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MONTREAL, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1874.

LE CHAMBORD.

The COUNT DE CHAMBORD, usually so discreet, has committed another indiscretion. He has issued a second manifesto, which, according to the almost unanimous opinion of the European press, destroys his last chance for the French crown. The tone of the proclamation is haughty in the repetition of those commonplaces which are so absurd on the lips of Legitimists. France has need of loyalty. His birth made him king. He would be wanting in the most sacred of duties if he neglected to make a supreme effort to overthrow the interposing barriers of prejudice. He is aware of the accusations against him, but silence is no longer permissible. Persons have pretended to understand from previous declarations that he placed royal powers above the laws, and dreamed of unheard of governmental combinations based upon absolutism or arbitrary ideas. The French Christian monarchy is limited monarchy in its essence; it borrows nothing from Governments of fortune, which promise boundless prosperity and lead to ruin; and this limited monarchy admits of the existence of two chambers, one nominated by the king and the other by the nation, according to legally-established suffrage. Union of the people and the king enabled the ancient monarchy to frustrate for centuries the calculations of those seeking to domineer over the people by contending against the king. It is untrue that his policy is at variance with the aspirations of the country; both desire the strong reparative powers which a durable alliance with monarchy alone can give. He wishes the representatives of the nation to be vigilant auxiliaries for examination of questions submitted to them; but will not have barren parliamentary struggles, from which a sovereign often is powerless and weakened in rejecting foreign and imported formula with its king who reigns, but does not govern. He feels himself in harmony with the immense majority. The House of France is sincerely reconciled. Let there be a truce to divisions. It is time to restore prosperity and grandeur to France with the venerable royalty.

This manifesto professes to make a few concessions to parliamentary government, but the old absolutist spirit breathes through it all. As we have said, it will injure the Count much more than it will aid his cause; and, indeed, from the latest despatches we see that his followers at Versailles have given up all hope at present of urging the restoration of the monarchy.

THE ENGLISH OPERA.

An English Opera Company which has performed in this city for the past fortnight and is about closing its engagement deserves this praise—that it has honestly carried out the promises made on its arrival. It promised to give representations of the lighter operas in English, with good choruses and an adequate orchestra. The opera were not to be curtailed, but rendered entire, so far as the limits of the temporary stage which they had to erect at Victoria Rink, would allow. All these pledges have been fulfilled. In succession, we have had the delivery of the "Bohemian Girl," "Mantana," "Il Trovatore," "Fra Diavolo," "Martha," "Faust" and "Lucia," and in each case, the rendition was honest, painstaking, while in more instances than one, it rose to the level of the artistic. With this exhibit we are content, and we can safely recommend the Company to all the cities of the Dominion which they may visit. The public are also of our opinion, for notwithstanding that the population is sensibly thinned by the annual migration to the country and the seaside, the attendance was uniformly large and fashionable. At

the benefit of the accomplished basso, Mr. Peakes, who appeared as Mephistopheles in "Faust," the audience was immense and enthusiastic. In referring to this benefit, we must join the whole press of the city in commendation of the superior musical and dramatic abilities of Mr. Peakes, who is, without question, an ornament and one of the mainstays of any Company with which he may be associated. The Prima-Donna, Dlle. Pauline Canissa, has proved throughout her engagement, that she belongs to the best school of art, and that the training she received at the Conservatorium of Vienna, with the subsequent experiences she acquired at Paris and other European capitals, under the best masters, has stood her in good stead. She is a highly educated and refined lady and sings equally well in German, Italian, French and English. Her command of voice is admirable and her dramatic powers are of a high order. Of the other members of the Company we spoke in detail, last week, and a close following of them in almost every opera in which they appeared, has only confirmed our favourable opinion of each. If the same Company which played here, goes to other Canadian cities, under the same conditions, the public can confidently give them their patronage.

HORRIDA BELLA.

A congress is about to be held in Brussels, composed of representatives of all the European powers, to take into consideration some scheme for the guidance of commanders in the conduct of military operations and to settle the mutual relations of belligerents in the field. The conference will also strive to define the rights of conquerors in an enemy's country, the fit treatment of prisoners and the limit of just reprisals. Furthermore, it will endeavour to define more accurately the obligations and privileges of civilians in time of war. Theoretically, the objects of this conference are worthy of sympathy, but in practice, so little good can and does come of paper resolutions drawn up by well minded individuals in time of peace, that we are not surprised some of the powers should have been slow in acquiescing to the meeting. Great Britain is in this case. She at first hesitated to join the congress, and when at length, she was prevailed upon to do so, under fear of misapprehensions, it was with curious reserves. We have the authority of Lord Derby for stating, that England, if represented at Brussels, was not to be required to discuss rules of international law governing the relations of belligerents, or undertake any new engagement in regard to general principles. The scope of the congress is not to include matters relating to maritime warfare. England will not send a representative unless distinctly assured on these points, and especially the last. In any case, her representative will not be empowered to consent to the adoption of any new rules. He will simply watch and report the proceedings, the Government reserving full liberty of action. With such reservations as these, especially when France and Austria are also known to be holding back in the premises, there is little hope that the conference will result in anything definite or binding. How far the British Government are justified in acting thus, we cannot say, but it does seem, at the first blush, that it would be better, in the interests of humanity, to test first the temper of the congress, before hampering it by such conditions as those just recited.

