

CALENDAR FOR WEEK ENDING AUG. 6, 1870.

SUNDAY, July 31.—*Seventh Sunday after Trinity* Trinidad discovered by Columbus, 1498. Battle of Banport Flats, 1759. Discovery of Oxygen Gas by Priestly, 1774.

MONDAY, August 1.—*Lammas Day*. Slavery abolished in the British dominions, 1834.

TUESDAY, " 2.—Battle of Blenheim, 1704. Battle of the Nile, 1798. Battle of Lower Sandusky, 1813.

WEDNESDAY, " 3.—Bank of England incorporated, 1732. Battle of Fort William Henry, 1757. Eugene Sue died, 1857.

THURSDAY, " 4.—St. Domingo founded by Bartholomew Columbus, 1496. George Canning died, 1827.

FRIDAY, " 5.—Lord Howe died, 1799. Battle of Magagua, 1812.

SATURDAY, " 6.—*Transfiguration*. Duke of Edinburgh born, 1844.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1870.

On Monday morning last the London *Times* published the abstract of a secret treaty said to have been proposed by France to Prussia at the conclusion of the Austro-Prussian war in 1866, and again renewed a short time ago. The proposals in this document are so extraordinary that the whole British people were thrown into a ferment of excitement, and the sympathy with Prussia, which had been strongly marked from the first, became more intense in proportion as the anger of the nation was aroused against the alleged treachery of Napoleon. The following are given as the main provisions of the proposed treaty furnished from Berlin to the *Times*, and published to the world for political effect. The first article stipulates that Napoleon should recognize Prussia's acquisitions from Austria; the second that the King of Prussia should facilitate the acquisition of Luxembourg by France; the third, that Napoleon should acquiesce in the union of the North and South German States, excluding Austria; the fourth, that Prussia should sustain France in the acquisition and annexation of Belgium; and the fifth, that the two high contracting parties should enter into an alliance offensive and defensive.

The audacity of these proposals naturally aroused very strong feelings of indignation. At first the authenticity of the document was doubted; but the proof of its genuineness was ample. Again it was asserted on behalf of France that the proposition emanated from Bismarck, and never had the sanction of either the Emperor or the King of Prussia. To this it has been replied that the original can be produced in the handwriting of Count Benedetti, the French Ambassador to the Prussian Court. That this scheme was proposed and discussed between Napoleon and Bismarck is therefore certain, and its existence adds a new proof of the folly of nations, for prudential reasons such as restrained England from seeing justice done to Denmark in the Schleswig affair, allowing their strong neighbours to profit by overreaching and defrauding weaker States. Before the Austro-Prussian war, it was surmised that between Napoleon and Bismarck a secret understanding had been come to which boded little good to the rest of the world. The famous conference at Biarritz between these two wily and grasping statesmen was followed speedily by the Prusso-Italian combination against Austria. Whether Bismarck had actually promised, in return for France's support of that combination, to cede the Rhine provinces which France covets so much cannot perhaps be ever positively determined, but certain it is that France demanded their cession immediately after the conclusion of the war, and Prussia, flushed with triumph and at the head of a patriotic and nearly united Germany, refused point blank to comply with the request. Napoleon backed down from his lofty pretensions—from pretensions so lofty that he would hardly have dared to set them up, had he not been encouraged beforehand; and it is not improbable that the proposed secret treaty now brought to light may have been considered as a substitute by which, at the expense of other States, both France and Prussia might aggrandise themselves. Nor is it difficult to believe that Bismarck may have had a hand in its origination. How easy for him to have suggested Luxembourg and Belgium as a more substantial addition to France than the Provinces which Napoleon had asked of Germany? How natural, that, by France acquiescing in the union of North and South Germany—that is, virtually extinguishing the Southern States and annexing them to Prussia—the latter would for such material advantage willingly support the French spoliation in the other direction? And may he not have hinted that Count Benedetti should have the propositions reduced to writing and submitted for confidential consideration? If Bismarck got so far in the plot he may not have been anxious to persuade the King

to agree to it; he may have thought the document would be serviceable, when the inevitable rupture came, in alarming the other nations of Europe by exposing the grasping schemes of Napoleon and thereby securing a European coalition against France.

