unreal, the imaginary and the actual. The lecturer here sang:

By Killarney's lakes and falls,
Emerald Isles and winding bays,
Mountain paths and woodland dells,
Memory e'er fondly strays.
Bounteous nature loves all lands,
Beauty wanders everywhere,
Footprints leave on many strands,
But her home is surely there.
Angels fold their wings and rest
In that Eden of the West.
Beauty's home, Killarney,
Ever fair Killarney.

Innisfallen's ruined shrine,
May suggest a passing sigh,
But man's faith will ne'er decline,
Such God's wonders floating by.
Castle, lough, and glen, and bay,
Mountains tore and eagle's nest,
Still at Mucross you must pray,
Though the monks are now at rest.
Angels wonder not that man
Here would fain prolong life's span.
Beauty's home, Killarney,
Ever fair Killarney.

The next visit paid was to Limerick, "The City of the Violated Treaty," situate on the Shannon. In it are to be found some splendid old buildings, and a castle dating back to the time of King John. In the cathedral is a chime of bells which has a history, having been brought from the north of Italy. The story runs that before the wars between Charles V. of Spain and Francis I. of France, a bellfounder living in the north of Italy placed a chime of bells in a convent. In a great battle that took place his three sons were killed; yet, thus bereft of his kindred, he still had left the bells to listen to, but at last they also were carried off. He could not live without them, so as a pilgrim he set forth to find them out. In 1599, one evening at sunset, an old man sat in the stern of a boat as it slowly moved up the Shannon. Suddenly the bells from the cathedral pealed forth the call to prayer. The old man smiled, his mingled feelings of joy and sadness overcame him—he folded his arms, muttered a prayer in a foreign language, and closed his eyes in death. Galway was next visited, a place of extensive trade. It was known as the City of Tribes, on account of a certain number of families who claimed the privilege of doing all the business. In the fifteenth century the Lynches and Gormans were the leading families. In connection with the powerful family of the Lynches, the lecturer related the following anecdote: In 1493 James Lynch sent his only son to Spain. On his return to Ireland a young Spaniard was on board the vessel, whom Lynch conspired with the crew to murder, and threw his body overboard. The body was cast upon the strand; suspicion fell upon young Lynch; he was tried and found guilty, and sentenced to death by his own father. Many of the townspeople interceded with the father for his life, but he would promise nothing, telling them to call upon a certain day, and they would receive his answer. On the day appointed, as they were wending their way up to the castle, they observed the body of young Lynch hanging from one of the windows. Thus was justice dispensed by the stern parent, and his answer to the people given. It is said that from this circumstance arose the term "Lynch law." Up to our own time, the Irish language was that of the people. It is still spoken in the west, but is dying out. It never became corrupted, however, and when it dies, will do so decently. After the invasion, when the English began to settle in Ireland, they almost forgot their own language and learned the Irish. In Richard III.'s reign a law was passed, forbidding the English, settling in Ireland, to learn the language, or intermarry with the people. In spite of all this, however, they did learn it, and spoke the best and tenderest Irish to the fair daughters of the land, and married them. The complaint was made that the English soon became more Irish than the Irish themselves. There is no doubt that the ancient Irish were highly civilized, and that literature was not unknown among them. From the time that St. Patrick began to preach until St. Columba wrote his Book of Kells, was not a century; could barbarians leap into civilization in such a brief space of time? Decidedly not. Take as another instance the Round Towers. There are about one hundred and fifty of them in all Ireland, built so strongly that they are called the conquerors of time. It is variously asserted that they were built by the Danes, the early Christians, and the old Pagan Irish. They were evidently not built by the Danes, for the reason that they are not situated in any parts where the Danes had a footing; and, if they were built by them, why do they not appear also in England, and in Denmark. They were not built by the early Christians, though there is little doubt that they made use of them, for the structures which they erected have long since crumbled into ruins. The opinions of those best qualified to judge are that they are the work of the old Pagan Irish before the days of Christianity. Whoever erected them must have been good architects, and the probability is that they are as old as the Pyramids of Egypt or the walls of Nineveh. Leading minds are now paying attention to the cultivation of the Celtic language, and provision has recently been made for the endowment of a Gaelic chair in the University of Edinburgh. Instead of enacting laws for its destruction, it is now sought to be cultivated. Irish may become a dead language, such as the Latin, but it will be embalmed in the history of a great people. In the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth centuries, education flourished in Ireland, and while barbarian bands swept over Europe, Ireland was the refuge of the students, who flocked by thousands from the continent to its institutions of learning. Its population is less by three millions to-day than what it was in 1845, yet the people show no symptoms of degeneracy. It has been said that the disaffection existing in Ireland is owing to the fact that there are so many Catholics, and that if there were not so many the people would be more loyal. The population of Ireland is yet more than five millions, and the proportion of Catholics to Protestants is 77 to 23. But look back and see who were the ringleaders in all the abortive attempts at rebellion—Lord Edward Fitzgerald, Robert Emmet, Smith O'Brien, John Mitchell—none of these men were Catholics. If the Irish people had not been Catholic, they could not have lived under the laws that existed. Ireland has, for the last century, suffered famine and misery; within the last year horrifying murders have taken place, which are now brought home to the wretched creatures who allowed themselves to be entangled in the meshes of the secret societies, which have been the curse of Continental Europe. We grant that the Irish are miserable and downtrodden, but glance for a moment at the events of last year—at the war in Egypt. An English and a French fleet appear to make a demonstration before Alexandria; the French fleet withdraws; England is left to her own resources, and the cry resounds that she is caught at last. Great sympathy is felt in certain quarters for Arabi Pasha, and it was even proposed in the United States to elect him as an honorary member of one of the Leagues. England could not back down, and when the work had to be done, who was employed to uphold the honor of the flag that has "braved for a thousand years the battle and the breeze?" Sir Garnet Wolseley, an Irishman born within a short distance of Dublin, who, the day before he started, visited the War Office, and taking up the map, put his finger on different points, at the same time mentioning the days upon which he proposed to enter them. He set out, marched across the desert with his battalions of English, Irish and Scotch troops. It was no time before he was master of the situation, and could have appropriately sent Cæsar's memorable despatch, "Veni, vidi, vici." In his despatches to the War Office, he mentioned, in terms of the highest praise, the Royal Irish Regiments for their bravery, although more Scotchmen fell in the one battle than English and Irish put together. A country that can produce such men is not to be despaired of. While Admirals and Generals were fighting by sea and land, who was the diplomatist who was fighting England's battles in the cabinet of the Sultan? Lord Dufferin—no stranger to Canadians—an Irishman of ancient and honorable lineage, whose literary and scientific attainments are as creditable as his statesmanship—a gentleman, a scholar, and, he presumed, a good judge of whiskey.

