

GREAT BRITAIN'S movement toward the establishment of a Pacific cable has been noted with interest by American capitalists; and during the past month a Pacific Cable Company has been incorporated with the object of securing to the United States the advantages of cable communication with the Hawaiian Islands, in the hope that the cable may eventually be extended to Australia and China.

The Hawaiian Government has already granted a subsidy of \$140,000 per year for the project. It is the purpose of the company to ask for a sufficient subsidy from the United States Government for the laying of the cable and its maintenance. The company will begin work immediately.

There is no doubt that in view of the extensive trade and present close relations between the United States and Hawaii, the establishment of electric communication will be invaluable. There is equally no doubt that the project will prove more or less of a rival to the British scheme.

FATHER DAMIEN, who laid down his life among the lepers of Malakai some six years ago, is still remembered as one of the world's true heroes. A month ago his brother, Father Pamphila, left his university life in Belgium, crossed to San Francisco, and sailed for Hawaii,—to live among the lepers, do the same service for them that his brother did, and, perhaps, like him, also, to die among them.

He avoided all publicity upon his journey; and it was only by chance that his identity and mission became known on the eve of his sailing for the islands.

That Father Pamphila is a noted classical scholar as well as a distinguished theological professor, that all his life has been spent in the quiet and cultured atmosphere of university halls, serves but to accentuate his self-sacrifice. The life laid down is still the life ennobled; yet the true hero sees it least of all.

THE Armenian form of worship is little understood by western Christian churches. They claim that their ancestors were Christians before the end of the first century. The Bible was translated into Armenian about 431 A.D. The Armenian Church was part of the Greek Church until 491, when it seceded. Since that time it has been a Church by itself, which fact has done much to perpetuate the nationality. In doctrine it differs but little from the Greek and Roman Churches. Its liturgy includes the Nicene Creed and many prayers used in the Anglican Churches. Because of Turkish persecution in the middle of the 18th century Peter the Great of Russia formally took the Armenian Church under his care, and since then its official head has resided in Russia.

The highest church authority in Berlin has just issued an edict declaring that the clergy must refrain from participating in political and social controversies, or suffer disciplinary measures.

Our free pulpits are our boast to-day; yet, in glancing over the pulpits of the western continent, the question arises whether the cause of Christ would not be considerably advanced, if some such measures of prohibition were possible here also.

IN CANADA.

THE same tone of dispassion in the people, the same temper of dignified statesmanship in the governments, so essential to the peaceful issue of the Venezuelan negotiations, are equally to be desired in the present state of the Manitoba school question.

No man is a patriot, much less a statesman, who for the sake of a present applause stirs up a feeling of creed bitterness, or panders to that which already may exist. He is the greatest lover of his country at the present juncture, who avoids any public expression of animosity on either side, and who does his utmost to strengthen the hands of those who are endeavoring to find an honorable and just solution of the vexed problem.

Loud and bitter talk either in Ontario or Quebec will certainly not make for settlement, nor yet for future harmonious relationship. Dispassion is not incompatible with firmness, any more than just concession or compromise is with the staunchest patriotism. He loves his country best just now who is doing all that in him lies, to see without prejudice, and speak without bitterness.

THE position of the Dominion Government in the matter of the Remedial Order suggests Aesop's fable of the old man and his donkey. In the honest endeavor to please and do justice to both parties, they are pleasing none; and have a possibility of losing the animal they have ridden so long and well, into the bargain.

Hon. Mr. Angers, ex-Minister, fulminating against the Government in Quebec because it will not; Mr. Clarke Wallace, Honorable and ex-Minister also in all but name, arraigning the Government in Ontario because it asserts that it will; Mr. D'Alton McCarthy moving to and fro taking issue with all three and rejected by all; it is rather a gloomy situation for the unfortunate middleman. The Liberal party, in the meantime, is using a gatling-gun policy with good effect, shooting in every direction, and hitting someone with every bullet.

THERE is one good feature in the present issue. It has been all too customary to view Government officials as slaves of their pockets, to believe them capable of placing the latter before principle. Members of the Cabinet especially have been accused of this. The accusation must henceforth be considered ill-founded, since during the past six months two members of the Government have resigned office and income, in support of individual principle. We have every right to credit the remaining members with equal sense of rectitude.

It should be the pride of the Canadian people that they can point to a succession of Premiers and Ministers who have not only not considered their pockets, but deliberately sacrificed the same in the service of their country.

CONCERNING the ex-Controller of Customs, while many of us fail to see why he should have resigned at a time when no definite action had been determined upon, yet none will fail to appreciate his sacrifice to principle and his honesty of purpose.

Prince William of Orange, and that formidable personage, the "hierarchy of Rome," are each tyrants in their way, ruling with despotic sceptre. The pity is that they cannot both be hypnotized into amiable relations, or else put to sleep for a thousand years. That thousand years would be the millennium.

THE recently expressed determination of a number of Toronto's women voters to sup-

port the Aqueduct Scheme has caused something of surprise and not a little amusement among the sterner sex, who arrogate to themselves the sole right to understand and pronounce upon such matters. Women are supposed to be conservative, but in this, at least, they show themselves decidedly in sympathy with progressive civic government. The chief objection to the Aqueduct Scheme at present seems to be that it is fathered by irresponsible parties,—a fact which should not be sufficient to relegate it into the background without due consideration of its merits and defects. There is no doubt that a large number of citizens are disposed to believe that Lake Simcoe would prove our purest and in the end most economical water supply; and not a few are expectant that Mr. Mansergh will favor this scheme in preference to any other.

THE case of the Bernardo boy, who died of alleged ill-treatment and neglect last November, has caused considerable comment in the Canadian press, and one in the main unfavorable to the Home authorities. The case is one of those unfortunate exceptions which we believe prove the rule of a reverse condition of affairs.

No one regrets the occurrence more than the officials of the Bernardo Home, for the boy's sake, and apart from the shadow of obloquy which it casts upon the work.

Statistics and records which are carefully kept by the Home, and frequently examined by the Canadian Government, prove that save in rare cases the boys brought out are not only healthy and intelligent, but that they save money, become good farmers and respectable citizens. It is also unusual for them to be unkindly treated by their employers. In this instance under discussion, the conjunction of weakness with hardness was extremely unfortunate, and the shocking result to be sincerely deplored. But such a single instance should not make us unjust to the whole.

LAKE ERIE, whose grey waters are accounted by sailors the most treacherous of all the lake chain, has fully maintained its reputation during the past few months. The water is very low, and shoals and reefs are asserting their presence in a way most disturbing to vessels going in and out of harbors on either side of the lake. Numbers have gone aground and considerable loss and damage has resulted. Some vessels have not been able to carry full cargoes in consequence of the low water. The lake has developed wind storms and also a tidal wave, and, in fact, is playing so many disturbing pranks that vessel-owners are beginning to devise schemes of dams and channels to checkmate Madame Erie.

THE recent description of some Toronto bakeries given by the *World*, and the further revelations contributed by correspondents, show necessity for immediate action on the part of the Health authorities. Bakeries and milk depôts should be visited as frequently as the stock yards, and the strictest cleanliness demanded in both.

This is so evident and peremptory a necessity that it is not needful to dwell upon it. But where such serious menace to the health of families is possible, it would be well for the heads of households each to become his own health inspector, and by personal visit see for himself that due cleanliness exists in the bakery that supplies his home with bread. Customers will make the most effective inspectors in matters of food, and their right to make such inspection is not likely to be questioned.