The Weekly Mail

TORONTO, FRIDAY, MAY 12, 1876.

NOTICE.

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

Subscribers to the *Weekly Mail*, a paper already affording more reading matter than any other weekly published in Canada, may for the future rely on an extended report of Parliamentary proceedings appearing in our columns. Beautiful new bright type, smaller than that hitherto used for Parliamentary reporting, has been procured, and while the usual difficulty of reading will not be increased the amount of matter which we are able to provide in this department of the paper will be doubled.

READ.—There is more news and reading matter in the broadsheet of the *Weekly Mail* than in any of the new-fangled weeklies, some of which are printed in a shape purposely intended to mislead the public as to the quantity of their contents.

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LEARN all the news and gossip of the week, interspersed with tales and agricultural information of inestimable value to farmers and others. If you would be abreast of the times and know what is going on in the world take

THE WEEKLY MAIL.

NORTH MIDDLESEX.

No announcement has yet been made of the issue of the writ for this Riding. The Speaker of the Commons, with his loyalty divided between the strict line of his duty and his desire to please a Government to which he has chosen to place himself in complete subjection, seems determined to meet the convenience of his Party friends. This may be "Reform," but we think the people of Canada are disposed to call it by another name. The Government and the Speaker have no right to conspire together to defeat the palpable objects of the law; and it is simply shameful of them to delay the issue of the writ a single day beyond what legal routine and office forms may require.

As we have already said, however, the indications are that the Grit Party in the Riding are not had the intimate secrets to them that the writ will be issued to suit their convenience, and have concluded that they may as well face the music now as later on. They have called their Convention for the 15th inst. at Atlas Craig. The Opposition, acting upon the hint given them, have called their meeting for the 17th, at the same place. Meanwhile, we believe Mr. John Watson has taken the field as an "Independent;" and the question which is just now agitating the Grit bosom is whether the Convention will decide to take him up. At least one "Reform" journal in the Riding has already declared in his favour. The Parkhill *Gazette* nails his colours to the mast, and declares its determination to stand or fall by him, let the Convention do what they will, though it very plainly suggests that the best thing they can do is to nominate him. With him, it says, they can go to victory; with any other man it will be certain defeat. But will the Convention nominate Mr. WATSON? The fact of his coming into the field unwitted, and on the strength of his personal popularity, suggests that he has himself some doubts on this point. Should he be nominated, it will not be because most strenuous efforts will not have been made to prevent it. Mr. "Silent" SMITH, the former member in the Local, who was defeated at the last general election by Mr. JOHN MCDOUGALL, attributes his defeat largely to the part taken against him by Mr. WATSON. He is said, and we can well believe the statement to be true, that he quietly awaits the arrival of that time which is to give him his revenge. Mr. WATSON would seem to be well aware of this; for the Parkhill *Gazette*, in the course of its advocacy of his cause, remarks: "The Reformers of this riding, so long as they retain Mr. Smith in their counsels and as a leading spirit in their conventions, are handicapped in the race. His influence is most baneful, and until he is forcibly thrust into political oblivion "he must always remain a source of weakness to the Party. If at this time we counsels prevail in the Convention, and Mr. WATSON' candidature be endorsed, it will be because Mr. Smith's influence has been insufficient "to drag the Convention into defeat, for "the purpose of resenting his supposed "personal injuries."

We suggest the case to Mr. MACKENZIE as one in which his talents as a peacemaker may be used with advantage to the Party. Mr. WATSON may be the best man in the Party—probably he is; but we know that Conventions, especially Grit Conventions, do strange things sometimes in the selection of candidates. They may be forewarned, however, that any man they may bring out will find the Opposition ranks a foeman worthy of his steel.

THE DEPRESSION COMMITTEE.

A SELECT Committee of the House of Commons, as most of our readers are aware, was appointed, early in the last session, "to inquire into the causes "of the present depression of the manu-"facturing, mining, commercial, ship-"ping, lumber, and fishing interests." Their inquiries were carried on during most of the time that Parliament was sitting, and a large number of witnesses were examined. High hopes were naturally entertained with respect to the results of their labours. Even those whose expectations were the most moderate reasonably concluded that, with such ample means of information at the command of the Committee, and with so much time to arrange, compare, and digest it, some new light would be thrown upon the subject and some means of relief suggested. The report, however, which has now been for several weeks in the hands of the public, can, we regret to be obliged to say, have excited scarcely any other feeling than that of intense disappointment.

