Britain's navy seized, as it should have seized and annexed the Russian possessions in America, then Mr. Seward would have been saved his seven million dollar land operation, and Canada the annoyance of having some of its territory sandwiched between that of another and not always very friendly power. These and other con-

derations make it evident that peace was rather precipitately concluded at the beginning of 1856. Russia now declares that the treaty of Paris made in February of that year is no longer binding, and will not be respected by her, and the powers, instead of restoring the condition of war to which the treaty put an end, have consented to hold a conference and reconsider the terms imposed upon the Czar, and this conference will perhaps have assembled in London before these lines reach our readers.

There is no reason why the Powers to the Treaty of Paris may not reconsider its terms; but when Russia has obtained the conference without withdrawing its claim to set the treaty aside, of its own motion, it seems as if a substantial advantage had already been achieved by that power. The peculiar position of the nations made Russia's opportunity exceedingly tempting. With Prussia favourable or indifferent to Russian aggrandisement; France powerless; Italy preoccupied with the annexation of Rome; Austria fully engaged at home, and England unable, or at least unwilling, to fight, the Autocrat could have had no more favourable occasion in which to abolish, in his own interest, the neutrality of the Black Sea. The response which the Russian note evoked from Earl Granville was so much more plucky than was anticipated that for a time it was hoped the Russian pretensions would be abandoned, but the proposition for a Conference of the Powers to assemble at London, agreed to without the withdrawal of the Russian claims, exposes Earl Granville to the suspicion of having slightly backed out of his position. The point was a delicate one to insist on, however. The parties had simply said "I will!"—"You won't!" and now they meet to reconsider the treaty without reference to these angry notes. The powers again meet on the suggestion of Austria, and we hope they will succeed in patching up an agreement that will settle the vexatious Eastern question, or at least postpone it until the natural course of events, neither accelerated nor impeded by war, may bring forth the right solution.

The prospect is not, however, altogether reassuring. Since the Conference has been accepted without the renunciation by Russia of her claim to set the old treaty aside, it is not to be supposed that a demand for this will be made now, or that if made it would be acceded to. In fact, with Prussia preparing to seize and annex Luxemburg, in defiance of treaty and without the pretence of even war; and with such things as have recently been done in Italy, treaties to the contrary notwithstanding, we can almost fancy the Russian Government laughing in its sleeve at the farce of the representatives of such countries meeting to discuss the respect due to treaties where interest is to be served by their violation and the opportunity of setting them aside occurs. The chance is an exceedingly good one for Russia. It will discover by this Conference how much the other powers are willing to concede; it will gain time to prepare for contingencies, and as in the meantime the frost has forbidden the Black Sea neutrality to be disturbed for the next few months, Russia is, at the worst, losing nothing, while she is undoubtedly going to gain all that can be gained by ascertaining the views of the other governments, and seeing how far they will quietly permit her to carry out her designs. Nor is it denied that the progress of events and the lapse of time have made some of the provisions of the treaty either unnecessarily burthensome or practically useless, so that a modification of its conditions may be certainly predicated as a necessary result of the meeting of the Conference, and that modification will undoubtedly be favourable to Russian freedom of action in the future. The advantages are therefore, so far, decidedly in favour of the great power of the North, but it would be a mistake to conclude, as some of the indignant London newspapers have rashly done, that England has abdicated her place as one of the first-class powers of Europe, because she has accepted the Conference without insisting on the retraction of the objectionable pretensions in Prince Gortschakoff's note. The fact is, that from the moment when Russia assented to the Austrian proposal for a Conference, the complaint of Earl Granville against the Cabinet of St. Petersburg became a mere "sentimental grievance," far more insignificant than that for which Napoleon was so deservedly censured for having made an ostensible *casus belli*. There is nothing undignified in the present attitude of England; the notes of the respective Governments are simply superceded, and the course of action is now taken which Earl Granville at first declared would be admissible; that is, a discussion of the terms of the treaty with a view to their revision. There are those who believe another conflict for supremacy in the East inevitable, and some who think the sooner it comes the better it will be for British interests; but the putting off of such a struggle, if it cannot be prevented, is surely a good work, and we may at least hope with reason that the Conference will be able to accomplish this inconclusive but desirable result.

LADY LISGAR.

