

Notes of the Week.

Sir Hector Langevin laid on the table of the Dominion Parliament on Thursday copies of correspondence between Canada and the United States on the question of reciprocal trade. The correspondence is brief and encloses a memorial presented by Mr. Morton to Congress, from leading commercial houses of New York asking for the appointment of a commissioner to ascertain the basis of a reciprocity treaty with Canada. The general feeling among members of the House seems to be that Canada can afford to wait until our neighbors make overtures which recognize reciprocal advantages as the basis of a new commercial arrangement between the two countries.

Mr. Shakespeare's resolution with reference to Chinese immigration was introduced by the mover in the House on Friday, he contending that the Chinese were a bad class of immigrants, and were detrimental to the best interests of a country. He denied the economy of employing Chinese labor, and said that out of 13,000 or 14,000 Chinese in British Columbia not more than 9,000 paid their taxes. Other gentlemen spoke on the same side, and Mr. Foster, of New Brunswick, against the resolution, made a very admirable and, to our minds, unanswerable argument in favor of perfect freedom being allowed Chinese immigrants equally with those of all other nationalities. He made a point which we have more than once referred to, viz.: that it would be a reflection upon our common Christianity, and especially upon the Christian Churches of Canada, if we opposed the admission of these people because of their religion. As to their ability to drive out other labor, the American press are now freely asserting that while they make good railway navvies, they are not in any way equal to the skilled white labor, and that nothing need be feared from their presence in the country so far as competition with the native mechanics is concerned. We should like to know how those who are interested would feel if China passed a prohibitory law excluding all Englishmen and Americans, including ourselves, from entering her dominions because the English and Americans soon secure the major part of the carrying trade and prevent the natives from embarking in such enterprises? We feel in the matter that God has in His wisdom so ordered that by the presence of large numbers of Chinese in Christian lands they shall come to know him as their God and Saviour, and we are being made instruments in His hands through them of converting a nation. Of course we must admit that we have never lived among them and know but little of their ways of living except as it has been told us in the American press, which gives a dark picture of them; but we know that they can be made good Christians, even the vilest of them, and on the broad principle of equal rights and personal liberty to all we oppose legislation which we cannot but believe is largely selfish and not by any means in the interests of either our religion or our country.

In the "prelude" to one of his recent lectures, Joseph Cook said of ex-Cardinal Campello, who is now actively working in Rome to extend our branch of the Church in opposition to Romanism:—"What of Count Campello? It was my fortune to meet him in Rome, and to study his career carefully through his own eyes, as well as those of both his friends and opponents. I regard him as one of the chief signs of the times as to the probable future of Romanism in Italy; a devout man in many senses; a scholar, who drifted out of Romanism because he could not drift out of honesty. He has endeavored, with but little success, thus far, to establish a journal of his own, in which he does not advocate all our various jarring sects of Protestantism. But he stands upon the general principles of Protestantism and advocates such a religion as will at once reach the hearts of the people of Italy and not offend the powers of the State. He is not cringing in his attitude before the civil authorities, neither is he cringing in his attitude before popular ignorance. He attacks Vaticanism boldly; he attacks infidelity boldly; in short, he is doing admirable work in the pulpit, and on the platform, and in the press, and the day is coming when he is likely to have many followers.

The British Minister at Washington has been interviewing the President and Government of the United States with reference to the transactions and language of certain Fenians and others living in the States, and concocting their base designs under the protection of the American authorities. It is understood that Mr. West has had the most positive assurance that the United States authorities will not allow arms or assistance to be forwarded for the avowed purpose of murder or other unlawful proceedings. As we have recently had occasion to point out, the bluster comes from a few individuals who, like Mr. Robinson, of New York, make political capital out of the present condition of Ireland, while the American native element generally are not only not hostile but on the contrary are most friendly disposed towards England. The British Minister, it is said, pointed out that while he knew this to be true it was difficult to make the British people understand it so long as the incendiary and fiendish talk of O'Donovan Rossa and a few others like him was noticed in the newspapers. At the same time it is an undoubted fact that explosives to be used in England and Ireland are being manufactured in the United States, and that that is the source from whence the incendiaries draw their supplies.

From the returns laid on the table of the House by the Minister of Railways it appears that from March 1st to July 1st, 1882, there were five casualties on the Intercolonial Railway, the claims, amounting to \$883.96, being paid. The casualties from collision or otherwise from July 1st to March 1st, 1883, were eight in number, claims paid being \$3,740; unpaid, \$653. The Minister of Marine laid before the house a statement of wrecks and casualties on inland waters of Canada during the past three years, which shows that during the past year there were 36 wrecks, 11 of which were steamers. The total number of lives lost was 116.

