

THE CHRONICLE OF THE WAR.

The past few days have brought nothing but disasters for the French. At every point, around Paris, in the north, the east, and the west, success has attended the Prussian arms, and the early capitulation of Paris may now be looked for. The bombardment is being continued with the greatest vigour, and so much damage has already been done to the French positions that the return fire has in many places considerably slackened, and at some points has ceased altogether. The Prussian fire is now directed at nearly all the forts around the capital, and on the south the shells fall into that part of the city lying on the left bank of the Seine. Many of the public buildings have been struck—among them the Salpêtrière, the Descartes Lyceum, the Cornille Lyceum, the St. Louis Lyceum, the College of St. Barbe, the Museum, Free School and College of Pharmacy. The distress in Paris is reported as very great; some murmurings have already been heard among the inhabitants—notably among the shop-keeping class—at the continued resistance, and, worse than all, a split has occurred in the Committee of Defence, which at first bade fair to overthrow Trochu's plans, and to terminate in his downfall. He sent in his resignation, which was, however, recalled, and he continues in his position. The first fort on which the fire was opened, that of Issy, is now in ruins, and has been deserted by the garrison, who, before leaving, mined the position, and placed a number of torpedoes to prevent the Germans from occupying the place, and converting it into a stronghold from which they could more easily direct their fire upon the city. Sèvres is also in ruins, and a tremendous fire is being directed upon Montrouge, which must evidently soon share the fate of its sister fortress. There has apparently been some attempt at negotiations, for both on the 15th and 18th *parlementaires* were passing between the city and Versailles. The negotiations, the object of which was kept a secret, fell through, and after three days of almost perfect quiet, hostilities were resumed on both sides. Operations were commenced on the French side by a sortie on the north, between Fort de l'Est and Aubervilliers. After two hours' fighting the sortie was repulsed with considerable losses on both sides. The bombardment of these forts commenced shortly afterwards. On the 19th a last desperate attempt to break through the German lines was made under Trochu's direction, but like its predecessors, it utterly failed. The despatch announcing the defeat says: "The first dash was made early in the morning in the direction of the Bois de Boulogne, towards the entrenchments opposite Fort Montretout, and was successful. The Germans fell back from their positions which were held by the French until evening. The immense masses the French kept pouring out were evidently concentrating their attack on St. Cloud. Versailles was in a commotion. Bodies of picked troops moved along the bank of the Seine. Amid the roar of the guns of Mont Valerien a general attack was made along the line, west and south-west. The advancing columns met the steady fire of the battery of Sèvres, adding to the roar, and constantly shelling the Bois de Boulogne. In the retreat of the French the German troops, in several instances, followed them up, attacking the former in their position on Montretout. The whole French force withdrew upon the slopes of Valerien, under the shelter of the guns of that fort. The general feeling is that the end is close at hand. To-morrow morning a *parlementaire* will be sent to Gen. Trochu, with the information of Gen. Faidherbe's rout. The prisoners captured yesterday concur in the statement that yesterday's sortie was the last desperate effort of the besieged. They say that they were disinclined to fight, and that they were actually driven to the front like sheep to be slaughtered. The Prussian loss in this affair was only four hundred, but that of the French was so heavy that they asked for an armistice of 48 hours for the purpose of removing the wounded and burying the dead. The result of this terrible defeat, occurring almost simultaneously with the defeat of the three armies of the provinces, must be the speedy capitulation of Paris, and, unless other powers intervene, the acceptance by the French of perhaps harder terms than those offered two months ago by the Prussian chancellor.