The reverend gentleman closed his very interesting lecture by reciting

Remember thee? yes, while there's life in this heart,
It shall never forget thee, all lorn as thou art;
More dear in thy sorrow, thy gloom, and thy showers,
Than the rest of the world in their sunniest hours.
Wert thou all that I wish thee, great, glorious and free,
First flower of the earth, and first gem of the sea,
I might hail thee with prouder, with happier brow,
But Oh! could I love thee more deeply than now?

and he also sang from the "Exile of Erin":—

"Yet all its fond recollections suppressing
One dying wish my lone bosom shall draw,
Erin! an exile bequeaths thee his blessing!
Land of my forefathers! Erin go Bragh.
Buried, and cold, when my heart stills her motion
Green be thy fields sweetest Isle of the Ocean,
And thy harp striking bards sing aloud with devotion,
Erin Mavourneen! Erin go Bragh."

The delivery of the lecture was entirely *extempore*, and occupied two hours and a half, and although the hall was overcrowded, yet the interest of the audience was unabated to the end. Upon a vote of thanks being proposed, Judge Reddin and Charles Palmer, Esq., made some complimentary remarks, expressive of the pleasure with which they had listened to the Rev. Dr's lecture; it is needless to say that the vote was unanimously carried. The name of "Father Dan" touches a responsive chord in the breast of every Catholic in Charlottetown, by whom he has long been known and beloved. Not only among those of his own faith, but by persons of all creeds, is he respected and esteemed for his scholarly attainments and many social good qualities. This is evidenced by the large attendance on all occasions when he is announced to lecture, and we but re-echo the wish of thousands when we express the hope that many years of health are yet before him.

Irish Informers.