There is nothing improbable in this theory. Bismarck is astute, unscrupulous, and grasping. He had sounded Napoleon at Biarritz, and it was said at the time or a little later, when the two parties began to show their hands, that he had outwitted the Emperor. But he could excuse himself in 1866 by saying, "Prussia is too much flushed with victory to surrender an inch of territory; but assist us in strengthening our position in Germany, and indemnify yourself with Belgium and Luxembourg." He has done things quite as audacious as this, and the opportune time at which the secret has been revealed shows that he knew the value of it as an instrument for the degradation of France in the eyes of the world. Whether Napoleon will be able to prove, as his Minister asserts, that Bismarck was at the bottom of the proposal, remains to be seen; but there will be little difficulty in believing that the Emperor would have had few scruples in executing it, save those arising from the fear of failure.

To attempt to plunder Holland of Luxembourg, and to extinguish Belgium as a separate State and incorporate it with France, would be the signal for a general war in which France would have few allies. Even the publication of the proposal, unless France can get rid of the responsibility of having made it, will weaken whatever little of moral support would have been accorded her in the present war, if it does not lead to a combination against her. But Prussia has been equally anxious to plunder Holland on her own account. She covets the possession of a larger sea board, being desirous of becoming a great maritime power; and so Holland, like Belgium, may fairly wish that France and Prussia should both be well crippled by the war, while they were wisely husbanding their own strength for a future occasion. Considerable anxiety is felt as to the course which England may pursue, but in all probability she will endeavour to maintain neutrality so long at least as the war is confined to the principals. Meantime she is actually engaged in putting the navy on a thoroughly efficient footing to be ready for any emergency, while the French and Prussians are hurrying up their armies to the frontier. The few skirmishes yet recorded, though reported, *via* Berlin, to have proved the superiority of the Prussian needle gun over the French chassepot, have been too insignificant to give any notion of the fighting qualities of either army. The Emperor was to have taken the field on Thursday last; and preparations were being made by the French fleet to blockade the Prussian ports and land an army in Hanover, where it is believed the population bear Prussia no good will, but are rather disposed to welcome the French as liberators. On the other hand it is evident that the French Government does not underrate the strength of the enemy, for the City of Paris is being put in a complete state of defence to guard against the possibility of its falling into the hands of the Prussians. From the magnitude of the preparations on both sides it is evident that the struggle will be a fierce and bloody one. If Napoleon feels himself isolated from the rest of Europe, either through the exposure of his own intended treachery or through the wiles of the equally unscrupulous Bismarck, he will fight with the desperation of despair; and it is equally certain that Prussia will exert its whole strength for the defeat of the French and the downfall of the Napoleonic dynasty, for to that the triumph of Prussia would inevitably lead.

During the short career of our journal, we have had many occasions for gratitude to our brethren of the press for the friendly and very flattering notices they have given of our efforts to illustrate Canadian Scenery and passing events. From San Francisco to the capital of the British Empire the word of commendation has gone forth and the *News* has been spoken of in terms which must have been pleasing to all connected with it. But some of our contemporaries, mostly our own near neighbours, have noticed us only to sneer, or to mix censure with praise in such nice proportions as to make one feel that escape from the former was cheaply purchased by foregoing the latter. At one time our politics, at another our cartoon, have been the causes of offence, and curiously enough those who complain never notice our efforts, except when they assume the role of censors. Now it does seem that the endeavour, courageously made and persistently maintained, to give Canada an illustrated paper worthy her growing national importance, is deserving at least of candid criticism, if not of generous encouragement; and we hardly think it candid when once in three months, some weak feature in our labours is seized upon for adverse comment, and all the rest of our efforts passed over in silence. We are happy to add that our steadily increasing subscription list is a pleasing and satisfactory proof of the growing favour with which the *CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS* is regarded by the public.

PRINCE ARTHUR AND THE SIX NATION INDIANS.

