

Monday, May 2.—Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD introduced his Bill for the Government of the North-West. (A full account of the provisions of the bill will be found in another column.) Some debate followed, in the course of which Mr. MACKENZIE and Hon. Mr. McDougall attacked the past policy of the Government, and ultimately the bill was read a first time.

## GENERAL NEWS.

### CANADA.

A rich deposit of Petroleum has been discovered at Inverness, Cape Breton. An American Company has been started to work it.

Monday being His Royal Highness Prince Arthur's birth-day the band of P. C. O. Rifle Brigade went to his residence at half-past 8 in the morning, and for an hour played a number of airs suitable for the happy occasion. Upon the striking up of the music, flags were raised on the flag-staffs of a large number of residences. During the afternoon and evening tea and dinner parties were given at which a number of guests sat down.

The Montreal citizens' ball to Prince Arthur took place on Tuesday evening in St. Patrick's Hall. His Royal Highness led off with Lady Young, dancing besides during the evening with Miss P. Allan, Mrs. Ogilvie, Mrs. Masson, Mrs. D'Orsonnens, Miss Young, and Mrs. Pomminville. Lady Young was taken to supper by His Royal Highness, and Lady Northcote by the Mayor. The whole affair passed off very successfully.

The Tableaux Vivants held on Tuesday evening in aid of the Protestant Infants' Home, were a complete success, the room in the Mechanics' Hall where the representations were given being so crowded that many people were unable to obtain admission. The rendering of the tableaux, the drapery and the poses were perfection.

At Quebec the old and new corporations have been at open war. The old members of the Council took possession of the City Hall, and declared the late elections illegal. The new Council thereupon held a sitting at Councillor Bossé's office, and elected Garneau mayor. The old members holding out, the troops were called out, and an entrance was effected into the hall. Mayor Tourangeau then left the councillors in possession.

On Wednesday a grand *seance* of the school of the Congregational Nunnery was given at Monklands. There were present H. R. H. Prince Arthur and Col. Elphinstone, His Worship the Mayor, Lady Northcote, Lady Cartier, Lady Lafontaine, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen from the city and distant parts. The young lady pupils were artistically grouped on an elevated platform, from which they discoursed sweet music from the piano, the harp, and guitar. Addresses were presented to the Prince, in French and English, to which he returned verbal replies in both language. The grand Vicar also addressed the pupils. The party afterwards visited every part of the establishment and expressed themselves pleased with everything they saw.

The following persons are gazetted Fishery officers:—Peter Astle Scott, of Quebec, Captain in Her Majesty's Royal Navy, and to be in command of the Canadian Government vessel or steamer Lady Head; Gilbert Vallancy Storey, of Quebec, an officer in Her Majesty's Royal Navy, and to be in command of the Canadian Government vessel England; Henry Edward Betts, of St. John, N. B., and to be in command of the Canadian Government vessel Ella G. McLain; James Alexander Tory, of Gaysborough, N. S., and to be in command of the Canadian Government vessel Ida E. Louis; Honorius Lachance, of Quebec, and to be in command of the Canadian Government vessel Stella Maria; Daniel Marshall Browne, of Toronto, and to be in command of the Canadian Government vessel Water Lily.

### BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* has ceased to exist as a morning paper.

The Bill legalizing marriage with a deceased wife's sister has passed the British House of Commons.

It is generally understood that the amnesty which was to have appeared on the 12th of May will not be issued.

Two journals of Toulouse have been prosecuted for offences against the press law.

Over 6,000 emigrants, destined for the United States and Canada, left Liverpool during the five days from the 19th to the 23rd April.

Mr. Charles Buxton, M. P., was shot at one day last week by his secretary. Fortunately he was not hurt. His assailant fled and was afterwards arrested in Paris.

The committee of the left has addressed a manifesto to the army in favour of a negative vote. The Bishop of Tarantise invites the clergy to vote "yes." The clergy of Lyons have received similar instructions.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* comments on the strong revival of no Popery feeling in England, and attributes it partly to the Pope and the Ecumenical Council, but more to the multiplication of monastic institutions.