The sickening stories of the treachery of the Irish informers, recall many parallel instances of similar crimes in the past. If secret societies were defensible, on any grounds, in any place, they ought to be distrusted in Ireland. Her modern history has innumerable chapters, stained by the revelations of informers, posing as friends of the people, and at the same time betraying them to the government. Higgins, the "Sham Squire," owner of the *Freeman's Journal*, in his own day a mysterious "Number One," was a blatant patriot and a well-feed spy. Birch, of the *World*, was another, hired to preach disloyalty and betray the people. Nagle and Corydon, both were minor rascals, in opportunity, if not in malice. Sullivan Ghoula and Talbot were the vilest scoundrels that disgraced the Irish name in modern time, until the present hour. These swore they organized conspiracies to betray the conspirators; that they fondled men's children to win the affections of the fathers whom they wished to betray; that they even misused the sacraments to further their hellish schemes. It is almost incredible what their vileness was, yet they seem virtuous and clean-handed compared with the criminal who first forced the Phœnix Park murderers to crime and then betrayed them to their punishment. It is a sickening chapter, that we hope will never be repeated in the history of any land. But in the rubrics written with the blood of these victims, there is a terrible commentary on the folly of the men who set themselves up against the experience, nineteen centuries old, and the inspiration of the Catholic Church. Even when pitying their certain fate, no one can say that if they be guilty, as charged, it is undeserved. Shutting their ears to the teachings of their Church, no less than to the dreadful experience of the country, they are now reaping the reward of their foolish preference of false friends that whispered to them pleasant but fatal deceits.—*Catholic Review.*

The Municipal Council of Dublin have expelled James Carey, the informer, by an unanimous vote. It is generally supposed that "Number One" is a fiction, existing only in Carey's imagination, and adopted as a blind to save himself.

THE HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1883.

The "Globe" on Political Stability.

It is not once in a generation that, taking up the Toronto *Globe*, we would expect to read therein a sound article upon political economy, yet we confess to having found ourselves agreeably disappointed in this respect. True, it was by pure accident that it has blundered into telling the truth, and into preaching the propriety of enforcing, in a narrow circle, a principle which, if proposed to be applied within wider limits, it would doubtless repudiate. From an article adducing reasons why the Mowatt Government should be sustained at the polls, we clip the following extract:—

"As well as the purely financial reason, there is another no less potent cause why business men should support the Local Government. Business can never flourish except under a stable condition of politics. Let anything occur which throws a doubt upon the permanence of the existing political state of a country, and the credit of that country is shaken. Capital takes fright and is not to be retained save at high rates of interest. Private credit runs down, foreign creditors begin to press, credits are shortened, investments are unsettled, the currency is disturbed, business becomes unsound, and the country receives a set-back from which it does not recover until years after political stability has been restored.'

We commend the principle enunciated in the foregoing extract from the "Great Thunderer" of the Reform Party, to the consideration of its members generally. It is within the recollection of our readers that, last spring, when Parliament was dissolved, and writs for a new election issued, the action of the Government, in recommending such a course, was severely criticized by the Opposition. Sir John Macdonald, in defending his course, said that, as a result of the National Policy experiment, a new era of prosperity had dawned upon the Dominion, but that this was merely the commencement of better times. Large sums of money were available for investment in Canadian enterprises, but that, in view of the deep-rooted antipathy of the Liberal Party to the National Policy, capitalists were holding back, unwilling to venture, until assured of the stability of the policy which he had inaugurated. The Opposition went to the polls without a platform, or anything worthy of the name—they had really nothing to offer but a return to the fly-on-the-wheel policy of Mr. Mackenzie. The result is well known—a triumphant endorsement of Sir John Macdonald's National Policy, and a verdict, by a large majority, that the system under which Canada was making such rapid strides to prosperity should not be disturbed. "A stable condition of politics" was thus assured for some time to come, and "business is flourishing."

Bearing in mind the change which has recently taken place in the management of the Toronto *Globe*, we are safe in assuming that it is to be regarded as the official exponent of the views of the Reform Party, under the leadership of Mr. Blake. This being so, we congratulate the party upon their change of policy, or rather would it be more correct to say, upon their adoption of one. While any change in our present rulers at Ottawa, which would place Mr. Blake at the head of affairs, would be a calamity sincerely to be deplored, yet with the pronunciamento of the organ of the Liberal Party before us, it would not be nearly so disastrous in its effects as might otherwise be feared. "Let anything occur which throws a doubt upon the permanence of the existing political state of a country, and the credit of that country is shaken." This is sound argument, and being advanced by the Reform Party, we need have no cause for alarm that should they, by any untoward circumstances, obtain the reins of power, any alteration will be made in the existing Trade Policy of the Dominion.