After apologizing for being "unable to "submit to the House all the informa-"tion necessary," the Committee state, that they "have pointed out, "with a considerable degree of accuracy, "the causes which have immediately "operated to produce the present de-"pression, etc." We have perused the document with the greatest care, and, upon the point in question we have utterly failed to extract anything more or less than this. The causes of commercial depression is due, first, to the diminution which has taken place in the demand for Canadian products, and for imported goods; secondly, to the extravagant credit given in commercial transactions, especially by English houses, leading, as it has done, to excessive importations; thirdly, to the heavy burden oppressing us through our large foreign indebtedness; and fourthly, to "the un-"favorable effect produced upon our "commercial and manufacturing inter-"ests, through the depressed condition" of the neighbouring Republic. Whether the committee were unable to reconcile this last alleged cause with the fact that so large a proportion of Canadian exports has reached the United States does not appear. But, without any connection with what precedes, and with no reason assigned for giving the information, they say that "out "of the total produce of the "country exported last year, amount-"ing to $77,886,979, $28,891,676," being more than one-third, "found a market "in the neighbouring Republic."

Looking then at the few facts thus adduced, to account for the depression under which we have been suffering so long and so keenly, we can discover nothing which has not presented itself again and again to the minds of the most superficial observers. Other facts, indeed, might have been mentioned which have been patent enough to ordinary people, but which appear to have been deemed by the Select Committee altogether unworthy of notice. With respect to those more latent causes which, influential though they be, lie beyond the range of common vision, it can, under these circumstances, occasion no surprise that not even their existence has been detected by men so blinded by party prejudice.

As for sundry passages in the report, containing broad assertions unsustained by proof—conclusions rashly drawn—statements "hard to be "understood," or requiring much qualification—fallacious arguments a hundred times refuted, we pass them by without remark, at least for the present. Nothing can be more palpable, upon the face of the whole production, than the spirit of partizanship by which it is disfigured and debased. It is abundantly evident that the chief aim of its framers has been, not to accomplish the main object of the investigation, but to bolster up the doctrines of Free Trade, and to persuade us, if they could, that our commercial troubles are all in mind. Free from any legislative action. The only practical benefit, therefore, actually derived from their protracted labours, is the proof afforded, if proof were wanting, that the men whose opinions they represent are not equal to the exigencies of the present time. They are, in truth, but smooth water sailors, utterly unfit, by the admission of their own followers, to navigate the ship of State over a troubled sea.

Of what the Committee term, with a sort of sneer, "the statistics of interpretation," they make their frequent allusion to the subject, we do not pretend to understand. They ought to understand that all action of the Legislature involves interference unavoidably, in one direction or another, and its value is to be estimated simply according as it may prove to be beneficial or otherwise. In all such matters each case must be judged upon its own merits. The discussion of the equitable adjustment of the tariff, so as to aid or protect all the various interests of the country, is no doubt a task which can be accomplished first, by acquiring extensive and accurate information respecting those interests, their relation to each other, and the relation of the whole to the operations of foreign trade, and the action of foreign governments; and, secondly, by so applying this information as fairly, securing the necessary revenue, and having due regard to every claim, to make it equal and equitable as it lightly and as equally as possible upon all classes of the community. This, of course, necessitates the expenditure of much tedious and painful labour, since no man dive comes into the world a fully fledged financier. Not even Mr. CARTWRIGHT himself can lay claim to any such distinction. With the rough and ready policy of what are miscalled Free Trade principles, he may indeed disregard the difficulties which beset his path, by merely doing nothing, and allowing the course of events to proceed unchecked and undirected. All this is unquestionably simple and easy enough. But if it be statesmanship, the thing has changed its nature. It looks very like piping while Rome is in flames. A true statesman must endeavour to be master of the position. He cannot suffer himself to be the mere slave or sport of circumstances. In a condition of such general depression as now prevails, much, it may be admitted, is beyond legislative remedy. But there is also much within its reach. Partial mitigation, at least, of the evils under which the country is groaning, might have been afforded by wise and timely action. And an efficient disposition to do, or even attempt, something in the way of relief, would have roused the drooping energies of the people, and have wonderfully aided in the process of the revival of commercial confidence. But our paternal Government, who were content to let the bread, have mocked us with a stone.

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THE ANTI-CHINESE EXCITEMENT AGAIN.

