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PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

Our agent, Mr. O. Aymong, will visit Ottawa and all places on the Q. M. O. & O. R. to Hochelaga during the next fortnight, for the purpose of collecting subscriptions due to this paper, and obtaining new subscribers. We trust that those who are in arrears will make a special effort to settle with him.

TEMPERATURE

as observed by HEARN & HARRISON, Thermometer and Barometer Makers, Notre Dame Street, Montreal.

THE WEEK ENDING			Corresponding week, 1880				
April 24th, 1881.	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Mon.	Max.	Min.	Mean.
Mon.	52°	32°	42°	Mon.	52°	33°	43°
Tue.	53°	30°	41°	Tue.	57°	31°	44°
Wed.	58°	30°	44°	Wed.	60°	49°	54°
Thur.	54°	35°	44°	Thur.	64°	40°	52°
Fri.	53°	32°	42°	Fri.	61°	45°	53°
Sat.	59°	34°	46°	Sat.	44°	28°	36°
Sun.	70°	45°	57°	Sun.	50°	30°	40°

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CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

Montreal, Saturday, April 30, 1881.

THE WEEK.

It is not only in our House of Commons that the existence of a "bar" has given rise to animadversion. A similar institution at Westminster has provoked much hostile criticism and seems likely to be placed under restrictions in regard to non-members of the House. While other places of refreshment are closed during prohibited hours the bar of the House of Commons is open at all times to those who have the good or bad fortune to "know a member." We may presume that even members of the British Parliament become acquainted at times *volens volens* with gentlemen who have no other claims upon society, and whose presence at the bar is not calculated to enhance its attractions. So much has a visit to this establishment become one of the forms of the House that it is not unusual for a block to occur caused by the rush from the galleries. Thirsty patriots and deserving but disappointed statesmen add fuel to the flame that burns in their bosoms or drown their sorrows in the flowing bowl. Unfortunately for these happy, but, it is to be feared, sometimes too demonstrative individuals, Mr. CAINE has his eye upon them, and the First Commissioner of Works is to be enquired of as to whether the privilege of the bar should not be confined to hon. members. So that in future a card of admission to the gallery will not include the privilege of partaking of sherry cobbles within the sacred precincts of the House.

THE International Conference on the silver question seems likely to come to nothing so long as England holds aloof. The programme of the convention seems in itself a sufficiently thorough one. The proposition so far as America is concerned is that of a free coinage on the old basis of 1:15.5, and the making of all gold and silver so coined legal tender for all payments. But it is quite evident that England for the present at all events will decline to abandon her present ground or

commit herself in any way to the bi-metallic arrangement as described. And the acceptance of that programme by the other countries, the United States in particular, would give England the power of paying in silver while insisting on gold payments to her so long as the balance remained in her favour. We are not sufficiently convinced ourselves of the necessity of a bi-metallic basis of payment, and although it seems a pity that some international arrangement cannot be reached on the subject, the objections of England can hardly in the present state of things be overruled; though New Yorkers are sanguine that the Bank of England will ere long be sufficiently depleted of gold to force the acquiescence of the old country with the programme of reform.

THE Swiss communes, if we are to believe the *American*, have a sufficiently ingenious way of preventing the growth of a pauper class. When a man comes to be considered, from whatever reason, no longer a desirable member of society, he is under the present arrangement assisted to emigrate. The community of property and the powers given by that system to the authorities enable them practically to insist upon the acceptance of such assistance by the unlucky individual, and he shortly afterwards finds himself a charge upon the revenues of the United States, or some similarly confiding country which has received with open arms the outcast from his native land. But it seems the Americans object.

THERE are certain words in the English language which are fast losing their meaning from the reckless way in which they are applied in exaggerative description. Such has long been the case in French. When a Parisian tells you that he is "abimé" you do not feel shocked at all, but conclude that "abimé" being translated means that he is "sorry" or thinks it necessary to let you imagine that he is. But apart from a desire to show an intimate acquaintance with the most unsuitable words in the language, what authority can a recent writer in an illustrated weekly have for describing *Vieutemps* as the "unrivalled violinist." As the writer goes on to inform us that *Vieutemps* has not played since 1872, it might be suggested that his chances of rivalry are diminished in proportion to his non-appearance in public, but that is not the meaning of the writer is evident by the next sentence in which he or she assures us that the "unrivalled" one has a collection of "a dozen or more *invaluable* violins." We congratulate the fortunate possessor, also the correspondent, but we are not surprised. Quite the contrary. There is a story told of a certain Scotchman to whom a true tale of breathless interest was related in thrilling tones. At the close he was assured of the absolute accuracy of the facts and asked: "does not that surprise you?" "Na, na," responded the attentive auditor. "Na, na, a'm a leear mysel'."

