

force of about five thousand infantry, with one thousand artillery, and a smaller body of engineers.

Gibraltar was known to the early Phœnician navigators as Alube, which the Greeks corrupted into Calpe, its classical name. It formed with Abyla the Pillars of Hercules, at one time deemed to be the western boundary of the world.

Its present name was probably derived from Tarik Hu Zeyad, the Saracen general, it being called Gebel Tarik, or Hill of Tarik, from which it became corrupted into Gibraltar.

Germany is about to try the experiment of taxing all classes of speculation whose stock, bonds, and goods are bought for the purpose of selling again and no delivery of the same is made or intended to be made in the transaction. It is the purpose of the Reichstag to check if possible the rampant dealings which have terrorized many of the larger German cities ever since the Franco-Prussian war, or, if that cannot be done, to at least make the men who live by such practices pay a revenue to the State. The evil with which Germany is thus attempting to deal is not confined to that country alone, but is as wide-spread as civilization, and while it may prove an easy matter to suggest checks and remedies it will be found a difficult one to make them effectual.

#### WEEKLY PAYMENTS.

The large number of bills favorable to the poorer classes lately passed by the legislatures of several of the American States, indicates a general advancement in the right direction. The efforts of Labor in its battles against Capital are beginning to have the effect. It is now a law in many of the States that employes of all corporations be paid weekly. It is the destiny of most men to work for their living, and among those so working there are many who cannot afford to live even for a short time in idleness. "The laborer is worthy of his hire." The man who completes a job adds so much to the valuation of the world and can justly demand payment for it. That work when but half done is worth a proportionate amount, and that amount the laborer can demand if compelled to quit before finishing. Prompt and frequent payments are necessary to the poor man. If he does not receive his wages at the end of each week, debt stares him in the face, and with this debt comes a heavy rate of interest, charged for the incurred risk by those with whom he deals. Shopkeepers preferring a cash business exact weekly settlements and in justice to themselves demand a premium from those making other arrangements. If this be the case with those supplying the working men with food and clothing, why are not the latter who produce all wealth, entitled to make similar demands? At the end of every week when the workman goes home to rest with his family he should carry with him the proceeds of his week's labor.

#### RIEL A PRISONER.

The taking of Batoche, followed quickly, as it was, by the capture of Riel, and the voluntary surrender of many of the rebels, has brought to a speedy termination the rebellion of the half-breeds in the North-West Territory. The trouble with the Indians is a more difficult matter to settle, and it will probably be several months before the safety of life and property will again be assured beyond question. Our feeling of indignation against the cowardly agitator, Riel, has now given place to one of contempt and scorn. The prowess of this would-be chieftain appears to have oozed out at his finger tips upon the first decided defeat of his supporters; and, instead of standing by those whom he had incited to take up arms against the Government, he was among the first to show the white feather, and to take means to insure his own escape. Fortunately, his whereabouts was discovered by General Middleton's scouts, to whom, after some parleying, he agreed to surrender himself. How much better would it have been for all concerned, had he been shot by the scout when first recognized; as it is, we presume he will be tried in the Civil Courts of the country for high treason, in which case he will probably be convicted, and receive the punishment which he so richly deserves. Canada has twice suffered from Riel's fanaticism and itch for notoriety: and the country cannot afford to run the risk of a third rebellion. Riel should have all the justice he deserves, but the law should be allowed to take its course, come what may.

A movement which is daily gaining strength has been set afoot in England to offer the Merton professorship at Oxford to James Russell Lowell of Boston, who for some time past has been living in London. Mr. Lowell has signified his willingness to accept the honor if its proffer be unanimously made. The salary attached to the Merton chair is \$4,500 per annum.

A meeting of 220 prominent merchants was held in New Orleans the first Monday of May, to express an opinion as to whether the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition should be continued next winter. The sentiment of the meeting was decidedly in favor of the proposed continuance. An effort is being made to raise enough money to cover the additional expense.

The leading medical men of Spain, who are generally reputed very learned men, have long been contending that the danger from cholera, just as well as the danger from small-pox, can be averted by vaccination. The theory has lately gained in favor. At present, many people in Valencia, Spain, are being inoculated with the virus of cholera, on the principle that this will make an attack of the disease itself quite harmless. The results of these experiments are being closely watched by scientists. The virus becomes a tumor on the patient at the point of inoculation, and makes him very weak (but never it is maintained fatally so;) he is prostrated for about twenty-four hours, but fully recovers in less than twenty-four more. Many doctors are at Valencia studying the new system.

The annual cost of maintaining the British Navy is about fifty million dollars. The shipping tonnage is about one-seventh of that of the entire British empire, for the protection of which the mother country amply provides. Would it not be well for us to meet our responsibilities as men and citizens of a great empire before tooting to loudly the brazen horn of independence?

The Dominion Franchise Act will extend the right of citizenship to many now debarred from the enjoyment of that privilege, but its uniformity has been greatly marred by the introduction and adoption of certain amendments. The Indians of Ontario are to be enfranchised, the Indians of New Brunswick are not. In Nova Scotia a property or income qualification will be required. In Prince Edward Island manhood is the only requisite qualification.

Mr. Henry C. Burdett estimates that about one-sixteenth of the entire population of London are to a greater or less extent dependent upon charity. He recommends the abolition of municipal taxation among the poorer classes as the sovereign cure for existing evils. The scheme may be suitable for Londoners, but if it were applied in Halifax, at least forty thousand of our population would class themselves among the poor in less than a week's time.

Mr. Oscar Schroeter, a practical chemist of Hantsport, N. S., strongly advocates the cultivation of sugar-beets in Hants county, and is of the opinion that the manufacture of beet-root sugar would pay our capitalists as well as our farmers. Mr. Schroeter has had valuable experience in this business, and his suggestions are well worthy of consideration.

In England and Wales there are, according to the last census, nine hundred thousand more females than males. As the Mohamedan customs are distasteful to Englishmen, it is scarcely to be wondered at that women are now entering into competition with man in the higher as well as the lower avocations of life.

The new revision of the Bible will scarce find favour in the eyes of the present generation, and it will probably be at least a quarter of a century old before the scholarly work of its translators will be appreciated and recognized by a grateful public. Its ultimate adoption, however, by many of the leading denominations is assured.

Principal Grant of Queens College, Kingston, is a genuine loyalist, and has the power of expressing his loyalty in a manner that at once convinces and charms his hearers. Hundreds of thousands in this "Canada of ours" are imbued with the same loyal sentiment, but lack the oratorical power in giving expression to the same.

The late fire in Granville Street has had rather a good result. The Acadian hotel and the stores both north and south have been thoroughly renovated, and the general appearance of the street much improved thereby.

Among the many valuable mining properties of this Province the large and well defined copper mine of Coxheath may be classed. This valuable property only requires the proper machinery to bring out a large percentage of silver as well as of copper and to render it one of the best paying mines in the country.

The regular mail train, on its way down from Yalo, B. C., May 18th, went through a trestle 60 feet in height. The locomotive and all the cars, except the passenger coaches, went into the gully, totally wrecking them, and killing fireman Stanton and brakeman Peelo instantly. Express agent Cosmenton and mail clerk Armstrong were slightly injured. The accident is attributed to recent rains having caused the river to rise, washing away two large bents in the trestle.

The gunboat Forrester, with a number of police and seventy marines on board, has arrived at Portree, island of Skye, to arrest numerous crofters on the Welmnir estate.