The Demoralizing Tendency of Idleness.

There is an old saying, verified a thousand times over, that the devil always finds *some* mischief for idle hands to do. There is no vice so baneful in its dire consequences, and so very dangerous and contaminating to the youth, as idleness. Could we reveal the darkest and most disgusting crimes in the history of nations, we would discover that they invariably flowed from idleness. If the mind and heart of man are always occupied in something useful, there is no time for sin or dissipation. If a proper aim is given to life, then it becomes both happy and useful. The industrious man is generally a good and honest citizen. The most worthless character that society harbors, is the contemptible being generally known by the expressive term of *loafer*. By this name we do not mean respectable, and even industrious, laborers, who are sometimes out of employment, and who have often to wait and watch, even at street corners, for something whereby to earn an honest penny. No, this hard-working class has our warmest sympathy and admiration. The professional loafer is a different species altogether. He is to be found, always with hands in his pockets, at nearly every street corner. He is known by his lazy swagger, his degrading manners, and his vulgar language. A brood of low fellows, like himself, are his daily and nightly associates. His boisterous voice, heard late at night on the streets, will discover his "true inwardness." He is the sneak thief, *par excellence*, because he is too lazy to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, and he must have something to eat and to drink, so there is no danger of confounding the honest laborer with the low, professional street loafer.

Do we meet such despicable beings on our streets? Have we such a social pest as the street loafer in Charlottetown? Truth compels us to say that we have. At night they are to be found in crowds, planning schemes of villainy, and insulting and jostling decent people who are obliged to pass by them. They indulge in the vile language of the ill-bred ruffian. We venture to say that these worthless characters do not work three months of the year, or three hours a day, yet they live, and sport and drink on the honest earnings of the hard-working members of the community. Of course, there is a great allowance to be made for many decent people who cannot get work during the severe winter season. We even have sympathy for the poor loafer, for it is almost more his misfortune than his personal crime. We should like to see something done to ameliorate his deplorable condition, for his loafing has grown on him by early training, and is now both constitutional and contagious.

Every petty larceny, every secret crime committed in our midst—all the vices, in fact—follow naturally in the wake of habitual idleness. Can anything be done to save the youth from its baneful and demoralizing effects? Until every young man is trained to early habits of industry, and honestly earns his own livelihood, any city will be on the down grade, and poverty and crime will be continually on the increase.

The Benevolent Irish Society.

Among the various organizations which exist in Charlottetown, having for their object, either directly or indirectly, the amelioration of misery and suffering, and the promotion of happiness and good fellowship, there is none, perhaps, so little known or understood, while possessing the respectability of age, and the recommendation of having done good service, as the Benevolent Irish Society. It has a record of fifty-eight years, having been formed in 1825, by a number of Irish residents, at the instance of Col. John Ready, Lieutenant Governor of the Island, an Irishman of generous and noble impulses. Its object is simply stated to be the relief of the indigent poor of all denominations, and its rules preclude the introduction or discussion of any political, sectarian, or religious questions. Thus its doors are open to all of Irish descent, irrespective of religion or politics. The long roll of its members contains the names of many prominent residents of Charlottetown, who have long since gone to join the "silent majority"—yet, though they rest from their labors, their works do follow them, and its records can tell of many cases of distress alleviated, as well as of those who have been borne to their last resting place, by the assistance of the Society founded by these charitable men, and ever since sustained by the contributions of its members. As is the case with all institutions, it has had its reverses, but it has steadily pursued its good work, and latterly it seems to have received an infusion of new life. Important changes have been made in its constitution, with a view of enlarging its field of usefulness—large accessions have lately been made to its members, and a much greater interest evinced in its meetings. As has been the custom from time immemorial, it is the intention of the Society to celebrate the anniversary of their Patron Saint in the usual manner, by attendance at Divine Service in the morning, and a Concert in the evening. The proceeds will be devoted to the charitable fund. The committee are working energetically, and all that is required is a fine day to make the celebration of St. Patrick's Day, 1883, eclipse that of any previous year.

Telegraphic Communication.

