

been placed to the credit of the makers by the order of the General Manager, without the knowledge of the President, yet they were properly placed in the return under the head of "Bills Discounted and Current."

Let it be distinctly remembered that the point at issue is not as to the good or bad management of the bank; nor as to whether the best possible methods of book-keeping, or making Government returns, has been adopted; nor as to whether the borrowing from other banks has been out of all proportion with the capital of the bank;—the question is, has Sir Francis Hincks been guilty of the crime of wilfully deceiving the public in general, and the Consolidated Bank stockholders in particular? And to me it is simply incredible that any unprejudiced person, examining the facts as I have stated them, can fail to acquit Sir Francis of the charge preferred against him. The sober second thought, of which I have spoken, must prevail. Justice to Sir Francis is not injustice to the impoverished shareholders; the condemnation of him, to the loss of what must be dearer than life—his good name—will not recoup them. *Fiat justitia, ruat cælum*, and more banks.

#### THE GRAB GAME AT QUEBEC.

A gentleman writing to me complains that I treat the political affairs of this Province with too much flippancy. Perhaps he is right, and quite unconsciously I may have fallen into a light, irreverent style of writing. I have been serious, however, and meant all I said seriously; but really it is difficult to write with sober-mindedness of the burlesque, which is being acted out at Quebec, under the name of politics. Our big boys are playing at "grab," and the game is for money; the poor Province is never so much as considered; with an exception or two, every man pulls every possible wire that he may do good unto himself at the first chance; and the net result of it all is that so-called politics are so bedraggled in the mud that honest, thinking men can only speak about them in a tone of contempt. It is all very well to talk of trying to cleanse this Augean stable, but how is it to be done? Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? Can we gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? The whole thing is bad to the roots of it, and to lop off a few branches will be to spend the strength in a vain endeavour.

When M. Joly had made his appeal to the electors, and parties were sent back to the Assembly evenly balanced, M. Turcotte was bought over by the Government, the loop line at Three Rivers being the price; and he has kept his bargain with the proverbial honour which is known among thieves. M. Paquet offered himself at his own valuation, which being considered out of all due proportion to his worth was rejected; but he seems likely under the new regime to have his price and his revenge. So M. Chapleau had only to buy and buy, and he has bought to the entire satisfaction of the Legislative Council and the Lieut.-Governor. The Supplies were passed, and the Lieut.-Governor recorded his unqualified satisfaction at the harmony which had been restored between the two Assemblies. The whole affair has been a low party move; and money, or the promise of it, has made the mare to go.

But the recreants are not likely to have quite so much good as they bargained for. The feeling of contempt for M. Paquet at Levis is so strong that the chances are he will not be re-elected. M. Chauveau, member for Rimouski, who kept himself ready to fill the place of Police Magistrate, vacated by the death of Mr. Holt, will probably be glad for many reasons to drop out of sight. M. Racicot will find it no easy matter to persuade his constituents that he has not played fast and loose in this matter; and the party now in power will be just as glad to be rid of him, and his claims, as they will be to have no more trouble with M. Chauveau. If these two gentlemen are left out in the cold of general neglect, popular decency will be in some measure vindicated.

M. Chapleau goes to the electors of Terrebonne with many things in his favour. They are bound to acknowledge the force of his abilities, and the advantages to them of the position he now holds;

but he will have to look well to it if he means to be returned with honours. The Liberals have determined to concentrate their strength there, and oust him if they can. His opponent, Dr. Prevost, is deservedly popular in the County, and under ordinary circumstances would run M. Chapleau hard; but now the circumstances are extraordinary and in favour of Dr. Prevost, for public opinion generally is against M. Chapleau and his party for the double shuffle they have so successfully executed. I should hardly like to see him defeated, but victory by a narrow majority would be a good lesson for the whole party.

For after all, the Chapleau party must be credited with endorsing the action of the Legislative Council in stopping the Supplies. The amendment which brought about M. Joly's defeat fenced with the question, but none the less will the electors hold the *bleus* responsible for this new point of departure in Constitutional Government.

Without pretending now to criticise the whole *personnel* of the new Cabinet, let me say that it is a matter for congratulation that what may be styled the English interest has not fared worse. Messieurs Robertson and Lynch are fairly representative men. The former has been three times Treasurer of the Province, and is a man of liberal views on financial matters. Mr. Lynch, though a member of the House of some eight years' standing, is still a young man. He has long been regarded as a man possessed of very considerable ability. His utterances have been free from party or virulence, and marked by thoughtfulness and moderation; he has a mind of his own, and may be regarded as unpurchasable. Since the change of Government is inevitable, the Solicitor Generalship is a fitting recognition of Mr. Lynch's position as a lawyer and politician.

#### A HINT TO M. CHAPLEAU.

M. Chapleau will have an opportunity for displaying his diplomacy and his love for the Province—an opportunity which M. Joly never seems to have discovered, although it was always at his hand, viz.: The Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa & Occidental Railway has been treated as entirely Provincial; the cost of its construction has been borne by the Provincial Treasury, and now a bridge is being built across the Ottawa River at a cost of some \$300,000. But this railway is really an inter-provincial affair, or, perhaps it should be said, it is a Dominion affair. We have two great lines of railway, the Grand Trunk and the Canada Central. The Q., M., O. & O. can be of no service to the Grand Trunk, probably it will tell in the opposite direction, but all the railways of Upper Canada having termini at Ottawa will be advantaged by it. More than that, it will be the shortest route from Lake Nipissing to Quebec by way of Ottawa, Montreal, Three Rivers and Quebec—so that we have a right either to ask Ontario to help us in the matter of expense, as a return for the advantage to be derived from it, or to ask the Dominion to take over the railway and relieve us of the burden. If M. Chapleau will take the matter in hand, and carry it through, he will do much to establish his reputation as a statesman.

The *Gazette* and the Honorable Peter Mitchell are having a spar over the latter's letters on the North West. Without pronouncing any opinion on the merits of the controversy, it must be conceded that the ex-Minister of Fisheries has shown admirable temper and forbearance. Mr. Mitchell's criticisms of the St. Paul and Pacific lines were either fair or unfair, partizan or patriotic. He himself is amenable at the bar of criticism, but surely he should be safe from the accusation of alleged sins in other matters. It will not avail the *Gazette* to call him a "lobbyist." Mere adventitious description of this kind may have a smart ring about it, but it is not argument.

#### THE PREMIER AND THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

It can hardly be said that the Marquis of Lorne has come well out of the Letellier difficulty—the Liberal newspapers to the contrary notwithstanding. The *Globe* and its Lilliputian followers in cities and country find that Sir John has played a most ignominious part, of course, but to all reasonable minds it will be apparent that Sir John has had the strongest side of the argument throughout. The Governor-