THE excitement of public feeling in California, on which we remarked a few weeks ago, instead of dying out is greatly increasing in violence. When we read of activity on the part of such organizations as the "Anti-Coolie Club" and the "Young Men's Universal Reform Society," we understand that the public mind has the revolution-ary fever upon it, and that masses of men are in that state of excitement which makes them ready for violence on a large scale. Evidently the working-men of California have their blood up, and have determined to take the matter into their own hands, instead of patiently waiting for what the law will do for them. Highly incendiary speeches have been made in San Francisco, and letters have been read from societies in the interior of the State, seeking the co-operation of the city Anti-Coolie organization. A telegram from New York promised the delivery in San Francisco of 2,500 stand of arms at ten days notice. The Sacramento *Herald* thus defends the Anti-Chinese agitation:

"Many arguments are made in favour of the introduction of these immigrants, but they principally come from the steamship companies who realize large sums for the transportation of the poor wretches, people who have no other interest in the case than that of getting labourers who will do for one dollar what men of our own race and color or race cannot or will not do for less than two dollars. It is dangerous to be guided by merely commercial principles in the estimate of the proprieties of a case that is not limited in its results to economical facts, but has its social, moral, and political phases. The steamship arguments are based on a view of nothing but the profit to the interests of the steamship companies. The cheap labour argument is the gospel of the slave traders, and it does not care when the deluge comes if he can make his little fortune meanwhile and have a boat ready to leave the evil day. These are not authorities on which great problems of government are to be settled one way or the other. The Chinese question comes the view of the Chinese problem that regards the whole field—political, social, moral, the religious, the economical aspects of the case—and the whole nation may well stand to profit by the consideration of our friends on the Pacific. They know the Chinaman. They have had him for a neighbour and a servant long enough to understand once among them as we might regard the introduction into our nurseries or schools of a people with horrible diseases, physical and moral. His beastliness, his physical degradation, his vices, his filth, his want of the moral and intellectual attributes that go to make up a civilized creature on our land will contaminate the land, and the sooner than the nation can raise him to its level."

California demands of the Federal Government that the treaty with China be modified, so as to put a stop to Chinese immigration under sanction of law. This, however, is not the only thing done; and an important fact to be borne in mind is that the admission of American and their ships into Chinese ports is one side of a contract of which the admission of Chinese immigrants into California is another. If the Federal Government does what the Californians desire, American commerce with China might be brought to a standstill, and some serious consequences, not at present contemplated by the general public, might ensue. Give San Francisco its wish, and return to important Atlantic seaports—New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Shanghai, and Hong Kong might follow. The Federal Government has need of all its statesmanship to meet the crisis which seems to be approaching.

PRIVATE GUSH IN THE PUBLIC EAR.

OFTEN wonders who and "what "like" (as the Scotch say) are the people whose joys, griefs, and inmost feelings are paraded so ostentatiously before the eyes of the public. We hear a great deal about the sacredness of sorrow, and of the hedge that should be drawn round those inner and deeper pleasures, the enjoyment of which is most complete when shrouded from the prying gaze of outsiders. Practically, however, very many people live in "houses with their fronts "off;" they are never really happy, much as they may grumble at the disagreeableness of their position, but when they are well in the eye of the public, and, like petted and conceited children, must call attention to themselves if they think for one moment that their existence has been forgotten. A stand has been lately made in many countries against the inordinate expense, and the pagan and Chinese nature of the trappings without which it is unconvincing that any respectable person should be buried. But there are other matters besides the funerals of the dead, and the sacred ties in which reform might be safely and satisfactorily introduced. Few things touch a man on his first arrival in this country more than the universality of the custom of attending funerals. In England, at least, the practice is almost unknown. Rarely any besides the nearest friends, and they only by invitation, think of personally following an acquaintance to the grave. In the earlier days of a colony when settlers were few and far between, and each and all felt that they were experiment, it was natural that all should cling together. The sympathy then felt when one of the little band of exiles was removed by death was a real one, and meant something. But now it is, in nine cases out of ten, purely conventional. Quite that proportion of people who attend a funeral do so because it is usual, or because their absence might be commented on; not from regard for the deceased, or from sympathy with the living. In the United States the custom has taken a more offensive form than it has amongst ourselves. There every one may and does consider himself the guest of the family in their bereavement, he professes to sympathize, and at their expense the visitor has to be hat-banded and driven to the cemetery. We see a story recently of a gentleman living near one of the suburban cemeteries whose sympathy was so widespread that he attended all the afternoon funerals, in order that he might secure a lift out home. But, apart from abuses of this sort, we fancy that all persons of better feeling would gladly dispense with the false glory of a "nu-"merously attended" funeral, and must prefer the privilege of hiding their dead out of their sight in peace and quietness.