Mr. F. N. Gisborne's name is familiar to the inhabitants of this Island, as having been the successful promoter of the first submarine cable laid in America, between Capes Traverse and Tormentine. He is an eminent authority on electrical matters, and takes a deep interest in the extension of telegraphic communication. Our unfortunate position in regard to this very material convenience is not forgotten by him, and from the following extract, which we make from an exchange, it would appear as if, before long, we shall be relieved from the disadvantages under which we at present labor regarding telegraphic connection:—

At the last meeting of the British Association, held at Southampton, the well-known electrician of the General Post Office, London, Mr. W. H. Preece, made the following statement:—"I have recently tried an extremely interesting experiment between this place (Southampton) and the Isle of Wight, namely, to communicate electrically across seas and channels without the aid of wires. Large metal plates were immersed in the sea at opposite ends of the Solent, namely, at Portsmouth and Ryde, six miles apart, and at Hurst Castle and Sconce Point, one mile apart. The Portsmouth and Hurst Castle plates (on the main land) were connected by an ordinary telegraph wire passing through Southampton, and the Ryde and Sconce plates (on the Island) by a wire passing through Newport; the circuit was completed by the sea, and signals were passed easily, so as to read by the Morse system, but speech (by telephone) was not practicable."

We are glad to learn that Mr. Gisborne is in communication with Mr. Preece upon this subject, with a view to applying it to this Province.

Advices from British Columbia are to the effect that immense quantities of lead, silver and copper have been discovered in the Kootenay district. They are of vast extent, and in one location there are 250,000 tons of ore in sight, and the value of the mines at present discovered, is fifty millions of dollars. One seam is 100 feet thick. Veins of pure copper are visible in the rock. The mines are within sixty miles of the Canadian Pacific route.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

February 27.

This afternoon the Speaker of the Commons received the decision of the Supreme Court, unseating Dr. Jenkins and pronouncing in favor of Mr. Brecken.

Several questions were asked by Hon. P. Mitchell, and replies received from the Ministers, the only one having any reference to P. E. Island being the following:—Whether the Government have taken any steps, by correspondence or otherwise, for the purpose of arranging for or regulating the fisheries on the inland waters of the Dominion, in view of the recent decision of the Supreme Court, which has altered the relation to and the power exercised by the Dominion Government over those fisheries.

Hon. Minister of Marine replied that there was no correspondence on this subject. There had been interviews with members of the Governments of Quebec and New Brunswick, but no definite action was yet arranged with Local Governments.

A large and influential delegation of members, representing the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, P. E. Island, Quebec and Ontario, waited to-day upon the Minister of Finance, to take measures to render more free and to enlarge the present commerce between the Dominion and Brazil and the West India Islands. The delegation said that Brazil represented a population of twelve millions, whose import trade represents eighty-two millions three hundred thousand dollars, and an export trade representing over ninety-three million dollars; that high import duties averaging thirty-three and one-sixteenth per cent. prevail, in addition to an export duty of seven and three-quarters per cent., besides other charges of a complicated kind. All charges on a quintal of codfish landing in Brazil average $2.70; that the leading imports of Brazil in order of value are cotton goods, flour, fish, coal and lumber of various kinds, and to a considerable value, butter, cheese, bacon, lard and fish oils, all except the first being leading productions of Canada; that the leading Brazilian exports are in order of value coffee, sugar, India rubber, hides, tobacco and raw cotton—these being articles which Canada largely purchases, and for most parts not produced by her. That our trade relations with the West India Islands stand in much the same position, they taking a wide range of farm produce. That immense benefits would accrue to Canada by a reciprocal free exchange of her produce for those; that such would immensely enlarge our markets; stimulate shipping, mining, farming and fishing, whilst it would cheapen to our people the prime essentials of coffee, sugar and molasses. While it would have this effect, they were able to state, on the authority of a leading refiner, that it would rather strengthen than injure the industry of sugar refining in this country. The delegation expressed the hope that the Government would initiate the means for obtaining ends so very desirable.

Sir Leonard received the delegation most cordially, heard their representations with marked attention, and said he was much pleased to have heard the delegates on this important subject, and moreover he was also pleased to be in a position to inform them that what they sought was not new to the Government; on the contrary, it was already under serious consideration, and that during the present session some authority might be asked of the House towards endeavoring to accomplish what they desired. Meanwhile he highly valued the information they had imparted, besides having the assurance of their co-operation.