THE LATE EARL BEACONSFIELD.

Last week as we went to press came the news of the death of one of the leading figures in contemporary history. There has probably never lived a man, certainly of modern date, whose personality, if we may so speak, has been invested with so much interest for the world at large. Even to those who disagreed with him, and they were many, to those who vilified his political character and found sinister motives at the bottom of every one of his actions, BENJAMIN DISRAELI possessed a nameless fascination, which slow as they might be to acknowledge it, showed itself nevertheless in the very persistency of their attacks. So strong was his individuality that it was never possible to let him alone. A man who must be loved or hated, and could not be passed over with indifference. During the past week we may take it the public have been made sufficiently acquainted with the main fea-

tures of his life, and we do not propose to inflict a fresh biography upon our readers. But in view of that peculiarity of which we have spoken it is the man himself more than anything which he has done, who arrests our attention and would have commanded our interest equally had we met him under other conditions than those with which his biographers have made us familiar. There were two characteristics we should say which were the groundwork of his success in life, and which would have assured that success under almost any conditions of civilization. The first and perhaps most important was a clearness of purpose and an indomitable will, the power, itself rare, of knowing what he wanted, and the determination to obtain it "*recte, si possit, si non quocumque modo*," though the object of his ambition was not the paltry "*res*" of the satirist. When DISRAELI rose to make his maiden speech, a few weeks after he had succeeded, in the face of several defeats, in obtaining his seat, he met with so much opposition from O'CONNELL and his friends, whom he had characteristically selected for attack on this first occasion, that he was compelled to resume his seat before he had concluded his remarks. But before he quitted the floor of the House he uttered that prophecy so oft quoted, and so remarkably fulfilled, embodying the principle of his life. "I have begun several things many times and I have often succeeded at last. I will sit down now, but the time will come when you will hear me." That principle he kept steadily before him until he had made his words true.

The other characteristic of which we spoke is one without which the clearest purpose and the strongest determination may sometimes, especially in an age of over-civilization, if we may so express it, become inoperative from very force of opposition. DISRAELI possessed above all other men the most consummate "tact" in dealing with his species, a gift partly perhaps natural and partly acquired, which was emphasized by the most fascinating suavity of manner, and perfect good taste. The *soubriquet* of the "first gentleman in Europe" so dubiously applied to George IV., might with more propriety have been attached to the man who even in the heat of discussion never forgot a certain urbanity of address, and who was of all antagonists the most chivalrous and forgiving.

We remember ourselves an instance strikingly in point. We were standing one day over the fire in the morning room of a London Club, when DISRAELI entered and joined the party. Our companion on that occasion was the son of a gentleman who had in his lifetime been not only a violent political opponent of the Prime Minister's, but had been noted for a freely expressed personal animosity. Our friend naturally felt the awkwardness of the situation, which was increased when one of the party whispered something to Mr. DISRAELI, who to our surprise came across to where we were standing and said, "Mr. W— you must allow me the pleasure of making your acquaintance. Your father I know had not a very good opinion of me, but I hope to make a more favourable impression on his son. Can you find time to dine with me next Thursday?" It is needless to say that W— became as devotedly attached to Lord BEACONSFIELD as his father had been hostile. The story is but one instance of a hundred similar acts of courtesy by which men's hearts were won.

These words have gone already beyond the limits originally assigned for them. If we go further it will be but to add that DISRAELI's real life is better read from his books than from the bare chronicle of his daily actions. As we said once before it is the individuality which underlies these in many senses unique productions which gives them their interest, and, if properly understood, will give us a glimpse of that marvellous world in which DISRAELI lived apart from his generation, and in which he reigned supreme.

ENGLISH TRADE RELATIONS.

(From an occasional Correspondent.)