We gladly chronicle the fact that two new manufacturing companies have been organized in St. John, N. B. We don't speak from a political standpoint when we express the sincere hope that the National Policy may effect all the good its most enthusiastic admirers have predicted for it. Whether it should eventually fail as a party measure we care not, so that manufactures have been inaugurated and manufacturers placed on their feet. The Lower Provinces will, no doubt, take advantage of their special qualifications to be the New England of Canada. The companies to which we have made reference are the Harris Car Manufacturing Company, with a capital of \$300,000, and the Canada Rolling Stock Company, whose capital is to be \$600,000. We wish them success.

The marvellous improvement in the telephone is one of the great achievements of modern times. At first a few yards was looked upon as the limit of this "toy" discovery. Now how remarkable is the advance, and how valuable the enlarged usefulness which has opened before it. Not only has it become a necessity in cities and between business houses, facilitating operations and saving time, but it will soon be employed to connect places many hundreds and, perhaps, thousands of miles apart. The other day conversation was carried on by telephone between New York and Chicago, a distance of nearly a thousand miles.

The London *Medical Press*, in referring to a serious falling off in the revenue from intoxicating drinks, states that since October, 1880, 1,000,000 people in England have put on the blue ribbon and 564,000 have signed the pledge. Well directed efforts at moral suasion did all this. This statement goes to show how important it is that the clergy should participate in such a grand work and lead those who are engaged in the struggle upward and onward to even higher things, the Christian life, which is a warfare not only against one evil but all the hosts of them which the devil so ingeniously uses to accomplish the downfall of the race. The Church of England Temperance Society has been a most important factor in accomplishing the splendid results referred to above. Let the Church in Canada occupy the place of honor as the leader in the work of promoting Temperance principles.

When speaking of the large amounts contributed in support of the Church poor in Halifax we alluded to one parish which probably gave in the aggregate for this object more than all the Baptist churches in Nova Scotia put together. In order to prove our words true we present the following figures taken from the financial statement of the Easter meeting, and ask the *Visitor* and *Witness* to make a note of it. In St. Paul's Parish, Halifax, there was contributed and expended in aid to the poor, as parish work, and altogether independent of large sums in collections and given by individual members of the congregation for outside objects, \$2,507.74 during 1882. We doubt very much if there is another parish in Canada that can make such a creditsble showing.

The Church in Canada, thanks to the assistance in money received from England, has been able to establish a considerable number of missions among the Indians, and now there are several Indian Priests and hundreds of Communicants throughout the West and North-West, and the work is steadily advancing. Our Sister Church in the neighbouring Republic has within the past few years done a noble work in educating and Christianizing the Indian population of that country. As a proof of what has been done we clip the following from an American Church paper, and this refers to but one Diocese:—"Bishop Whipple, when on a recent visitation to the Indian department of his missionary diocese, administered the Communion to two hundred and forty-seven Chippewa Indians. Fifteen years ago there was scarcely one communicant among them. There are one full-blooded Indian priest and seven deacons in the Church Mission to Chippewa or Ojibway Indians in Minnesota. There are eight churches in the Chippewa Mission. One just being built will cost \$10,000.

From the Report of the Minister of the Interior recently placed before the Dominion Parliament we gather that the receipts from lands in 1882 were \$16,183,660, which, compared with the receipts of the previous year, shows an increase of \$1,266,366. If to this be added the sum of \$547,711 derived in 1882 from the sale of colonization lands, and \$5,780 derived from miscellaneous sources, the total increase of annual receipts in 1882 over 1881 will amount to \$1,819,857. In addition to the area of land thus shown as disposed of, three million acres have been granted to colonization companies. From the same source we learn that the sum realized during the past year for lands was \$1,350,000 more than for all previous years put together, which gives us some idea of the progress being made in our North-West, where, of course, the land is almost altogether situated.

John Brown, the faithful body servant of the Queen, is dead. A London despatch says he was a man well on in years, extremely irritable, and his anxiety personally on the Queen's account was almost a mania, so that the accident to her was almost enough to make him ill. He was much worried because he was not present to prevent the Queen's recent fall, and blamed himself greatly because of the exhausting drive which followed, although Her Majesty went out despite his opposition. The Queen will feel the loss of so faithful a follower and servant very keenly, for the deceased was an especial favorite with the late Prince Consort, and had been in the royal service a great many years.

We are glad to see that the London *Times* has admitted its inability to prevent the meeting of the British Association being held in Montreal in 1884, and now joins those who are anxious to make it a success. Sir A. T. Galt has published in its columns a letter to the Secretary of the Association detailing the arrangements being made in Montreal for the reception of the distinguished body and its Royal Patron. We feel sure Canada will greatly benefit by the presence in Montreal of so many of the leaders of science in England. It seems to be pretty certain now that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales will accompany the Association to Canada and spend some weeks in visiting various sections of the country.