The principal blow dealt to the French was, however, not so much the repulse of the great sortie of the 19th as the total rout of the army of the north, which, under Gen. Faidherbe, was marching upon the besieging army around Paris with the aim of establishing communications with the besieged and with the army of the Loire at the south. After the repeated defeats of the army of the Loire, crowned by the rout of Chanzy's forces and the occupation of Le Mans by the Prussians, Faidherbe's army was the sole remaining hope of the garrison of Paris. Faidherbe had advanced from Arras in the direction of Paris, by way of Bapaume, where a severe, and apparently undecided engagement took place between his corps and the German army under Manteuffel. He then resumed his march towards the Somme, but was attacked by Von Goeben, who had replaced Manteuffel, and driven into St. Quentin. On the 19th, the same day that Trochu made his unsuccessful sortie, he resumed his march but was again opposed by Von Goeben, and after a severe contest his army was utterly routed and driven back upon Cambrai. Details of the engagement show that the army of the North has suffered a severe blow from which it can hardly recover. The entry of the army into Cambrai was a sad scene of disorder—ragged, shoeless troops in the most miserable plight. The latest despatches announce that Cambrai has been summoned to surrender, and that the bombardment of Longwy is being vigorously pushed. The town itself is said to be in flames.

In the East Gen. Chanzy, after the disastrous battle near Le Mans, fell back upon Laval, the chief town of the department of Mayenne, closely pursued by the army of Prince Frederick-Charles, while a second army, under the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg, pushed forward by way of the Orne and Mayenne in the direction of Rennes in order to outflank it. On the 16th Chanzy had left Laval, and was falling back farther west. In this quarter the Germans have occupied Alençon and Tourn.

In the West the French have met with another defeat. Bourbaki, who had left the northern provinces with a strong force, marched towards Belfort with the intention of relieving that city, which the Prussians have been besieging for nearly three months. On the 15th he made his first attack upon the besieging army, but was repulsed along the whole line. On the following day the attack was renewed, and the French were again repulsed with a heavy loss in killed. On the 17th Bourbaki crossed the Lisaine, 6 miles below Belfort, and with four corps attacked Von Werder's position south of the city. After nine hours' fighting the attack was repulsed, and Bourbaki, badly beaten, commenced to fall back. In the

three days' fighting the Germans lost 4,200 men, while the loss of the French amounted to 7,800. On the 19th Bourbaki had retreated beyond Montbéliard, closely followed by Von Werder.

CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

(From the Montreal Herald, Jan. 21st.)

On Thursday evening a pleasant entertainment was given by Mr. Desbarats, proprietor of the "Canadian Illustrated News," to all in the employment of the firm. The artists' room was prepared for the occasion and handsomely decorated, flags being draped round the walls, and symbolical illustrations of the various arts employed in the production of the illustrations, printing, &c. Upwards of eighty sat down to the dinner, which was set out in beautiful style, the *cuisine* and attendance being unexceptionable. Mr. Desbarats occupied the chair and did the honours in such a way as to set every one at ease. The dinner being over, Mr. Desbarats said he was glad to welcome them to the first social gathering in connection with the "Illustrated News." They had had many difficulties to contend with and many discouragements, but he could say that amidst them all he had the hearty and cordial co-operation of all by whom he was surrounded. Some of them had been with the firm he might say before he himself had had any part in its management, others had been only for a short time, but all had done their part in the work to be done. For this he returned them his sincere thanks. It had been his intention to have had this meeting during the Christmas week, but the production of the Christmas number with its large supplement had prevented this, and the arrears of work this caused had only been now overcome and that by great exertions. He believed that after the large expenditure that he had incurred in beginning this undertaking and which had yet made no return, there was now a good prospect of a profit, the paper already more than paying its expenses, and he believed it would prove a source of wealth before many years were past, and those who had laboured with him to secure its success would find their interests served by its prosperity. He thought and believed it would be a production creditable to Canada and one which would place her in a different light before the world which hitherto had seen in Canada only a rough and half civilized country. To the friendly notices in the press he referred in strong terms, and expressed the hope that these friendly feelings would remain. He then proposed "The Queen" after some well chosen remarks. The toast, drunk in tea and coffee, was received with loud cheers, the National Anthem, led by Mr. Desbarats, being also sung.

Several other toasts having been proposed and responded to, Mr. ALEXANDER ROBERTSON, after some introductory remarks, read an address, beautifully engrossed on vellum, expressing to Mr. Desbarats the warmest wishes of those in his employment and requesting his acceptance of a beautiful silver cup and salver.

Mr. ROBERTSON, rising, again read another address, this time to Mrs. Desbarats, with a beautiful gold necklet and locket, which Mr. Desbarats, on behalf of Mrs. Desbarats, acknowledged in the warmest terms.

