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TEMPERATURE

As observed by HARRIS & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING

Table with columns for days of the week (Mon-Sun) and temperature readings (Max, Min, Mean) for Jan. 1st 1882 and corresponding week 1881.

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS. Montreal, Saturday, Jan. 7, 1882.

THE NEW YEAR.

We are on the threshold of a new year. We have been there before it is true, but it is by no means sure whether we shall ever be there again. Even if the end of the world should again disappoint the prophets by its non-arrival during the ensuing twelve months the result will probably be the same for many of us.

As we said the end of the world may be here as arranged. Nay, more. The end of the world will be here, is here while we write for many a man who has expected it or not, as may be. Whether the end is to come for us all together or whether we are each to find it for ourselves, it is equally well to realize the fact that it is coming. It needn't make any difference in your business calculations. If this planet were to be knocked into space by the very next comet that comes along, your butcher and baker would expect to have their last month's accounts settled right up to date, and the very morning before the explosion, may be, the milkman would refuse to leave your modicum of that precious fluid until he got that little balance due.

No, that consolation is denied you. You will have to pay, or go out of business. And when the end of the world does come (as we warn you fairly it will), a roll of receipts buttoned up in your breast pocket will feel a great deal more comfortable than the same number of unpaid accounts.

New Year's Day is the popular time for speaking of these things, and for turning over, as the common phrase has it, a new leaf. There are many mistakes no doubt on the back page, there will probably be many blunders in the future, but don't let that bother you: go straight ahead and do your best, and the new year itself will do you more good than any amount of sermons from us.

THE NEW NOBILITY.

New York society is much exercised over the report that a considerable importation of foreign titles of nobility is to be

made this season by a coterie of their wealthy people. It is said that these new honours come mostly from Italy, and are of course the most costly which that kingdom furnishes, nothing of lower rank than princes and dukes. The palace of the Prince of Rome is pointed out on Murray Hill, surpassing in elegance and luxury the villas of most European princes.

Large quantities of plate and purple and fine linen bearing the appropriate armorial decorations have already arrived at the Custom House and will soon be placed within the palace walls. Near by are the mansions of the Dukes of Milan and Mantua and other high dignities furnished with scarcely less magnificence.

It is not expected that these titles will be openly assumed, for the present at least. To say nothing of certain legal aspects of the case, there are obvious social reasons why the incline should be mounted with some gradations. The real preparations however have been going on for the last ten years or more and are nearly complete. A considerable number of people who spend their summers and their millions in Europe were ready for this step long ago. With the greater circles of fashionable folk, the preparation is well advanced, thanks to the frequent communication by travel these latter years, which has made foreign titles and ways familiar as household words.

THE POPULAR WAY OF BEGINNING THE NEW YEAR

There is no day waited for with so much impatience as the 1st of January. The saint of New Year's day is a Russian. His name is Selscaroff. It is a day when most men throw aside their bad habits, sponge off the record of the past, and begin anew with clean page.

people we are not so particular how we end, if the beginning is only right.

It is universally conceded that there is no use in trying to turn a new leaf at any other time than on the first day of the year. Other days have been tried and after a fair and impartial trial have been found wanting.

The man who smokes waits for that day to abjure smoking forever. He might take the vow on any other day, but he is in earnest and must wait till then, or he would not be able to "hold out."

The man who chews waits for that day. Chewing is a vile habit, and should be abandoned. Nobody understands this more clearly than he. The 1st of January will fix it. He will break off then as clean as a whistle.

The man who drinks waits for it. Liquor is hurting him. He feels it every day. It is not only injuring him physically, but mentally also; and it hurts his business, and makes his folks unhappy.

The night of the 31st of December is a great event in the lives of these men. They wait impatiently until twelve o'clock. It wouldn't do to stop smoking, chewing, or drinking a minute before that hour.

What an inspiring spectacle is this! How solemn! How sublime! How majestic is the strength of man, when his will is aroused! What a grandeur there is in this sacrifice of self upon the altar of duty!

It is said that the good once understood will always be followed; and it is so. These men once having tasted the joys of release from a vicious habit will never again lose the opportunity for swearing off.

The first day of January is conspicuous in another way. It is the day when diaries are commenced. You rarely hear of any one commencing a diary at any other time of the year.

The trouble with diaries is that they are too large, altogether too large. Manufacturers try to crowd too much in them. They persist in putting in all of the months. The model diary that is yet in the far future will never go beyond the month of January.

One argument against universal suffrage has certainly become a thing of the past—the alleged defilement at the polls, and the fearful results which would surely follow to women who should ever venture to these dreadful places.

WOMEN VOTING IN BOSTON.

At least, by the way voting is managed in Boston, this possible danger is so reduced that it reaches the vanishing point. Each ward is divided into precincts, any centrally located in each precinct is a place where the citizens go to do their voting. That in our precinct is a little room, probably intended as a store. At the further end are the ballot boxes and the checkers or whatever the gentlemen in attendance are called. It is a clean enough place, and a new law has entirely forbidden the use of tobacco in any form at the polls, so the room was not filled with smoke as on similar occasions of the past two years.

EGYPTIAN IDEA OF IMMORTALITY.

The following curious theory of life after death, which influenced the ancient Egyptians in the construction of their tombs, is taken from an illustrated paper on "Oriental and Early Greek Sculpture," by Mrs. Lucy M. Mitchell, in the January Century.

In Egypt, from the very earliest time, the tomb was of the greatest significance for sculpture. Of twenty ruins on the Nile, from that hoariest past between the First and Eleventh Dynasties, there is scarcely a trace. How vivid the witness borne to the sepulchral art on the plains of Memphis, the capital of oldest Egypt!

Though mingled with much that was naive and material, how vivid were the conceptions of that ancient people concerning the future world! They believe this life but an episode in an eternal existence. Death to them was the real life, only evil spirits being spoken of as dead. The coffin was called the "chest of the living."

The massive chamber of this tomb where lies the mummy is pictureless, and its entrance is closed by solid masonry. From it a shaft leads up, which was at many places thirty metres deep, and was filled with a dense mass of earth and stone, making more inviolate the mummy's rest.

In a dark recess (sarcophagus), aside from this chapel, are found many statues wallied up. These are usually twenty or more in number, and represent the deceased with great diversity. To what purpose are they here? Singular beliefs, prevalent among the Egyptians and read from the hieroglyphics by Maspero, furnish as the key to this problem.

An immortal second-self, ka, somewhat resembling the "eidolon" of the Greeks and the shade of the Romans, was believed to spring into being with every mortal, grow with his growth, and accompany him after death. So close was the relationship of this strange double-ka to man's proper being, that it was of the greatest importance to provide it with a material and imperishable body which it should occupy after death, sharing with the mummy the security of the "eternal dwelling."

A CERTAIN London manager, never before accused of humor, wrote a leading actress asking her to play for him, and told her to name her terms: she replied at once and named thirty pounds a night. To which he returned, "Dear Madam, make it shillings and it's a bargain."

This is the way that Clara Bell describes a graceful and popular hat: "Move anything that is thrust up on one side, pressed down on the other, and then jammed all around as though kicked by a mule, is described as a Gainsborough." The same expressive fashion writer has ideas on toilet affairs six thousand years back.

The WALKER HOUSE, Toronto.

This popular new hotel is provided with all modern improvements; has 125 bedrooms, commodious parlours, public and private dining-rooms, sample rooms, and passenger elevator. The dining-rooms will comfortably seat 200 guests, and the bill of fare is acknowledged to be unexcelled, being furnished with all the delicacies of the season.