The delegates then withdrew, highly satisfied with their reception.

February 28.

In the Commons a petition was presented asking for enactments to prevent the running of railway trains on Sunday.

Mr. Yeo enquired whether the Minister of Railways had had his attention called to the dangerous situation of the Railway Station at Summerside, and if it was his intention this summer to have the necessary alterations made.

Sir Charles Tupper, in reply, said that his attention had been called to the subject, and that the matter was under the consideration of the Department.

March 1.

Several petitions were presented and bills introduced.

Mr. Cameron (Huron West), called attention to the King's County, P. E. I., election, and launched into a lengthy disquisition on what he termed the improper conduct of returning officer McCormack, whose duty he (Mr. Cameron) claimed to be to return the two candidates who had received the largest number of votes, but that instead he had declared Mr. Macdonald elected over Mr. Robertson, who had received a larger vote than Mr. Macdonald. That the reason given for this was that the returning officer found Mr. Robertson disqualified. Mr. Cameron claimed that the returning officer had nothing to do with disqualifying under the present act, that this belonged to the supervision of the law courts. He then moved that the House therefore express its opinion that as Mr. Robertson received the second highest number of votes, he also was elected to a seat, and not Mr. Macdonald, as declared by the deputy returning officer. If the other candidates desired to contest the election, they still had recourse to the courts.

Sir John said the member for Huron had said some days ago that he would to-day make some motion, of which the hon. member himself did not seem to have a very definite idea of what it would be. He (Sir John) thought it was not fair to the House to bring this matter up without previous notice. He moved that the debate be adjourned.

Mr. Blake said it was the usual custom to give notice of a question of privilege. He wished the Premier to state at what later day debate would be resumed.

Sir John said he would be ready to resume the debate to-morrow.

The debate was adjourned accordingly until to-morrow.

March 2.

In the Commons, Mr. Brecken's name was substituted for that of Dr. Jenkins, on the select committee on the subject of communication with P. E. Island.

The debate adjourned yesterday, on the King's County, P. E. I., election, was further adjourned until Tuesday next, and the House adjourned until Monday.

Our Boston Letter.

"DEMOCRACY"—THE SENATOR FROM PEORIA, AND HIS PROTOTYPE.

Boston, March 2.—American politics are not very active at the present moment; but there is a good deal of quiet wire-pulling going on all the time; and it is during the lull of a Presidential middle term that ambitious aspirants put in their best work for the succession. The statesman "out of politics" will bear a good deal of watching at such a time. On the present occasion it is Mr. Blaine, of Maine, who absorbs the attention of the political weather prophets, and there is nobody who can bear scrutiny with more apparent unconsciousness. He has not taken any active part in public affairs since Mr. Arthur, not without some "squeezing," succeeded in getting him out of his Cabinet. The Secretary of State was loath to relinquish the office, which he had obtained from Garfield as a stepping-stone to the highest. While Garfield lay sick unto death, Mr. Blaine took charge of the government, and inaugurated the famous South American policy, which came so near making us infamous through its association with a scandalous job. As it was, we came out of it with only a little temporary ridicule, which was soon dispelled, as it became understood that the country did not endorse a policy of intermeddling, combined with robbery, on a large scale. Mr. Blaine's reputation for pure integrity was not injured. He had no reputation to injure. He is a type of the political adventurer, unmixed with any lofty qualifications. His success in his peculiar methods is as undoubted as it is unenviable. He was born in Pennsylvania, over fifty years ago. It is said that his mother was of the Catholic persuasion; but whether that is true or not, Mr. Blaine is at present a member of the Presbyterian Church, which he does not honor. A week or two ago his eldest daughter was married to Colonel Coppinger, of the regular army, an Irishman by birth and a Catholic by religion. He served in the Papal Zouaves in his youth, and afterwards, with great distinction, in the Union army, throughout the civil war. It is said that the marriage was distasteful to Mr. Blaine, on religious grounds, but I doubt it. He is not the sort of man to have any convictions, much less prejudices, on that score, and would be quite capable of trying to make political capital out of the marriage, if occasion served. His intimate friend, Bob Ingersoll, the noted infidel lecturer, is the keeper of Mr. Blaine's conscience—a handsome sinecure.