Speeches were afterwards made by Mr. Robertson, Dr. Rawlings, Mr. L. O. David, Mr. Brynmor, Mr. Dumas, Mr. Bossé, Mr. Bureau, and others, and a number of songs sung, and after a happy evening the company separated, highly gratified and with mutual good wishes.

ROUND AND ABOUT TOWN.

The Drawing-Room Theatricals held in this city are without doubt as *recherché* as any held in the Dominion. It was supposed that the departure of the Imperial forces from Canada would mar much of the pleasure of the lovers of social gatherings. It is true that the army add much to society in every garrison town and city where they are stationed. And when they undertake theatrical representation they have important adjuncts in their splendid bands and the well-drilled supernumeraries with which they can crowd the stage. Despite these requisites great praise was earned by the ladies and gentlemen who appeared in the Drawing-Room Theatricals. The dresses have been rich and characteristic, the make-up of each individual well worthy of imitation on the regular stage; while the *tout ensemble* was irreproachable. At the conclusion of the performances the fashionable votaries of Terpsichore enjoyed the fascinating movements of the Waltz, the Galop, and the Lancers. Refreshments during the evening were provided of a light and delicate nature. There are three more performances before these enjoyable entertainments will be brought to a close.

JENIN PRUME'S CONCERT.—The violin has probably achieved the reputation of as many lovers of music as any instrument known. If Thalberg, Gottschalk, Henri Hertz, Strakosch, and Arabella Goddard have achieved great fame through their performances on the pianoforte; if the human voice has had an almost divine interpretation when a Malibran, a Jenny Lind, a Sontag, a Patti, or a Nilsson have revelled and warbled till the listener sat enthralled and entranced, the violin is almost human in its tones, it is capable of expressing every emotional feeling, from profound sorrow to exuberant joy. Paganini is immortalized by its association, Savori is remembered in every capital in Europe, Viennetemps has brought forth exquisite strains year after year to new listeners, Olo Bull has banished many a frown from the brow and caused many a heart to thrill with joy far away in the wilds and backwoods of America. The violin is a joyous, happy interpreter of music; the Highlander to its tune will leap through his sword dance; the native of the "Emerald Isle" will make time merry with his "jig;" the negro will shuffle through his "break down;" while the black-eyed, lace-veiled Signorita of Andalusia will abandon herself to the delicious reveries of its music.

Mr. Prume is a violinist *par excellence*, he possesses a wonderful ear; he handles his bow with delicacy, and yet with force. His *piece de resistance* (in fact it is that of all violinists) was of course the "Carnival of Venice." It was rendered with a degree of emotional sentiment that recalled memories that had remained long dormant, and it evidently aroused enthusiasm, judged by the manifestations of his hearers. The concert was a success in every sense, the programme being

well selected and the artists understanding the adaptability of their voices to the music.

THE HOLMAN TROUPE.—The three weeks of the Holman engagement are drawing to a close. The artists, one and all, have much improved on acquaintance; they have worn off that want of competence and shyness they first exhibited. The coldness of the Theatre has not only been sufficient to chill the audience, but it has frozen the dollars to the pockets of the public; it is a wonder that the voices of the performers have not been frozen too, and that they did not warble snow flakes and small icicles. Mr. George Holman on Monday night played the "Brigand Chief;" his personation was artistic, finished, in fact admirable. Mr. Reuben, the tenor, if he would only throw his heart into his character would be more successful; his voice is sweet, his face pleasing, and he dresses with taste. Mr. Bellew has mistaken his vocation; by all means let him give up the stage. His place is in the lecture-room. To recite "The Charge of the Light Brigade" as he did the other evening is a fortune to any man if he will turn his attention to readings. His father is one of the most successful and popular readers in England.