HOME RULE

The question of Home Rule has been squarely put to the test of a vote in the British Parliament and the result was sixty-one yeas to four hundred and fifty-eight nays. This is not so bad. Numerically the show is poor enough, but the vote shows that the Irish are united on this point as they have never been for years on any other. The most notable abstention from their ranks is that of O'Donoghue, the member for Tralee who, among many sarcastic hits, said that the Home Rule movement was a miserable compromise concocted by those who did not dare to face the penalties of fenianism. He added that the ultimate object of the leaders of the movement was to incite Irishmen to force the repeal of the Union, and that their success would plunge Ireland in civil war. He said further that if England continued to remove every pretext for the plea of misgovernment in Ireland, the result would be a disgraceful failure of the movement. He firmly believed its success would bring ruin to the interest of every man in Ireland. The whole liberal party turned its face against the motion of Mr. Butt and found an eloquent spokesman in the person of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lowe. Thus supported, the Conservative party and the Government had no difficulty in maintaining their adverse views. Mr. Disraeli was unable to agree that Ireland had a right to a greater amount of self-government than Scotland or

England. He insisted on the groundlessness of the complaint that Irishmen were not appointed to the high offices of Government, and denied that Ireland was treated as a conquered country. He held that two separate parliaments would be constantly in collision, the minority in the Irish Parliament would be always appealing to the Imperial Parliament. He opposed the motion because it was injurious to both countries. At the great crisis of the world, which was nearer than some supposed, he wished people to be united. To accept this motion would produce disintegration in England, and might result in the destruction of the Empire.

There appears to be no doubt that the question of amnesty is going to remain in abeyance, and that justice will be allowed its regular course in Manitoba. In delivering the judgment, in which he affirmed the jurisdiction of the Court, Chief Justice Wood pointedly stated that he did not believe an amnesty had been granted and expressed the opinion that all who were implicated in the Scott affair, should answer for their acts before the Courts. The importance of these words cannot be overlooked, both from the fact that they were uttered by the Chief Justice of the Province and because His Honour Mr. Wood is fresh from Canada, where he must be presumed to have ascertained the intentions of the Government. And after all, we see no reason why Riel, Lépine and others, if they are conscious of no wrong, should be afraid to face a jury of their own countrymen.

The comet upon which all eyes are turned these starry nights, goes under the name of Coggia, after the astronomer who discovered it, at Marseilles; on the 17th of last April. On the 8th July, it passed its perihelion, being then at a distance of about 60,000,000 of miles from the sun. On the 16th July it will attain its maximum brilliancy until it wholly disappears from the heavens. It presents the dimensions of a star of the third magnitude, flattened out to that of a star of the fourth magnitude. Of course, there are all sorts of superstitions connected with the advent of comets and many people will feel nervous lest this one in its rapid approach to the earth should give us a whisk of its fiery tail and send us whirling out of our orbit into infinite space.

The news from Manitoba is that the ministry has been defeated by a majority of two to one. Let us hope this will insure the down-fall of Clarke who has too long been imposed upon a patient people. Whatever one may feel for or against Riel, the conduct of Clarke in his case, at Ottawa, last session, was enough to disgust every man of honour.

"TEAR-EM."

Sitting in the corner seat of the front bench below the gangway on the Opposition side of the House of Commons is a man so old and feeble looking that the stranger wonders what he does here. His white hair falls about a beardless face which is comparatively fresh looking, though the eyes lack lustre and the mouth is drawn in. When he rises to speak he bends his short stature over a supporting stick, and as he walks down to the table to hand in a perpetual notice of motion or of question, he drags across the floor his laden feet in a painful way that sometimes suggests to well-meaning members the proffer of an arm, or of service to accomplish the errand, advances which are curtly repelled, for this is Mr. Roebuck, the "Dog Tear-em" of old, toothless now, and dim of sight, but still high in spirit, and ready to fight with snarl and snap the unwary passer-by. It is said in tea-room conversation that Mr. Roebuck has changed his political opinions oftener than any other man in the present House. Perhaps the allegation, whilst made in good faith, is unconsciously exaggerated, because Mr. Roebuck, on whichever side he has ranged himself, has always been in the van of opinion, and has prominently figured as its exponent, and consequently his facings about occupy a larger space in the memory than those of other men. There was a time when he was a thorough-paced Radical, a friend of Mr. Stuart Mill and Sir Wm. Molesworth. He has twice graduated as a Tootle with some bewildering counter marches and strategic movements which have finally landed him in the political position he holds today, and which is best and most safely described as that of Mr. Roebuck, the member for Sheffield. In one of his papers in the *Spectator*, Addison, referring to the contemporary fashion amongst ladies of wearing patches stuck on one side or other of their faces according as they were Whig or Tory, says:—"I must here take notice that Rosalinda, a famous Whig partisan, has, most unfortunately, a very beautiful mole on the Tory part of her forehead, which being very conspicuous has occasioned many mistakes and given a handle to her enemies to misrepresent her face as though it had revolted from the Whig interest." Mr. Roebuck is in the same unfortunate predicament as the lady here referred to. He has a Whig mole on the Tory part of his forehead, and during his political career he has undergone much obloquy as a consequence of the numerous mistakes which have therefrom arisen.

Mr. Roebuck is a good lover and a good hater, chiefly the latter. A Parliamentary Ishmael, his hand has been against every one and every one's hand against him. Lord Palmerston, Mr. Disraeli, Mr. Bright, Mr. Cobden—in brief, every man of any prominence in the House of Commons during the past quarter of a century—but at one time or another felt the fangs of "Tear-em." The poor wit and coarse humour of