The London *Times* lately lost the services of Dr. Dasent, its sub-editor, and is likely soon to lose those of Dr. Mowbray Morris, the manager, a gentleman of remarkable administrative ability, whose health is failing. Both Dr. Dasent and Dr. Morris are brothers-in-law of Mr. John Delane, the editor.

Marshal Prim has recently made a present to the Emperor Napoleon of 20,000 cigars with gilt ends and ornamented with the Imperial N., also gilt, on each cigar, which is estimated to be worth 1½. In return, the Emperor has sent to the Spanish Marshal a pair of vases of Sèvres manufacture.

France has been deeply agitated during the past week. Excited public meetings concerning the approaching vote on the *plebiscite* have disputed the popular attention with rumours of widespread and daring conspiracies. Numerous arrests have been made, the members of the Workmen's International Association being evidently criminated.

It is reported that the French and Papal Governments have agreed to consider as null and void the last memorandum of Count Daru. *L'Univers*, ultramontane organ, asserts that an answer has been received from Rome to the effect that the memorandum will not be submitted to the Council, and that the Cardinal and Secretary of Foreign Affairs will enter into no discussion of the question which it raises.

A munificent act by Lord Dufferin has just been brought to light, after having been hidden twenty-three years. A Cork paper states that in 1847, during the height of the famine, the relief committee received £1,000 from an anonymous donor. Lord Dufferin, who had just then attained his majority, had visited the district, and Mr. McCarthy Downing, M. P., suspected that the gift came from him. Having recently had occasion to correspond with him in reference to the Land Bill, Mr. Downing pressed his lordship, as a favour, to say whether he was the donor or not, and Lord Dufferin, after some hesitation, admitted that he was.

Two secretaries of the International Association of Workmen were arrested last Saturday. The police found upon their persons a complete list of adherents to the plot. The authorities are now scouring the city for these persons. The person first arrested was not a deserter from the army as first reported. It is now stated that he was merely disguised as a soldier that suspicion might not be excited. Twenty-five chiefs of sections of the Workmen's International Society are under arrest, and the police have the names of forty more whom they have been ordered to seize. At Lyons eleven members of the society were arrested, and it is estimated there are eighty members now in custody. Among the prisoners is M. Protat, a lawyer, who endeavoured to escape, and on whom the commissary was obliged to fire before he could be secured.

A banquet was given in London last Saturday on the opening of the Royal Academy of Arts. Among the guests were the Princes of Wales, Christian, Teck, and William of Saxe Weimar, Mr. Gladstone, and other members of the cabinet, several prelates, members of diplomatic corps, and many artistic and literary notabilities. The Prince of Wales responded to a toast to the Queen and himself, and the Duke of Cambridge for the army and navy. Mr. Motley announced the toast to the United States and the American people, introducing, with agreeable effect, a description of a similar entertainment given in 1815 by the Venetian ambassador in London, when West, Copely, Stewart, Newton, Alston, and Leslie were present. Mr. Gladstone, in replying to the toast complimentary to Her Majesty's government, alluded to the exalted character of the Exhibiton, and congratulated the members of the Royal Academy that their labours were unlike those of statesmen. The work of statesmen ended with the day, while those of the artist descended to all time. The Archbishop of York responded for the guests. Mr. Dickens replied for literature in the name of the brethren and sisters of that Guild, especially the sisters, whose impending emancipation would perhaps give them next year the President's and his own duties.

### UNITED STATES.

A telegram from Richmond, Va., dated April 27, says:—A large crowd assembled this morning in the upper portion of the Capitol Buildings, where the Supreme Court of Appeals is located, to hear the decision in the Mayoralty case. At about 11 o'clock the floor gave way beneath the dense weight, precipitating the crowd to the floor below, which was that of the House of Delegates. It is supposed that twenty members of the State Legislature were killed and wounded. The Judges of the Court of Appeals all escaped unhurt. Ex-Governor Wells was badly injured. L. H. Chandler, counsel for Chahoon in the Mayoralty case, was injured. James Mason and Judge Meredith, counsel for Ellison, were also badly hurt. About two hundred persons were hurt by the accident. The Governor has issued a proclamation designating the 4th of May as a day of humiliation and prayer throughout the State.