Twenty years ago or more, Mr. Blaine was promoted from an editorial desk in Maine to a seat in the House of Representatives at Washington. He was as rich as country editors usually are, but he had no other means. A Congressman's salary is five thousand dollars a year and travelling expenses. Out of it Mr. Blaine has saved some ten million dollars. Like Jim Fiske, he grew rich by "living within his means." Eight or nine years ago, while he was Speaker of the House, he was investigated by a committee, on charges of having used his position to enrich himself, in connection with legislation, in favor of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad. The investigation was close and searching. A Mr. Mulligan, of Boston, reluctantly appeared, upon a subpœna, to show certain letters received by him from Mr. Blaine. Mulligan was an honest man, and though he would have avoided the question if he could, he felt bound to testify the truth. But before he had time to complete his testimony, Mr. Blaine secured a private interview with him, and got possession of the damaging letters, on a promise to return them. He did not return them, and Mr. Blaine was saved. Mulligan, however, made public Mr. Blaine's seizure of the correspondence, and the committee of inquiry demanded an explanation. Mr. Blaine read a garbled copy of the letters. He was pressed for more particulars, and given another day in which to clear himself. Before the committee re-assembled, Mr. Blaine had a sunstroke, and a doctor's certificate to justify his refusal to appear. Ere he recovered, there occurred a vacancy in the Senate delegation from Maine, and the Governor of the State, a tool of Blaine's, made happy use of it to appoint him to the position. That took him out of the jurisdiction of the House, and the Mulligan investigation dropped.

In the Senate he did not shine. The Senate is solid and conservative. Mr. Blaine's record was against him. Moreover, though a brilliant debater in the House, he had not the parliamentary knowledge nor the good manners necessary to succeed in the higher chamber. His own party did not like him. He was brilliant, but shallow; he had a power of repartee, without any skill in logic; and, worst of all, he was an avowed candidate for the Presidency, and there were older candidates than he in that body, some forty or fifty of them at least. He had made his fame by "fighting the rebel brigadiers" in the House—that is, by taunting, in every conceivable way, the Southern members, whose rebellion he found it much harder to forgive than did the men who had opposed them on the field. There were few brigadiers in the Senate, and they did not care to break lances with the "plumed knight" of bloodless fields.

In the convention of 1880 he made his last effort to secure the Republican nomination for the Presidency, and failed. Garfield, however, rewarded him by making him Secretary of State during the few months of his administration. Blaine was rich then, but the dazzling allurements of the Peruvian Company, with a bait of a thousand million dollars, were too much for him. He secretly used the power of his department to aid a pretender to the Presidency of Peru, and tried to overawe the brave Chilians with a threat of armed intervention. Fortunately for the dignity of the country, a new administration came in before the plot could be consummated. Mr. Blaine, out of office, decided to settle down in Washington, where he had commenced building a million dollar palace. He occupies it now, and gives out that he is writing his recollections of twenty years in Congress. He is qualified for writing a most interesting work, if he would only agree to make it a true story. His career covers the most corrupt period of national politics, the war time and Grant's two administrations, all of which he saw, and the worst of which he was. But he has not the cynical candor of a Walpole, and his career is not over yet, he believes. Already it is whispered that he is making a treaty offensive and defensive with the Grant Stalwarts, to the end that he may either be next President or control the nomination. There is not the slightest chance of such a bargain being consummated. The people have advanced away beyond the era of "practical politics," and Mr. Blaine has as much chance of being called to wear the tiara as to sit in the White House.

Whether the sceptre has departed from the Republican party altogether or not, it would be premature to guess. All will depend upon how the Democratic party uses its present victory. Heretofore it has shown itself prolific of blunders, all of which have enured to the benefit of its rival. If it conduct the Government well and economically during the next twelve months, it can elect its nominee for President in 1884. But there's many a slip between the cup and the lip, and there are serious questions in political economy to be decided by the next Congress. At the present writing the tariff reform, so much desired, is not yet consummated, and it is likely that no important change will be effected before the next session. Meanwhile the people are demanding reform, while interested manufacturers are using all their influence to prevent it. Whatever the Democratic Congress may do with the tariff, it is pretty sure that they will not please everybody. A civil service reform has been wrung from the present Government. Other reforms must be perfected by its successor, with the pleasing certainty that each reform makes an enemy of every professional politician. Under such circumstances it is not unlikely that the quarrels of politicians will make an opportunity for the formation of a successful Independent party, which would be a first-rate thing in itself.

