

Hence they agitate to humour the constituencies who no doubt have some real grievances as well as a good many sham ones. The action of the Government has resulted in an increasing feeling of security and we have no doubt that Ireland will speedily return to prosperity and progress.

The British Isles have been visited with severe storms and much property has been destroyed and many lives have been lost. The cold has been most severe—the thermometer fell as low as seven degrees below zero. Many ill clad people died from exposure—the death rate increases as always happens there when the temperature falls. Commerce however is reviving. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has an overflowing treasury, and the country is doubtless entering upon a period of prosperity.

The Boers in South Africa have given Britain much trouble ever since that country was taken from the Dutch. The name Boer signifies farmer. These people are the descendents of the Dutch and French refugees who two centuries ago fled thither. When England abolished slavery the Boers wished to retain the "peculiar institution," and moved away North and East towards Natal beyond the jurisdiction of Britain. Again England extended her borders and Natal was placed under the English flag, and again the Boers fled inwards with their flocks and cattle. A few months ago their territory was again annexed and the Dutchmen rebelled. Peace has however been concluded with them, and it is to be hoped the

South African difficulty will be heard of no more.

In the United States, Mr. Hayes, after an honorable career as President, has retired from the White House, and his successor, General Garfield, now reigns in his stead. A severe winter has prevailed in the greater part of the United States. Unusually heavy snowfalls have occurred, causing railway blockades, and much inconvenience; but all this will be speedily forgotten with the return of spring and the bustle and activity of the opening season. Good times are reported from the mining regions of the West, and hundreds of young men of our Dominion are migrating thither to mend their fortunes. In many ways this constant drain on the bone and sinew of our country is to be lamented. It is useless moralizing over it, as it seems to be inevitable. The capital of the richer country attracts the labor of the poorer. Our youth are striving and full of enterprize; and finding tempting openings in demand for labor and large wages are drawn away from home—many of them never to return.

Late in the month, the Dominion Parliament was prorogued, after a long session. A large amount of business was transacted, but the session is chiefly remarkable for the Pacific Railway Act, which hands over to a company the railway through our North West to the waters of the Pacific.

Our Local House met in March. The receipts of the Province balance the expenditure. This was accomplished chiefly by cutting down