

# CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1871.

SUNDAY,	Feb. 5.—Septuagesima Sunday. St. Agatha, V. and M. Great earthquake in Canada, 1663. Lingard born, 1771. Telegraph lines in England passed under the management of the Post Office, 1870.
MONDAY,	" 6.—Battle of Elizabethtown, 1813.
TUESDAY,	" 7.—Charles Dickens born, 1812. Serious riots in Paris, Rochefort arrested, 1870.
WEDNESDAY,	" 8.—Mary Queen of Scots beheaded, 1587. Indian Massacre at Schenectady, 1690. Funeral of Mr. Peabody at Peabody, Mass., 1870.
THURSDAY,	" 9.—Milan placed in a state of siege, 1853.
FRIDAY,	" 10.—Canada ceded to Great Britain, 1763. H. M. Queen Victoria married, 1840. Sir David Brewster died, 1868.
SATURDAY,	" 11.—Lord Sydenham Governor of Canada, 1840. Burke reached Carpentaria, 1861.

## THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1871.

THE capitulation of the forts around Paris and the agreement to a three weeks' armistice from the 28th ult. will, it is to be hoped, put an end to the war, though it is vauntingly announced that France will resume hostilities with nine hundred thousand men. The boast is exceedingly ill-timed and has probably been set afloat by some irresponsible news-monger, for it must by this time be evident that France is beaten. To say nothing of the killed, there are more than a third of a million of men prisoners in the hands of the Prussians, and these are the men who formed the army which France and the Empire regarded as invincible. The raw and undisciplined hordes that can now be brought together may be brave and willing to do or die for their country; but what avails the heroism that leads only to defeat? The horrors of war must be too vividly impressed on the minds of both parties, to permit the supposition that either of them would desire to renew the conflict. The very time which the armistice gives for reflection will dispose the combatants on either side to make reasonable terms of peace rather than resume hostilities.

We accept the truce, therefore, as the sure forerunner of peace. By this time, Favre, who acted on behalf of France in the negotiations, must know that longer delay in agreeing to Prussian demands would only render them more humiliating, and all hope of relief to Paris either from outside or inside being extinguished, there was no way of saving the city but to stop the siege. The Provisional Government must now appeal to the country to sanction the conditions agreed upon. The "rectification of the frontier" now proposed is certainly not that contemplated by France when she went to war, but it is such as the fortunes of war have fairly imposed. and such as, sooner or later, she is bound to accept. The public men of France have an ungracious task before them during the next three weeks; they have to convince the people that their country is beaten, that they must surrender a large part of their territory, that they must part with a portion of their fleet and pay an enormous money indemnity! This is, truly, a humiliating election programme; but it is one which the best friends of France will frankly avow and endeavour to persuade the people to accept. This course is rendered somewhat less difficult because of the divided responsibility in causing France to fall so low. The people had just re-endorsed the Empire and the new policy by an almost unanimous vote; the members of the *Corps Legislatif* were, with very few exceptions, clamorous for war, and these exceptions, M.M. Thiers, Jules Favre, &c., are the men who have struggled most earnestly for the restoration of peace, who, from their present position, can most effectively urge the adoption of pacific measures, and who, from past conduct, can support them with the smallest share of humiliation. The Ollivier ministry, or rather the Empire, may be held accountable for the war; the Regency and the Palikao cabinet for its early misconduct, and the Provisional Government for its bootless prolongation. There is guilt, or at least blundering on all sides; but the most iniquitous are, undoubtedly, the inflammatory journalists who, keeping themselves out of the range of the enemy's fire, incited the people to resistance after the French army had been annihilated. Surely the same pack of reckless scribes will not be permitted to pervert the public mind from recognizing the truth of the national situation, and the obligation of accepting peace on the best terms the enemy may be willing to concede.