THE MASONIC BALL.—The ball of the Elgin Lodge at St. Patrick's Hall on Thursday evening, January 19, was a most enjoyable event. Lovely women shone resplendent and radiant in their dresses, their glorious faces, their happy smiles, and their beautiful forms; they moved like sylphs and syrens through the groves of men who pined for them. The Committee—Messrs. T. Allen, P. O'Neal, J. A. Guhn, and John Gay—were amiable and attentive. The Worshipful Master, Mr. C. D. Hanson, was benign as becomes a brother. Every one seemed to have a brother—they were all brothers, direct descendants of Adam. The regalia were rich, and some were indeed gorgeous. The symbols, however, are a closed book to us. Signor J. Hazazer, as Master of Ceremonies, was a capital selection. The dancing went on without a hitch, and every gentleman was provided with a partner without fuss or noise. The supper was well served.

Montreal, despite the cold weather, is alive with amusements. Parties, dinners, and balls make our fashionable homes delightful. Pleasant reunions are constantly held in halls and churches. Lectures and readings draw respectable audiences, and the sleighs whirl along and the snow still falls.

"Oh! the snow, the beautiful snow,
Filling the sky and earth below;
Over the house-tops, over the street,
Over the heads of the people you meet—
Dancing,
Flirting,

Skimming along;
Beautiful snow! it can do no wrong,
Flying to kiss a fair lady's cheek,
Clinging to lips in frolicsome freak.
Beautiful snow from the heaven above,
Pure as an angel, gentle as love!"

The death of a Millionaire is an event of some value to the Government. The price of the stamp on which the inventory of George Baird's property of Stachel is written, is £13,400. He leaves £25,000 to charitable objects, £200,000 to each younger son, and £50,000 to each daughter. The eldest son gets the remainder of £918,457, 17s. 9d., besides six estates.

CHESS.

ENIGMA NO. 7.

White.—K. at his B. 3rd.; R. at Q. R. 7th.; B. at Q. B. 3rd.; Kt. at K. B. 6th.; P. at K. Kt. 4th.

Black.—K. at his R. 3rd.; R. at K. R. sq.; P. at K. Kt. 3rd.

White to play, and mate in three moves.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 24.

| White. | Black. |
|------------------------|----------------|
| 1. K. to Q. B. 4th. | K. to his 4th. |
| 2. R. to K. B. 6th. | K. to his 5th. |
| 3. Kt. to K. 3rd. | K. to his 4th. |
| 4. Kt. to Kt. 4th. ch. | K. to his 5th. |
| 5. P. mates. | |

Temperature in the shade, and Barometer indications for the week ending Monday, Jan. 23, 1871, observed by John Underhill, Optician to the Medical Faculty of McGill University, 299 Notre Dame Street.

| | 9 A. M. | 1 P. M. | 5 P. M. |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Tuesday, Jan. 17..... | 60° | 80° | 70° |
| Wednesday, " 18..... | 80° | 90° | 60° |
| Thursday, " 19..... | —90° | 40° | 30° |
| Friday, " 20..... | 120° | 280° | 290° |
| Saturday, " 21..... | 280° | 300° | 280° |
| Sunday, " 22..... | —30° | —100° | —140° |
| Monday, " 23..... | —220° | —170° | 200° |

| | Max. | Min. | Mean. |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Tuesday, Jan. 17..... | 100° | 60° | 80° |
| Wednesday, " 18..... | 110° | 60° | 80° |
| Thursday, " 19..... | 60° | —90° | —100° |
| Friday, " 20..... | 300° | —40° | 130° |
| Saturday, " 21..... | 320° | 240° | 280° |
| Sunday, " 22..... | 220° | —140° | 40° |
| Monday, " 23..... | —140° | —240° | —190° |

Aneroid Barometer compensated and corrected

| | 9 A. M. | 1 P. M. | 5 P. M. |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Tuesday, Jan. 17..... | 30.26 | 30.32 | 30.40 |
| Wednesday, " 18..... | 30.72 | 30.78 | 30.80 |
| Thursday, " 19..... | 30.92 | 30.90 | 30.87 |
| Friday, " 20..... | 30.52 | 30.41 | 30.35 |
| Saturday, " 21..... | 30.06 | 30.00 | 29.90 |
| Sunday, " 22..... | 30.20 | 30.25 | 30.30 |
| Monday, " 23..... | 30.29 | 30.65 | |