There are few men who would not scorn to let the world know the full indignity of the blow which has struck them to the heart, and who yet fall easily, when their feelings are weak and their nerves unstrung, into the conventional custom of telling the public, by newspaper or tombstone, that their wife was "dearly beloved," or that the loss of a "most affectionate" daughter has left an ineffaceable blank in their family circle. Surely these are matters which might be taken for granted. If the world has any right or interest in knowing, let the world assume that it was so. Should we not all laugh if a bridegroom announced his annexation to the "dearly loved" daughter of So and So? His feelings are, probably, as excited then as they are some fifty years later when he records his unutterable loneliness; and the public cares about as little for one as the other. But if it be considered preposterous to suppose that such notices should make their appearance in the central part of the B. M. D. column, we can only affirm that instances are not unknown of fond parents taking the public into a participation of their parental joys. We remember very well how a certain parson appended to the usual cut notice of birth the exulting announcement that this was "the first male child born in the Parsonage for fifty "years." His heirless predecessors having probably all been gathered to their forefathers, the triumphant owner of the exulting *pudre*, who evidently thought he had broken through a spell, provoked no feelings but those of merriment. A very short time ago an event occurred in an eastern city which excited a fond parent to pour out his paternal joy to the public. It may be assumed that it was the arrival of a long-deferred or anxiously watched-for son and heir, which called for the announcement of his birth to run thus: "The wife of C——— C——— of a "son. *Isaac Dee.*" Thankfulness and gratitude for all mercies; but we submit that churches, not newspapers, are the places in which they should be publicly tendered. We do not wish to be understood as saying that the proper place for such interesting occasions, but if the practice is begun there we shall be disposed to say, let extra advertising charge on the excited parent as a tax for boring the public with his private gush.

A GREAT RAILWAY BLUNDER.

WE have before taken the view that in making up their reduced Centennial rates, the American railway companies would have acted wisely had they taken the decided step of a fifty per cent. reduction at once instead of stopping at the miserably small concession of only twenty-five per cent. off. The custom of single fare for the double journey is well established for such occasions as Provincial Exhibitions, large excursion parties, and the like; and we believe that railway men do not complain of money being lost on these occasions. A picnic party of respectable proportions can generally get the concession of going and returning for one fare, and it is a prevailing belief that any railway fortunate enough to get many such parties on its line makes money thereby instead of losing it. Now all the State fairs and Provincial exhibitions that have been on both sides of the border, fall far short of the Centennial Exhibition in the numbers that would be attracted and the vast overflow of passenger traffic that would result. We were only a fair inducement in the way of cheap travel offered. The more we look at it, the more are we convinced that anything short of the full reduction—fifty per cent. reduction—one fare for going and returning—was a great blunder on the part of the railway companies. Of course by this we mean only the American companies, because it is they who make such a proposal, while the Canadian companies, because it is they who have to meet it, are compelled to conform to. The Great Exhibition is but just opened, the rush of visitors from distant points will not be expected for a week or two to come, and it should not be too late yet for the railway companies to reconsider their decision. We do not agitate public opinion while making more money for themselves by putting in force the simple rule of one fare for the trip to Philadelphia and return. This action on their part would *talk* wonderfully well in public from the Niagara Falls to the Gulf of Mexico. In these times, when freights are very low, the lowest ever known, perhaps, they do not make much difference to one race cannot or will not do for less than two dollars. It is dangerous to be guided by merely commercial principles in the estimate of the proprieties of a case that is not limited in its results to economical facts, but has its social, moral, and political phases. The steamship arguments are based on a view of nothing but the profit to the interests of the steamship companies. The cheap labour argument is the gospel of the slave traders, and it does not care when the deluge comes if he can make his little fortune meanwhile and have a boat ready to leave the evil day. These are not authorities on which great problems of government are to be settled one way or the other. The Chinese question comes the view of the Chinese problem that regards the whole field—political, social, moral, the religious, the economical aspects of the case—and the whole nation may well stand to profit by the consideration of our friends on the Pacific. They know the Chinaman. They have had him for a neighbour and a servant long enough to understand once among them as we might regard the introduction into our nurseries or schools of a people with horrible diseases, physical and moral. His beastliness, his physical degradation, his vices, his filth, his want of the moral and intellectual attributes that go to make up a civilized creature on our land will contaminate the land, and the sooner than the nation can raise him to its level."

California demands of the Federal Government that the treaty with China be modified, so as to put a stop to Chinese immigration under sanction of law. This, however, is not the only thing done; and an important fact to be borne in mind is that the admission of American and their ships into Chinese ports is one side of a contract of which the admission of Chinese immigrants into California is another. If the Federal Government does what the Californians desire, American commerce with China might be brought to a standstill, and some serious consequences, not at present contemplated by the general public, might ensue. Give San Francisco its wish, and return to important Atlantic seaports—New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Shanghai, and Hong Kong might follow. The Federal Government has need of all its statesmanship to meet the crisis which seems to be approaching.

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