The lesson for France is indeed a severe one; but six months of study in the school of adversity—and such adversity as has seldom been witnessed in modern times—must have imparted much wisdom. The mass of the

people who have suffered sorrow and privations will give an attentive ear to peaceful counsels; the clergy will use such influence as they yet possess in the same direction; and the brave generals and members of the Provisional Government will assuredly endeavour to put an end to a state of affairs that has brought them so little credit. But there is danger that in the division of parties into Orleanist, Imperialist, and Republican, a wrangle may take place by which the voice of the country on the question of peace may be misinterpreted. To avoid this all parties should adopt the peace policy, and there are some signs that they will. The Orleanist had no part in making the war, and may, without wounding his pride, vote for peace; the Republican opposed the Imperial policy, and may honourably aid in wiping out its last fatal legacy; and the Imperialist, being beaten, can have no motive for the prolongation of a struggle that casts such a reproach on his party. These considerations lead us to hope that the Representative Assembly, to meet at Bordeaux in a week, will have sufficient unanimity of feeling to guarantee the conclusion of peace, however much opinion may be divided as to the future government of the country. What shape that may take it would be impossible at present to determine. There is little hope for the restoration of the Emperor, and not much for the permanence of the Republic; but speculation on this matter will only acquire interest after the establishment of peace, the terms of which are yet a matter of doubt. It may be inferred, however, that Prussia will insist on making her own terms with France, without the interference of the other Powers; and her reasons for this are obvious; in the first place the other Powers did not interpose, as they might have done, to prevent France rushing into war; and, secondly, Prussia is too much flushed with her extraordinary triumph, too conscious of her own strength to brook dictation from any quarter. Let us hope, at all events, that peace will be concluded within the next fortnight, and that it will be a durable one.

### OUR STAFF AND EMPLOYEES.

The *C. I. News* artist has taken "liberties" with the genial and festive party which assembled in the *News* building on the evening of Thursday, the 19th January, at the invitation of the proprietor to celebrate the first anniversary of the paper. We shall say nothing of the portraits beyond this that they are all tinged with a shade of the comic; of the room and the decorations, however, a faithful portraiture has been given, and we may be permitted to supplement the short article copied last week from one of our contemporaries, by inserting the two addresses presented by the Editor, Mr. Robertson, at the request of the staff and employees of the whole establishment. The first, accompanied by a handsome Silver Cup, with suitable inscription, ran as follows:

To George E. Desbarats, Esq., A. B., L. L. B., Proprietor of the "C. I. News" Printing Works:

DEAR SIR,—

The staff and employees of your whole establishment desire to present you with this Cup, as a slight memento of their warm appreciation of your kindness towards them, as a token of their good wishes for yourself and family, and as an earnest of their zeal for the success of the CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS, and *L'Opinion Publique*, the first anniversary of which you have given them the opportunity of so pleasantly celebrating. The relation between employer and employed are such, under your judicious administration, as to make this occasion one of great pleasure for all who are assembled here to-night at your invitation, and they trust that you will esteem their trifling gift, not for its intrinsic value, but for the hearty good feeling of which it is but the feeble expression.

The second address asked Mr. Desbarats to convey to Mrs. Desbarats a massive gold necklet and locket, and was thus worded:

"DEAR SIR,—

"It would have been strange, in view of the feelings to which we have just had the pleasure of giving expression, had we forgotten the good lady who is the partner of your joys and sorrows, and who shares also in the esteem with which you have inspired us. But Mrs. Desbarats has been remembered amongst us for the night, and we respectfully desire that you will convey to her this necklet and locket, with the assurances of the warmest respect and esteem in which she is held by the staff of the *News* and *L'Opinion Publique*, and all the employees in every department of your extensive works. We would also desire to express our earnest wishes for happiness, prosperity, and long life to Mrs. Desbarats, yourself and family."

These addresses were both beautifully engrossed on parchment and signed by the employees. "Our Evening," we need hardly say, passed off most pleasantly.

READINGS FROM THE POETS AND HUMOURISTS OF AMERICA.—On Tuesday evening of last week Dr. Augustus Rawlings gave a series of readings at the St. Patrick's Hall. On account of the extreme severity of the weather, the audience was somewhat smaller than might otherwise have been expected; but those present testified their appreciation of the entertainment by frequent bursts of applause. The rendering of Edgar Allen Poe's beautiful and wondrous poem of "The Raven" was faultless, and held the audience breathless and spell-bound, as

if the dropping of a pin would have been a serious disturbance. Next to that was, at least to our taste, the reading of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes's jolly little piece entitled "The Boys," so full of genuine pathos and enlightened human sympathy. Dr. Rawlings interpreted this admirable composition in a manner utterly beyond criticism, showing a full appreciation and accurate rendition of every sentiment it expresses. Other pieces were little less worthy commendation, though we cannot flatter the reader on his rendering of Artemus Ward or Hans Breitmann. The selections from the two latter were not very happy, but altogether the entertainment was one which an intelligent audience could heartily appreciate, and quite enough to convince the people of Montreal that Dr. Rawlings is a finished and impressive reader—one of his best merits being that he never overdoes the sentiment—never allows pathos to degenerate into bathos.