Colonel Elphinstone acknowledges the receipt of an address from the Six Nation Indians, to His Royal Highness Prince Arthur, in the following letter to Mr. Gilkison, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Brantford:

H. M. S. "CROCODILE,"
QUEBEC, 6th July, 1870.

"Colonel Elphinstone presents his compliments to Mr. Gilkison, and begs to inform him, that the large parcel, containing the address of the Six Nation Indians, was opened this day by H. R. H. Prince Arthur.

His Royal Highness desires Mr. Gilkison to kindly convey his sincere thanks to the chiefs of the Six Nations, and through them to the tribes, for the very handsomely ornamented address.

The very beautiful manner in which this address is ornamented, has greatly charmed the Prince, who will retain it as a most interesting tribute of loyal devotion of the tribes, of which he has the honour of being one of the chiefs.

His intercourse with the Indians has been to him always most agreeable, and he will bear away with him to England, lively recollections of their devotion and attachment to the Queen, his gracious mother.

He sincerely hopes that he will come again to Canada, and renew his acquaintance with the Indian tribes."

The address was engrossed on extra large official paper, in book form, with a cover of birch bark appropriately and tastefully decorated with Indian designs.

CHANGED HANDS.—The *Montreal Gazette* passed on Monday last from the control of the Printing and Publishing Company into the hands of Messrs. T. & R. White, formerly of the *Hamilton Spectator*. The Messrs. White are shrewd men of business. Mr. T. White is known as one of the most able journalists in Canada, and his brother, Mr. Richard, is a clever business man. We are sure that under their guidance the *Gazette* will lose nothing of the high character for honour and respectability it attained under its former able editorial management; and we trust that in a business point of view it will make returns somewhat commensurate with the capital and ability embarked in its control.

Hon. L. H. Holton, M. P., has written to the *Montreal Herald*, avowing the authorship of the letter published some weeks ago, signed "Anglo-Canadian," in which the "Independence" movement was severely condemned and declared to be "revolutionary." He reiterates these views and says he regards Canadian Independence as at present "neither desirable nor attainable."

It is reported that Sir John A. Macdonald will return to Ottawa about the first of September, by which time it is hoped his health will be thoroughly restored.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, has completely recovered from his late indisposition.

OBITUARY.

We regret to learn that Governor McTavish, late of the Hudson's Bay Company, died at Liverpool on the 23rd, where he had just arrived from New York. His health has been failing since September last, and possibly no small share of the Red River trouble was due to his being unable to attend to business. We gave a portrait of the late H. B. Governor with a brief sketch of his life in Vol. 1, No. 19, of the *C. I. News*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Miss Lisa Weber's Burlesque Troupe have been drawing crowds at the Theatre, for the past few nights. The acting is of a kind rarely seen in Montreal, and though some of the pieces selected for performance are extremely silly, they are also extremely well put through. We especially noticed Miss Lisa Weber's acting, which was capital—easy, graceful and natural. Miss May Robinson is also very good, and Mr. George Atkins in his funny roles is inimitable.

THE WHY AND THE WHEREFORE OF PECULIAR NAMES—MANNERS AND CUSTOMS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN.

BY THE REV. J. D. BORTHWICK.

(Continued.)

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BEAVER.—The word *Beaver*, in the sense of a covering for the head, is not derived, as most people imagine, from the animal of the same name, the fur of which is used in the manufacture of modern hats. Beaver is derived from the Italian word *bevere*, to drink, and the application had its origin in the practice, followed by the knights formerly, of converting the helmet into a drinking vessel, when more suitable cups were not at hand. Our English word *beverage* comes from the same Italian root. By another Etymologist it is said to have been derived from the customary lifting the covering which was attached to the helmet off from the face to enable the Knight to drink.

BENEDICTINES.—A religious order founded by St. Benedict of Nursia, A. D. 527; 3 vows were enjoined on the order, viz., poverty, chastity, and obedience.

BIANCHI.—In the summer of 1399, there suddenly arose in Italy an order called Bianchi from their wearing long white garments. Their faces were covered by veils that they might not be known. They walked in procession from town to town, chanting that beautiful hymn of the Roman Catholic