We are sure that one of the illustrations most pleasing to our Canadian readers, in this, as we are vain enough to consider it, very attractive number of the *News*, will be the portrait of Lady Lisgar. Just think of it! Away in the shanties of the backwoodsman; around among the houses, great and small, in the crowded cities; off by the roaring billows of ocean and up to the furthest west of this Dominion, does the *News* introduce the gentle and noble lady as a genial Christmas visitor! Yes! and her ladyship will indeed be made right welcome in every Canadian home; for since Lord Lisgar (then Sir John Young) arrived in Canada, his amiable and accomplished wife has fully shared with him the respect and esteem of the Canadian people. We are also enabled to send our friends Lady Lisgar's autograph—that is, an exact *fac-simile* of it—and we may take the liberty of adding that no doubt these vicarial courtesies have already been preceded by her Ladyship's good wishes for a happy Christmas in every home in Canada.

Lady Lisgar is the daughter of the late Marchioness of Headfort, by her first husband, Edward Tuite Dalton, Esq., and was married to Lord Lisgar on the 8th April 1835, before his accession to the baronetage. We regret to learn that the Christmas rejoicings at Rideau Hall have been clouded by the death of her Ladyship's step-father the Marquis of Headfort, which event took place on the 10th of the present month, the Marquis being in his 84th year.

OUR CHRISTMAS ILLUSTRATIONS.

Who does not remember the anxiety and eager expectation with which we, as children, used to look forward to the dawning of Christmas Day; how on the evening before, as we went to rest, we would make up our mind to keep awake all night, and watch for this benevolent Santa Claus who brought us so many beautiful presents; how we would struggle with the sleepiness that gradually stole over us; how impotent our efforts were to rebel against the wiles of the drowsy god, and how at last the eyelids drooped and closed, only to be reopened next morning to gaze upon the wealth of treasures that the good fairy had brought us while we slept. If there is one moment of pure, unmixed satisfaction in the life of mortals, it is surely that minute of joyful remembrance, curiosity and gratification that follows a child's wakening on the morning of Christmas Day. Look at the urchin in our first-page illustration—he has such a mine of treasure around him that he is almost bewildered by happiness, and is reduced to a state of helpless inertia by the quantity of his riches. There he stands on his little bed, nursing just as many of his treasures as he can hold at once, in a state of beatific coma.

Our other illustrations are also in connection with the children's Christmas pleasures—the child's imaginary friend, good Santa Claus, at his work on Christmas Eve; "Bringing in the Plum-Pudding," the time-honoured Christmas dish that has so many illnesses to answer for; and the return from "Grandpapa's Christmas Party."

The 9th. ult., the Birthday of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, *HEIR APPARENT*, was celebrated at Bristol, N. B., by the Order of the Golden Circle. Knights and Ladies of the Order held a Banquet at 1 p.m. At 3 a sermon was delivered from the text "Fear God, honour the King," followed by speeches and refreshments in the evening. This Institution is arrayed against Intemperance, Disloyalty, Gambling and Profanity. It promises to become a leading reform.—*Communicated.*

THE WAR NEWS.

No engagements of any great importance have occurred since those mentioned in our last week's record. Ducrot still holds his position on the peninsula of St. Maur, and active preparations are being made by the besieged in Paris for another vigorous sortie, to follow up the advantages gained on the second and third inst. The Prussians who, last week, were marching upon Havre, are now, it is said, retreating southwards, after having occupied Fecamp and Yvetôt. The object of the retreat is to reinforce the corps which, under the Duke of Mecklenburg, is opposed to the army of the Loire. This army, which has been reinforced by some 40,000 men, is now divided into three corps, one of which, under Gen. Chanzy, is in the neighbourhood of Tours, while the others occupy Blois, and the surrounding country. An encounter took place near the last named place on the 16th, in which the Prussians were badly beaten. Vendôme has been occupied by the Prussian troops who evacuated Verneuil. In the east Belfort still holds out; but Montmédy and Phalsbourg have both capitulated. The siege of the latter fortress, the key of the Vosges, has lasted since immediately after the battle of Worth.

Paris letters of the 9th, announce the situation of the Government, and the repulse of the army of the Loire, and the recapture of Orleans have not discouraged the Parisians. There is a general demand for more sorties, and the universal approval of the answer sent by Trochu to Moltke. The people all say they will resist to the last. The measures taken by the Government since the commencement of the siege are accepted willingly by the population. Having ensured itself against the waste of provisions, of which there are enough fresh on hand to last until Feb., the government will again have fresh meat rationed to the inhabitants, other provisions being sufficient for 6 months.

The *Kreuz Zeitung* denies that Prussia has any designs upon Luxemburg, and affirms that Prussia has resolved to submit to arbitration her complaints relative to the violation of the neutrality of the Government of the Duchy, with a view to a claim for indemnity.