Some desperate poet has sent us a composition entitled "The Wail of Antigone," the refrain of which is the expression of a wish that "In heaven thy Soul may stray." Now we have, for orthodox reasons, a very decided objection to souls "straying" in heaven,—and for this, if not for other causes, we must decline the contribution. The piece referred to is one of the best of those which editorial duty compels us to reject.

### LITERARY NOTICE.

VILLE-MARIE; or, Sketches of Montreal Past and Present, by Alfred Sandham, Montreal, 1870, George Bishop & Co., pp. 393, 8vo.

Mr. Sandham has supplied a want long felt in giving the reading public a full and succinct account of the early history and progress of the city. The record is brought down to 1870, and the work, while necessarily containing much that has been before in print, is enriched by information drawn from many original documents to which the public have no access. It is written in an agreeable style, and well deserves the liberal patronage not only of the people of Montreal, but of all who desire to become familiar with the history and present condition of the most important city in British North America. The book contains a large number of finely executed engravings, is neatly printed and handsomely bound.

### THE CHRONICLE OF THE WAR.

Surrounded on every side by a well-conditioned and numerous army, exposed to a fierce bombardment, its defenders defeated and driven back at every point, its last hope of relief shattered by the defeat of Gen. Faidherbe, it was evident to all, at the beginning of last week, that Paris could hold out but a very few days longer. Accordingly but little surprise was manifested when it was announced on Saturday evening that the capitulation had been signed. For weeks past it was evident that the feeling within the city, notwithstanding the declarations of Trochu that he would hold out to the last, and the bombastic proclamations of Gambetta, was divided. The one party set their faces against any surrender, while the other, apparently the most numerous and far-sighted one, saw plainly that, after the defeat of the provincial armies, resistance was hopeless, and would only tend to increase and prolong the misery of which there was already enough within the beleaguered city. Hunger was making itself felt, more particularly among the middle classes, terror was spread among all classes by the commencement of a vigorous bombardment, and, added to this, revolutionary outbreaks, with all their attendant horrors, were becoming of more frequent occurrence. With a powerful enemy without, and a pitiless, bloodthirsty crowd of Red Republicans within its walls, the condition of Paris was desperate—so desperate that an honourable capitulation was rather to be welcomed than dreaded.

On the 24th of January Jules Favre made his way to the German headquarters at Versailles, and in an interview with Bismarck proposed the capitulation of Paris, stipulating that the garrison should be allowed to march out with the honours of war. The desperate condition of Paris could alone have led him to take this step, and he was induced to do so in view of the disasters consequent upon the defeat of the 19th, the incompetency of Gen. Vinoy, and the illness of Trochu, who three days before had again sent in his resignation, which was this time accepted. The German Chancellor, on his side, objected to the demands of the French envoy. He stipulated that the forts should be garrisoned by Germans; the regulars and Mobiles sent to Germany; the province of Champagne held as a pledge for the payment of the war expenses; Alsace and Lorraine yielded to Germany; Paris to receive no garrison for its protection, but to be confided to the National Guards, who would not in that case be disarmed. On these conditions alone would the Germans negotiate the terms of peace, and France would then be left to reconstruct her government. And, above all, Bismarck insisted that the surrender should be signed by the whole of the Provisional Government. Favre replied that it would be impossible to bind the Bordeaux Government, as the surrender was only a military one. Bismarck then said, if the Republic rejects the terms and the Empire accepts, you must choose between acceptance and the restoration of the Emperor. After some further difficulties, which delayed the negotiations for a couple of days, Bismarck finally carried his point, and about eight o'clock on Friday evening, the 27th, a capitulation of the Paris forts, involving an armistice of three weeks by sea and land, was signed by Favre and Bismarck at Versailles. The following were the conditions of the capitulation as detailed in the Emperor William's despatch to the Empress:—The regulars and Mobiles are to be interned in Paris as prisoners of war; the National Guard will undertake the maintenance of order; the Germans occupy all the forts; Paris remains invested, but will be allowed to revictual; as soon as the arms are surrendered, the National Assembly is to be summoned to meet at Bordeaux in a fortnight; all the armies in the field will retain their respective positions, the ground between the opposing forces to be neutral. Further despatches state that the capitulation involves the cession of Alsace and Lorraine, and part of the fleet; a money indemnity to be guaranteed by the municipality.