

The CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS is printed and published every Saturday by THE BURLAND LITHOGRAPHIC COMPANY (Limited), at their offices, 5 and 7 Beary Street, Montreal, on the following conditions: \$4.00 per annum, in advance; \$4.50 if not paid strictly in advance.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

It has become necessary once more to call the attention of our subscribers to the large number of subscriptions which remain unpaid, after repeated appeals for prompt settlement. Prompt payment of subscriptions to a newspaper is an essential of its continuance, and must of necessity be enforced in the present case.

Let it be clearly understood, then, that from all those whose subscriptions are not paid on or before the 1st of December next, we shall collect the larger sum of \$4.50, according to our regular rule, while we are of necessity compelled to say to those who are now indebted to us that if they do not pay their subscriptions for 1882 before the above date, we shall be obliged to discontinue sending them the paper after the 1st January, 1883.

All those who really wish success to the Canadian Illustrated News must realize that it can only succeed by their assistance, and we shall take the non-payment of subscriptions now due as an indication that those who so neglect to support the paper have no wish for its prosperity.

We have made several appeals before this to our subscribers, but we trust the present will prove absolutely effectual, and we confidently expect to receive the amount due in all cases without being put to the trouble and expense of collecting.

We hope that not one of our subscribers will fail in making a prompt remittance.

TEMPERATURE

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

Table with columns for dates (Nov. 4th, 1882) and corresponding week (1881), with sub-columns for Max, Min, and Mean temperatures.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, Montreal, Saturday, Nov. 11, 1882.

THE WEEK.

The calamity which occurred in the burning of the Park Theatre on the very night on which Mrs. Langtry was to have made her first appearance, has deprived the New Yorkers of the pro-

mised treat for a time. However, Mr. Abbey lost no time in seeking for a fresh stage upon which to display his protegee, and an arrangement was made almost immediately, by which Mr. Lester Wallack, in the most friendly manner, agreed to postpone his forthcoming novelty and allow the Jersey Lily to appear at his theatre, where she will make her first bow this (Monday) night.

THE arrival of Mrs. Langtry seems to have put all other celebrities out of people's heads for the time being, and it is hard to realize that Nilsson and the "diva" Patti are actually together in New York, and they are to be followed during the coming winter by scarcely less famous names. New York seems really to be deserving a reputation for the place in which art is most loved and honored of any city in the world, not excluding London.

REMEMBERING, says Mr. Yates, the many agreeable reminiscences of his contemporaries Carlyle has lately been made to favor the world with, through the good offices of his ingenuous friend Mr. Fronde, it is impossible to read, without a secret feeling of satisfaction, what one of his contemporaries thought of him.

THE Oxford University examinations are beginning, it seems, to be severely criticized in England. Considerable indignation was felt and expressed at the end of last term at the ridiculously small numbers of those who were adjudged worthy of honors.

THE worst feature in the case, which cannot but occur to any unprejudiced observer, is that it is more profitable to the University exchequer that a man should be "ploughed" than that he should pass. Every time an undergraduate has to go up for an examination he has to pay a fee to the University chest.

"HIGHLANDERS," were the words addressed by Sir John Moore at Corunna to the 42nd Regiment—the famous "Black Watch"—"Highlanders," he said, "remember Egypt;" and the brilliant and decisive charge that followed is still held in honor as one of the brightest traditions of that distinguished regiment.

THE NEW COMET.

In the beginning of the year 1880—more exactly on Jan. 27th there passed closely by the sun a comet with a long, but not very brilliant, tail. It was not observed till after it had made its nearest approach to the sun.

And now a comet has come into view, rushing swiftly towards the sun, and circling sharp around him in its perihelion swoop, along a course so near that of the comets of 1668, 1843, and 1850 as to suggest that, not in fifteen years, but in less than thirty-two months, this strangely-treated comet has come back, to return next after a yet shorter interval, then more more quickly still, and so on in ever diminishing circuits, until eventually its path shall become actually circular and very close to the sun—a state of things which must inevitably lead before long to the absorption of the comet beneath the sun's glowing surface.

It may be well to recall here the fact that these ideas about the probable destruction of the comet of 1843 are by no means new. When that comet was visible in the southern hemisphere, it was thought by many that its course had actually grazed the sun's surface.

It may, perhaps, interest the reader to know precisely how the track of our recent visitor is situated with respect to the sun.

In the accompanying figure S is the sun, A B D the earth's path, S E + the direction of a line to the earth at the time of the vernal equinox; A the earth's place on Sept. 17, when the comet was first seen in the direction shown by the arrow n, close to the sun (on the side above the sun in the figure) and drawing apparently nearer to him; B the place of the earth on Sept. 24, when the comet was seen in the direction shown by the arrow m, and drawing away from the sun, as it had been ever since the afternoon of the 17th.

curve k p l represents the part of the comet of 1668 near the sun, about as closely as it represents the path of the comet of 1843.

It may, perhaps, be thought that the resemblance between the paths is not very close. But, in point of fact, it is only the part a p h which is to be compared with the path k p l for only this part has been available for determining the orbit—and Dr. Hind's result is admittedly rough. I have obtained, myself, a different orbit, which, however, agrees with Dr. Hind's in running very close by the orbit of 1843, from a to b.

But a circumstance I have not yet seen noticed really leaves us, as I think, very little room for doubt that the new comet is doomed to speedy destruction. It is certain that on Sept. 17 the new comet was close by the sun as at p, while on Sept. 24, as observed at Vienna, it was at b, the position of which point on the figure I have carefully and closely determined. Now, the longer the period of the comet from p to the time of its next return, the farther from S would the comet have got on Sept. 24. But I find from a careful computation that, if the period were but a single year (in which case the centre of the comet's path would be at C, the comet on Sept. 24 should have been at c, instead of b. If, then, the Vienna observation on the 24th (as reported by Mr. Christie, the Astronomer Royal) is correct, the comet is retreating on a path which it will circuit in less than a year.

It seems certain, then (if we can depend on the Vienna observation of the 24th), knowing, as we certainly do, that the comet was at its nearest to the sun on Sept. 17, that before many months are over we shall see it back again, to return in ever-narrowing circuits and ever-shortening periods, until, finally, it will circle round the sun in a few hours, to be constantly retarded by frictional resistance, but accelerated in greater degree by resulting inrush towards the sun, until, finally, each portion of its substance reaches the sun's surface with a velocity of a little more than a mile per second.

The motion of the comet as it recedes may prove that the Vienna observation was inexact, and the inferences I have deduced from it incorrect; but none of the observations yet recorded are consistent with an orbital circuit of long period.

Since the above was written Dr. Hind has calculated the orbit of the new comet afresh, with a result close to that which I have obtained (see last week's Knowledge), and bringing the path very near that of the comet of 1843. His result also gives evidence of serious retardation when the comet was near the sun.

RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

[Besides the illustration engraved for this page, we give a view of the comet as seen on the 2nd inst., at 4.30 a.m., at Lake Timasah, on the Suez Canal; this is from a drawing by Mr. G. T. Simmons, R. N., engineer to H. M. S. Orion.]

THE TRUE STORY OF TEL-EL-KEBIR.

Official despatches are at best but bald general statements; and the letters of private individuals seldom give more than personal experiences, extending over a limited area. The future historian who would give a clear comprehensive account of the battle must depend on a host of minor details, which can only be gathered from the conversations and informal descriptions of those personally engaged.