

cial Government by the enforcement of the Union Act on the first of July, 1867. On that day he was sworn in as a member of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, and appointed Minister of Public Works in the Government then formed by Sir John A. Macdonald.

As an ardent supporter of the Union Mr. McDougall worked energetically to give full effect to the policy agreed upon at the Quebec Conference of which he was a member. He was chairman of the East India Commission in 1865-66, and a delegate to the Colonial Conference which sat in London in 1866-67 to arrange the terms of the British North America Act. On his return to Canada he heartily supported the policy of the Premier in disregarding old party divisions and adhering to the platform of 1864. In the general election held in August and September, 1867, he took an energetic part in the discussion of the questions then at issue before the people. Though an attempt was made to "keep him at home," by raising an opposition in his own constituency, he was elected by acclamation, and was thereby the better enabled to advocate the programme of the Government in other constituencies.

In the fall of 1868 Sir George E. Cartier and Mr. McDougall went to England to confer with the Imperial authorities on several matters of public interest, and especially with reference to the acquisition of the North-West Territory. In the negotiations relative to the last named subject the delegates were eminently successful, notwithstanding the many difficulties they had to encounter. The arrangement as finally completed gave general satisfaction to all parties in Canada and received the unanimous approval of Parliament. Mr. McDougall has thus been intimately associated with the "North-West question" in all its phases, and he now undertakes the completion of the work by directing the affairs of the provisional Government of the nascent Provinces of the West, which he will no doubt successfully guide into full partnership in the sisterhood which forms the Dominion of Canada, and in this great work he will have the hearty sympathy of all his countrymen, irrespective of past, or even of present, political differences.

Mr. McDougall was, along with several other members of the Colonial Conference, created a Companion of the Bath in 1867; and when last in England he was with Sir George E. Cartier elected an honorary member of the Reform Club. He has risen to his present honourable position by no adventitious aids, but solely through his own strength of character and personal ability. Had he in his earlier political career been more distinguished by the *suaviter in modo*, his natural tendency to the *fortiter in re* might have served him, perhaps, to better purpose. But his political ideas have kept pace with the progress of the country; and in laying the foundations of the new Western Provinces he will bring to the work a matured experience in the administration of public affairs, the lessons of which he has the judgment to comprehend and the courage to enforce.

"THE 78TH ADVANCING."—Among the ceremonies attending the reception of H. R. H. Prince Arthur at Halifax, in August last, a review of the troops of the garrison formed a prominent feature. The spirited sketch, which we print elsewhere of "the 78th advancing" on that occasion, was furnished us by an officer who was present at the review.

"TOURISTS AT THE KÖNIGS-SEE." This illustration gives a capital idea of how city folks disport themselves when on their country rambles. It represents the arrival at the boat of a crowd of up of several groups who are about crossing the Lake for the purpose of visiting the magnificent Alpine scenery in the distance. They are evidently bent on enjoying themselves. The Königs-see is in the Canton of Graubünden, Switzerland.

#### FORT BEAUFORT, SOUTH AFRICA.

Fort Beaufort is an important station in the eastern provinces of the Cape Colony. It is situated about fifty miles north of the city of Grahamstown, on the banks of the Kat River, a tributary of the Great Fish River, and near the border of British Kaffraria, which lies to the eastward. The geographical position of Fort Beaufort is about 26 deg. 40 min. east longitude, and 32 deg. 40 min. south latitude. It is the capital of a county bearing the same name.

#### HINDOO TEMPLES AT BINDRABUND.

The small town of Bindrabund, or Bindraban, in the district of Muttra, about a hundred miles from Delhi, stands on the right bank of the Jumna. The water of that river being regarded by the Hindoos as sacred, multitudes of devout pilgrims come to perform their ritual ablutions. To give them easier access to the stream, its shore is provided with fine ghauts or flights of steps, constructed of the peculiar red stone brought from Jeypoor. These steps, placed at intervals for a mile along the river-side, have numerous temples and shrines, which the worshippers can enter for their prayers or sacrifices. Here they pay their respects to Krishna, the Indian Phœbus Apollo, who is fabled to have played the flute and sported with the milkmaids in this pastoral neighbourhood, as well as to have slain the great serpent, Kaliya Naga, which lay across the river, and stopped its flow. The victory of Rama, assisted by Hanuman, the Monkey God, over the giant Ravana, tyrant of Ceylon, is celebrated also in these temples, and herds of monkeys are gratefully preserved by the

Brahmins in the adjoining groves. The buildings, usually erected by the zeal and munificence of wealthy rajahs, are costly in their structure and adornment, but not of large dimensions. The ground plan of the chief temple is cruciform, like that of a Gothic church in Europe: its walls and pillars are decorated with sculptures, and from its vaulted roof hang rows of idols carved in wood. Two other buildings, which are cylindrical towers rounded at the top, resemble the black pagoda of Juggernaut in form, but are much inferior in size. There is a square platform of stone on the bank of the river, where, in September and October, when the festival of Krishna is held, the Brahmins and their acolytes perform sacred dances in honour of that deity, as they have done for two or three thousand years.—*L. L. News.*