In any event there is an end to the days of the Blaine kind of politician. I have mentioned him, as he is a type of the kind that is rapidly becoming extinct. During the past summer a little novel, called Democracy, was published in this country, and quickly republished in England. It made a good deal more of a sensation there than here, although they did not know that the hero so masterfully sketched, the "Senator from Peoria," was Mr. Blaine. The incidents of course, were fictitious, and the identity was sufficiently disguised in personal respects. I think the actual vulgarity of the Senator was also overdrawn; for Mr. Blaine is not a boor, though very far from a gentleman. Nor is he the clumsy demagogue of the fiction. On the contrary, he is of an apparently ardent, impulsive disposition, full of what his admirers call magnetism, and he numbers his admirers by the thousands. He is better liked in the west, where he is not known, than in the eastern home. He has always taken care of his friends, too, a great and indispensable virtue in a "Boss." His political failings could be readily forgiven if his personal integrity were beyond question, as unhappily it is not. He is not a man. He is immeasurably inferior to his enemy, Mr. Conkling, in personal and political qualifications. Conkling's pride would save him a thousand times from mistakes and faults to which the thicker-skinned Maine man is perpetually falling a victim. On the whole, there is not a man of the Grant regime who comes out of it with so good a reputation as Grant himself. The people like him for his stubborn will, his blunt ways, and the independent democracy which underlies all. But he has no such place in the popular heart as the gallant old hero, Tecumseh Sherman, who could be chosen President almost by acclamation, did he not scornfully proclaim that he wouldn't endure four years of "such a hell as the White House" for all the nation could pay him. "Democracy" is a pretty good study, but it is the study of a period happily past, and, I trust, forever. R.

Ottawa Notes.

THE ONTARIO ELECTIONS.

Ottawa, March 1, 1883.

The Ontario elections being over, there is now an immediate prospect of the House settling down to work. Already three weeks have passed with but little done, and business will have to be pushed through lively to make up for lost time. That the Opposition will make a strong fight, can hardly be expected, for the thinning down of Mr. Mowatt's majority from thirty to, at the outside, ten, has produced a feeling of hopelessness in their ranks. Mr. Mowatt's strong cries were their strong cries. Take away the boundary award and the Provincial rights agitation, and the Opposition in this House have not a single plank left. Their policy becomes reduced to one of mere criticism. They have trimmed on the N. P. The Pacific Railway policy is an accomplished fact, out of the domain of opposition, and the agitation on the boundary question has fizzled out, for an agitation to have any practical value must be cordially supported by those in whose interest it is supposed to be made. Mr. Blake, therefore, has nothing left him in politics but the department of criticism. In this he is well fitted to excel, and no doubt his legal acumen and strong grasp of detail will be of great advantage in the discussion of government and other measures. One thing, it is to be hoped, will be the outcome of the Ontario elections, and that is the final settlement of the boundary question by the Privy Council.

A TRIANGULAR CONTEST.

In this city the contest was among three candidates, and a lively time they had. One of the candidates was an independent with strong Grit proclivities, and was brought out mainly through the influence of religious bigotry. The other two were straight party men, and Irish Catholics, in virtue of a tacit agreement by which that section of the population is given a representative in the local House. There was more excitement over this election than has been known here for years, but the Conservative candidate, Mr. Baskerville, headed the polls with almost as many votes as the other two put together. The Independent came last, and instead of splitting the Conservative vote, as the Grits fondly hoped, he received all his support from themselves.

QUEEN'S COUNTY ELECTION CASE.

The decision of the Supreme Court in favor of Mr. Brecken, was communicated to the House yesterday. The following is what the Ottawa *Citizen* says on the subject:—

"The Supreme Court having decided that Mr. Brecken was entitled to the second seat for Queen's, P. E. I., and having so reported to the Speaker, Mr. Jenkins has ceased to occupy a chair in the Commons, and Mr. Brecken yesterday dropped into the vacant place amid the loud applause of his old colleagues on both sides of the House. Mr. Jenkins proved to be a useful member during his short occupancy of the position, and it is to be regretted in the public interest, and especially the interest of Prince Edward Island, that both he and Mr. Brecken cannot sit, and the House be relieved of the other member for Queen's County."

LOCAL AND OTH

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