**THE RED RIVER REBELLION.**—The London *Saturday Review* says:—"The rebellion in the Red River territory is very annoying, but indignant patriots are hasty in quoting it as a proof of the decline of English spirit. It is of course proper and necessary to protect every part of the Empire; but the Red River must be content to rank in national regard after Yorkshire or the Isle of Wight. Few politicians who are called upon to apply a general proposition to an extremely special case had ever heard of the insurgents or their territory before they thought proper to rebel. It now appears that they are peculiarly situated, and that the grievance which they have risen in insurrection to redress is of an exceptional kind. For eight months in the year it is impossible to reach the Red River from the civilised world, except by traversing a part of the dominions of the United States. It is more surprising that an application for a free passage of troops should have been made to the American Government than that it should have been peremptorily refused. In modern times most free countries are inclined to maintain strict neutrality in civil contests amongst their neighbours, and the people of the United States, except in the case of their own civil war, have uniformly been something more than neutral between Sovereign Powers and insurgents. Their habitual relations with England are not enthusiastically friendly, and it was certain that they would sympathise with the rebels, whatever might be the cause of quarrel. The Americans are also eager for the extension of territory in proportion to the superfluous extent of their possessions; and it has always been to them an uncomfortable reflection that an English colony lay from sea to sea between the States and the North Pole. Mr. Seward's purchase of Russian America was intended to outflank the unwelcome possessors of the higher latitudes, and it may have seemed probable that the Red River rebellion would ultimately transfer another inhospitable tract of land into the hands of the Great Republic. Although it is probable that North-Western newspapers may be disagreeably outspoken on the subject, there is no reason to complain of any public act on the part of responsible authorities. It is not certain that in the converse case the English or Canadian Government would have allowed an American force to traverse its territory; and it was undoubtedly competent to an independent Power to refuse any permission of the kind without furnishing just cause of offence. If the rebels should succeed in maintaining themselves in their remote corner of the earth, it will be impossible that they should form an independent State. They would necessarily gravitate to their powerful neighbours; and, if necessary, the process might be accelerated either by buying their leaders or by sending the necessary number of voters across the border to decide upon annexation. The acquisition of Texas was by similar methods effected with perfect ease; and although it is not as easy to dismember the British Empire as to detach province after province from Mexico, it is undeniable that some portions at least of the wide Dominion of Canada are practically indefensible. It is not easy to reconquer even from a handful of adventurers an

inaccessible territory; and the difficulty would become indefinitely greater if the attempt involved a contest with the United States. If any attempt is to be made during the short summer to suppress the rebellion, there is no room for delay. The force to be encountered is probably for the present contemptible, if only it can be brought within reach. The Canadian Government appears to have resolved on undertaking the enterprise, and it would be desirable that any possible assistance should be furnished by the Imperial Government. The withdrawal of the garrison from Canada would have prevented the despatch of a contingent, nor would it have been desirable to risk a body of regular troops in so distant and obscure a campaign; but the colonists have a reasonable claim for a contribution in the form of money or of stores."

### MISCELLANEOUS.

The Duke of Edinburgh is in Ceylon, where he has been cordially welcomed and gaily entertained.

A street crowd in London was recently "greatly amused" when the carriages of a wedding-party were blocked in a narrow street by two loads of cradles and baby waggons.

The wife of Theodore A. Snyder, of New York, applies for a decree of divorce on the ground that he was in the habit not only of getting drunk himself, but of making his family drunk, from the boy who had recently been put in pants to the infant in the cradle.

The question whether polygamy affects the proportions of the sexes in the birth, has been carefully studied by Dr. Campbell, of London, who concludes that the proportion of males and females born is just the same under polygamy as under monogamy.

An Assistant Secretary of the British Astronomical Society, Mr. Williams, has just finished a translation of the Chinese records of comets observed for 2,250 years, ending A. D. 1640. This is the only continuous registry of the kind in existence, and is expected to yield important results hereafter.