#### THE VICTORIA REGIA HOUSE IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN AT ADELAIDE.

Amongst the wonders of the tropical vegetable kingdom of South America, the Victoria Regia or Victoria Regina, as it was originally called, is perhaps the grandest production. This magnificent water-lily is with justice denominated the queen of the South American waters tributary to the Amazon river. Its circular leaves floating on the water are five to six feet, and often more, in circumference; their turned-up edge, several inches long, is of a vivid green, and the purple back presents a netting of largely projecting prickly veins. With the splendid leaves corresponds the wonderful flower, the size of which is more than one foot in diameter. It is of a dazzling whiteness, the inside of a pinkish tinge, and spreads a fine, aromatic fragrance. Not less remarkable is the ball-shaped fruit, containing in the numerous cells of its fleshy pulp the seeds.

Already Haenke and Bonpland, at the beginning of this century, noticed this wonderful plant in South America; the French traveller, d'Orbigny, observed it in 1827 on the Parana river, and Pöppig in 1832 on the Amazon. It became, however, first generally known by the descriptions of Sir Robert Schomburgk, who has given it its name of Victoria Regina, in honour of our Queen. In Europe it bloomed first in the year 1849, in the hot-houses of the Duke of Devonshire, at Chatsworth. Since then, in many places on the continent of Europe, this wonderful flower has been seen in bloom; and has also been cultivated in many botanical gardens throughout the world. It only found its way to Australia last year, but has unfolded itself there, in the botanical garden at Adelaide, with unwonted luxuriance, as Dr. Schomburgk contrived to create for it a home very much adapted to its nature. The hot-house specially built for the reception of the South American water-lily is fifty-seven feet long, forty feet wide, and thirteen feet high. The oval-shaped basin in the centre of the house is thirty-six feet by twenty-six, with a depth of six feet, and is larger than most basins made for the purpose, and even larger than the famous basin of the Victoria Regia at Chatsworth. The basin at Adelaide has at its bottom a crossing of three-inch pipes running to the length of three hundred feet in different directions, and these pipes are connected with a cistern, and through it with the boiler. They are covered with a layer of gravel, over which is spread a bed of straw to prevent the earth from penetrating between the gravel; over this is placed a mixture of loam, peat and cow-dung to the depth of three feet, and on the top of it a layer of burnt earth, the natural quality of which has been much improved by the burning process, destroying, at the same time, insects and weeds. In the centre of the basin there is formed a little hill of burnt clay and peat in which the Victoria Regia has been planted. The basin contains eighteen thousand gallons of water, which is heated by the said pipes, and has a regular temperature of from 110° to 116° Fahr., while the temperature in the house stands at from 100° to 120° Fahr. Before the heated pipes reach the basin, they pass through an iron trough filled with water, and the steam produced by these means gives the atmosphere the requisite tropical dampness. A wheel driven by water-power keeps the water in the basin in an incessant slight motion; the water runs off on the other side. In this way the water is not only renewed, but kept at the motion of a gently flowing current. Around the walls of the house, there is a second row of pipes for the purpose of heating the interior; this set of pipes is heated by the same boiler, which is walled in outside the building. A regulator at the south side of the house shuts off the steam, when the requisite temperature is reached.

The seeds of the Victoria Regia had arrived from Europe at Adelaide in April, 1868, and as early as September the plant displayed its gorgeous flowers in grateful return for the trouble, care and great expense which were taken for its acclimatization.

Around the basin there are arranged several other water-plants, such as different species of nymphæa, nelumbiums, &c., which are also thriving luxuriantly in the temperature kept up for the Victoria, so that the Victoria Regia house in the botanical garden at Adelaide presents a glorious sight.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### CANADA.

It is rumoured that the Home Government will give to men of the Royal Canadian Rifles the alternative of accepting a discharge or of being drafted into other regiments.

Mr. Henry Colbeck, an officer in the money order and savings' bank at the Hamilton Post Office, has been appointed Assistant-Postmaster in that city.

The nomination for Brome takes place on the 26th inst., and as the only writ issued is for the House of Commons, it is to be inferred that the Hon. Mr. Dunkin intends to retain his seat in the Local Legislature.

It is reported that Vice-Chancellor Sprague is to be appointed Chancellor of Ontario, Justice Gwynne Vice-Chancellor, and Speaker Cockburn appointed to the Judgeship vacated by Justice Gwynne.

Sir William Logan is understood to have tendered his resignation as Chief of the Geological Survey, and to have recommended to the Government as his successor Mr. Selwyn, of the School of Mines, London, who has had 17 years experience in Australia.

The Legislature of Quebec was opened on the 23rd inst. The Lieutenant-Governor's speech promises a bill to regulate the police force of the Province, and the reintroduction of the measures in the programme of last session, the consideration of which was then postponed for want of time.

ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.—After a lengthy debate Mr. Boyd's Income Franchise bill was defeated on the motion for the second reading, by a vote of 47 to 26. Mr. Trow has introduced a bill to extend the time for shooting deer, &c., from 1st December until 1st January. A committee is appointed to report upon the endowment and management of Upper Canada College. The bill vesting the appointment of Notaries Public in the Lieutenant-Governor, instead of the Governor-General, was read the second time. On Friday last the Premier announced that he expected the House to begin work in earnest, as it was the intention to finish the business of the Session before the holidays. On Monday a select committee was appointed to examine and report upon the Huron and Ontario Ship Canal project. Mr. Blake's resolutions on the Nova Scotia settlement, praying an address to the Queen for the disallowance of the Nova Scotia Act passed by the Canadian Parliament, were defeated by a vote of 42 to 35. The last resolution affirming "that in the opinion of this House the interests of the country requires such legislation as may remove all colour for the assumption by the Parliament of Canada of the power to disturb the financial relations established by the Union Act as between Canada and the several Provinces," was agreed to.—*years, 64; days, 12.*

The St. Paul *Press* of the eleventh November gives the following statement regarding the alleged troubles in the Red River Territory:

"We learn from Mr. Sandford, who arrived yesterday from Fort Garry, that the reports received here greatly exaggerated the threatened movement of the half-breeds to prevent the entrance of Governor McDougall, and that in the end it dwindled down to a very farcical demonstration indeed. A posse of about a hundred half-breeds started for the frontier to carry out their purpose of intercepting the new Governor, but the party was rapidly diminished by desertion till it numbered only about fifty men, who amused themselves by barricading the road over which the Governor was to pass. But upon the Governor's arrival, a few moments conversation served to satisfy them of the innocuousness of his intentions, and of their own accord they removed the fence from his path, and though not a little mortified at having made such asses of themselves, escorted him with every mark of respect and hospitable courtesy to the capital of his new dominions. We have heretofore referred to the hunting expedition to the Red River, which was organized by Mr. Sandford, who brought his own horses, waggons and outfit from Canada, by way of Superior, and thence to Red River by way of Sunrise and Clear-water, where Mr. Sandford has a hunting lodge, and where he is accustomed to spend a portion of his summers in the vigorous sports for which the woods and lakes of that vicinity afford such ample resources. At Clear-water the hunting party was joined by Hon. Joseph Howe, who accompanied them to Red River, and who returned some ten days ago."

### UNITED STATES.

Private letters report that a fire had taken place at Fort Sully, Dakota, and destroyed Government property to the amount of one million dollars. The entire post narrowly escaped destruction.

A terrible hurricane prevailed in Albany on the morning of the 20th, blowing roofs from houses, and scattering them all over the streets. Broadway was blockaded in some places with the rubbish.

It is stated that the subject of the resumption of specie payments is being boldly advanced by Gen. Garfield, and other Western members of the House, and it is considered probable that the discussion will be opened in Congress.

The storm on the night of the 24th did immense damage in Brooklyn, Jersey City, and neighbouring localities. Damage in Hudson County, N. J., alone, by the gale and flood exceeds eighty thousand dollars. At Springfield, Mass., Burland's new hotel, six stories high, was blown down.

A Japanese Prince and suite arrived by the steamer *China*, at San Francisco, on Tuesday last. He is sent as a special Commissioner by the Emperor to enquire into the condition of the Japanese labourers on the sugar plantations in the Sandwich Islands.

On the 17th a Fenian demonstration was held at Waterford. There was a torch-light procession, in which nearly 5,000 men took part. The band played Fenian airs. The streets were crowded with spectators. An extra police force was on hand, but did not interfere with the proceedings, and there was no disturbance.

The Secretary of State has informed the Hon. John Lynch, Chairman of the Special Committee on Navigation, that he had instructed all the Consuls, including those in the Canadian Dominion, to collect and furnish the Committee with the information desired by them relative to ship building in the countries where they are located.

On the morning of the 21st an attempt was made to blow up Hudson County gaol with gunpowder. There was a loud explosion. The windows were broken, and the surrounding buildings were shaken. Great cracks were made in the wall nine feet long; the design, however, was frustrated. Suspicion rests on two notorious criminals confined there.

The official statement of the receipts and expenditures of the United States Government during the fiscal year ending on the 30th June, shows that the former were \$609,621,828, and the latter \$584,777,996. The principal items in the Revenue were: Customs \$180,048,426; Internal Revenue \$158,356,160; and loans \$238,678,081. *Per Contra:* Interest on the public debt swallowed up \$130,694,242; Pensions \$35,579,544; Army \$78,501,990; Navy 29,000,757; Miscellaneous \$56,474,061.

A special despatch from Washington to the *New York World*, says that Secretary Boutwell will propose the following programme for a return to specie payments:

1. The national banks to redeem their notes for greenbacks by July 1, 1870.
2. The government to redeem its greenbacks in gold after January 1, 1871.
3. Free banking for all parties upon bonds bearing interest at 4 per cent in gold.

The question of establishing a cable telegraph between New York and the Hague, recently submitted to Government, has already received consideration, and at the proper time due acknowledgment will be made to the Netherlands Government for the motives which prompted concession to an American citizen. Reciprocity, especially as to terminal, is doubtless the