Late English papers bring us a very readable correspondence between the Hon. John Bright and Mr. Hermon, M.P. for the manufacturing town of Preston, in Lancashire. Mr. Hermon made a speech, in which he referred to the relations between England and other countries on the subject of Free Trade, making the point which has been more than once insisted in these columns, that England has now nothing to offer to induce foreign nations to enter into free trade relations with her; while in the nearly forty years that have passed since the inauguration of the free trade legislation of England, they have not only not followed her example, but have gone in an opposite direction. This is not only discouraging to the *doctrinaires*, but it falsifies their very confident prophecies.

Somebody sent Mr. Hermon's speech to Mr. Bright, and he at once wrote a letter for publication, with the evident intention to snuff out poor Mr. Hermon. He said: "I have read Mr. Hermon's speech, to which you refer me. I am not amazed at the ignorance he displays, or its misrepresentation of fact. It does not tell how he proposes to protect by new tariff duties the factory-workers or the mill-workers of Preston. His constituents are exporters of cotton goods to all quarters of the globe. They compete with all foreign manufacturers in all foreign markets. How can he protect them by re-impounding duties on the importation of cotton goods which they so largely export?"

This is one side very tersely put of the well-known argument from the pen of its greatest living apostle. But there is a further side, and this Mr. Bright supplies with equal terseness in the following words: "Mr. Hermon did not tell his audience that between the harvest of 1879 and 1880—that is in the year after the bad harvest of 1879—out of every four loaves of bread eaten by the people of the United Kingdom, three loaves came from abroad, and that, in no year in his lifetime or mine, have our people been fed so cheaply, or our bread of such excellent quality." These two short extracts give the whole argument; and Mr. Bright appears to be so deeply convinced of their crushing force that he goes on to exclaim: "What must Mr. Hermon think of the mental condition of his constituents when he ventured to utter to them the confused nonsense of his speech? And what must every intelligent elector of your town think of a representative in Parliament who has not advanced a single step beyond the benighted ignorance of forty years ago?" And from this he goes on to request the purchase of a little book for sixpence, written by Mr. Mongredien, entitled "Free Trade and English Commerce," which, he says, contains a most intelligent discussion of the whole question.

It does not appear to have occurred to Mr. Bright that the expression of his "amazement," and throwing in the faces of those who differ from him such terms as "benighted ignorance," will not settle the question, and it does not seem at all to occur either to him or his fellow *doctrinaires*, that the learned and able and responsible men who conduct the affairs of the Governments of Germany, France, the United States and Canada, are not only fully aware of such arguments as those contained in the book of Mr. Mongredien, "which may be bought for sixpence," but that they have also full acquaintance with the arguments of this school as laid down in Adam Smith, Stuart Mill, and all the masters downwards. Few intelligent men doubt the abstract doctrines of Free Trade, while many able men do doubt that form of application commonly said to be like the handle of a jug, all on one side; and the statesmen of all of those countries we have named, find reasons in the circumstances of their respective countries sufficient to move them to stand aloof as things now are, and their responsible action is not to be met by talking to them about their "benighted ignorance."

Mr. Hermon is not willing to be snuffed out by the contemptuous expressions of Mr. Bright, and he goes to the *Times* with a letter referring to that of Mr. Bright, he says: "I am not amazed at its tone, nor would I have noticed the letter had not Mr. Bright asserted that I had misrepresented facts. Firstly I stated that the hopes and anticipations of Sir Robert Peel, that other countries would follow and lead in Free Trade, had been bitterly disappointed. Is not this a fact? Secondly, that under Free Trade we had prospered. Is not this a fact? Thirdly, that under protection other nations had prospered. Is not this a fact? Mr. Bright states that our manufacturers compete with all manufacturers in all foreign markets. This is hardly a fact, and is exactly what I complain of, viz., that we are not permitted to do so, owing to prohibitive duties, while our markets are free to those who shut us from their own."

This is the argument sufficiently tersely put on the other side; and the fact stated by Mr. Hermon cannot be got over by the wholesale contemptuous expressions of Mr. Bright. An experience of well nigh half a century is conclusive proof that other nations will not follow England's free trade example, and probably for the simple reason that they can have all the advantage of the markets of England without, while they at the same time reserve their own for their own people. The case might and we believe would have been very greatly different if England had negotiated with other nations for an exchange of free trade relations. And we curiously see that Mr. Gladstone's Gov-