A literary gentleman, famed for his eccentric style, and for piquing himself upon avoiding the repetition of the same word, was recently chaffed rightly or wrongly with addressing a note to his nephew thus:—"Mons. A. P.—, Hôtel de la Harpe, in the street of the same instrument."

**A STRANGE DREAM FULFILLED.**—Believers in the significance of dreams will be confirmed in their faith by a singular piece of evidence which was given at an inquest at Coleford, in Somerset, on Monday. The inquiry related to the death of a collier, who was buried by a fall of several tons of rubbish in the Vobster Breech Pit. Among the witnesses were Richard Edgell, underground bailiff, who said that he had examined the roofing and the timbering twice on the day of the accident, and found everything secure. He made the second examination because four days before he had a dream which left no doubt on his mind that an accident would occur, and he was so impressed that he took extra precaution.

Time is ever on the move; and Science at her lofty height will ever move with fleeing time. We have become accustomed of late to treat the most prodigious discoveries as everyday occurrences. But now we may notice one which is sure to create unusual excitement, not from its extraordinary usefulness, but from the revolution which it is sure to cause in existing arrangements. An Irish *savant*, young in years but old in wisdom, anatomist and chemist at the same time, claims to have discovered an essence which will enable each and everybody to sing the most delightful, the most difficult tunes in any voice he or she might choose, by simply moistening the vocal organs and following his prescriptions. He says the human larynx can be arranged to produce sounds in the same manner as a flute or clarinet, and that the notes can be heightened or lowered by the difference in the composition of the substance he has invented. It will be curious to see a young lady enter a chemist's shop, asking the shopman for "half-a-pint of Patti essence," or a city gentleman demanding "a go of Santley's extract."—*Court Journal*.

They have a singular custom at the Foundling Hospital of the Annunziata, Naples, on the 25th March (Lady Day), or the Festa dell'Annunziata. The building is thrown open to the public, and any young man who wishes can provide himself with a wife, in case he can prove to the satisfaction of the governors of the institution that he is able to maintain her. The business of the day is managed pretty much as follows: All the girls who have arrived at a marriageable age are drawn up in line in one of the large rooms, where the cavaliers are allowed to enter. A regular inspection then, we suppose, commences from left to right, front and rear. Some prefer dark beauties, of course, and other blondes, and each is allowed to suit his own particular taste or fancy. When smitten, the swain drops his pocket-handkerchief in front of the lady of his choice, and if his suit is accepted she picks it up, and they walk off arm-in-arm to signify their intention to the authorities, and the necessary preliminaries previous to their marriage. The bride receives a small sum of money by way of dowry, and a few necessaries which comprise her *trousseau*, a few sheets and a blanket or two. The marriages, contrary to what one would naturally suppose, generally turn out happily, as a man must have greatly felt the want of woman's soothing influence to enable him to muster up courage to undergo such an ordeal previously to entering the happy state. This is what one might almost call marriage at sight, or marriage *à la cotillon*.

In a gambling saloon on Broadway, New York, up to a few months ago, there was an old portrait of George Washington, painted by some unknown and unmeritorious artist. The thing was a daub of the worst order, and not worth ten dollars. The gamblers who frequented the saloon got tired of the picture and insisted that it brought them bad luck, and so at their request it was taken down and stored in a garret. The portrait is about 12 feet by 6, and had taken the eye of a seedy and played-out politician. One evening he was somewhat drunk, and inquired affectionately for his favorite, when he learned that it was stowed away. He begged the portrait and took it away, everybody wondering what had become of it. Two or three weeks since the Board of Aldermen passed a resolution for the purchase, at the low rate of \$1,250, of a colossal portrait of Washington by the famous American artist Rembrandt Peale, Esq., who was long since gathered to his fathers. Of course a genuine portrait by Peale could not be allowed to pass, and it was bought at once. It proves to be the identical daub that hung in the gambling saloon, and the suspicion is very strong that a member of the Board of Aldermen has gone shares with the owner of the daub.