

The days of the Disraeli Ministry have been few and full of trouble. The majority against the motion of Lord Stanley to lay the Irish question over till the Retormed Parliament was decisive, and the Ministry sustained a defeat which by the display of a little tact it might easily have avoided. When the Conservative Ministry took the wind out of Liberal sails, and exceeded even John Bright's demand for a radical change in the system of franchise, they but whetted the popular appetite for reform. Having opened wide the door, they could never hope to close it again until other and greater reforms were granted. They refused or neglected to see this. They believed that having by the sacrifice of a cardinal principle of their party granted a liberal franchise, they had secured a lease of official life until the next general election, when, relying on the popularity they believed reform had gained them, they hoped to gain an easy victory over the Liberals. We cannot see how so clever a politician as Mr. Disraeli is acknowledged to be, could have made so stupid a blunder as to cast his chances into the scale against the Irish Church. For months the English press has teemed with articles calling on the Government to put an end to the great iniquity by means of which tithes were wrung from the people for the support of a creed in which they had not the slightest sympathy, and the benefits of which they could not conscientiously enjoy. The new Premier must have seen with half an eye that he could not successfully combat with the change of sentiment concerning the Irish Church which had come over the English public. The Irish Church is doomed by popular sentiment—the sentiment that henceforth will govern the nation, and before which any Ministry that opposes it must go down. The course the Ministry will pursue is undecided. If they merely resign their seats, they will follow the example of the Gladstone Ministry in 1866, and quietly make room for their successors. But they may decide to appeal to the country in the hope that they will obtain from the people the support they have failed to rally around them in the House of Commons. Should they adopt the latter course, and suffer a reverse, they will undoubtedly involve in ruin not alone themselves and the Irish Church, but will weaken the foundation if they do not entirely destroy the Established Church edifice of the English Church. Resignation must avert for a short season the danger that threatens the latter establishment, an appeal to country might encompass its dissolution immediately.

He used in his speech at the opening of the Council the precise words of Her Majesty's Secretary of State on the subject of Confederation. These words, in substance, were that the Northwest Territory is an obstacle to British Columbia joining the Confederation; but surely these "precise words" were written before the Northwest Territory had become part of the Dominion, and an objection which might have held good before those words were penned cannot be of the slightest value under the changed condition of affairs. His Excellency's heart is not in the work, or he would have taken care to receive something more tangible than "conversations not of a strictly official character," and he would not conjure up an "obstacle" that has ceased to exist as a reason why we should not seek for a change of Government. We begin to despair of Mr. Seymour's hearty co-operation in any scheme likely to prove beneficial to the Colony.

WHISKY SKILLING.—John Kesaret was arraigned yesterday on a charge of selling whisky to Indians; the charge not being clearly proven the case was remanded one day.

LACUNA RIVER.—The news from the locality is not encouraging. A few miners remain at work there for "grub" money, and Page & Co. are preparing to stop work in their tunnel and abandon the ground.
THE bark Spirit of the Age was expected to sail from London for Victoria on or about the 10th of March. She is full, and is consigned to Sprout & Co.
DUNKERS.—There were three cases of drunkenness before the Police Court yesterday.
FOR ALASKA.—The steamer Constantine sailed at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon with Prince Maksoutoff and retinue on board.
A PRIVATE TELEGRAM announces the arrival of the steamer California at San Francisco last evening.
PASSENGER.—The Esset of the Passover commenced last evening at sunset, and will continue until Tuesday evening next.
THE Brig Rona, Capt. Hayes, hence for Tahiti, reached that port Nov. 20th, all well.
THE Enterprise sails at 10 o'clock this morning for New Westminster.
A RESCESS.—The Legislative Council has adjourned until Wednesday, the 15th inst.
AUSTRALASIA.
New South Wales.
The Prince's visit is the only thing people can find time to talk about, and to it we are indebted for the complete metamorphosis that has taken place in our city—for the forest of flagstaffs, the clouds of fanning, the triumphal arches and the crowds of visitors seen on our streets. On the 4th instant the Galatea sailed from Melbourne for Hobartown, but without eliciting any demonstration, not even the Scotch query—"Will you no come back again?" There is no use handling the matter with gloved fingers; public men are to a certain extent public property, and must expect to have their conduct canvassed by others, and particularly by the press, where that institution exists. The Prince landed in Melbourne amidst an almost insane demonstration of respect for himself and loyalty to his Royal mother. When he left, the Australian (the most widely circulated journal in the colonies) noticing his departure, says:—"The future of the great offshoots of Britain offers a problem to the mind of English statesmen, beginning to be studied, but the solution of which has not extended beyond the opinion that it is undesirable to allow them to become antagonistic republics like that of North America. It is possible enough, therefore, that had these colonies been born like the children of Israel of old, upon seeking for a king, and Prince Alfred not incidentally opposed to a southern seat of empire, the world might have witnessed in these days the astounding spectacle of a second British monarchy. Were any such ideas as this entertained, however, when the Galatea left Europe, a grave mistake was made in failing to send a Mentor with the young Telemachus." If it was intended by this to create among the colonists an ardent desire to have a Royal Court established in their midst, the choice of courtiers was to say the least of it, unfortunate. The central figure, however, acceptable as a distinguished visitor, has certainly not impressed the people of Victoria with a belief in his capacity as a ruler, or his determination strictly to perform the highest and most arduous duties appertaining to a high station. He has failed lamentably in the single virtue of punctuality, while of that dignity of demeanor which is said to befit the prince, we have had but few examples. But if a resident Prince Alfred in Australia would not be enthusiastically acceptable, as a Victorian opinion goes, what would be thought of a Court composed of Newry and York? Our colonial youth are not backward in what, in common parlance, is termed "fastness," but we believe they might take lessons in rapidity from the actions of the British aristocracy. With these for our models, it would become matter for our own speculation as to who would be our noble women! No; if simple-minded Australian colonists were intended to be converted into eager lovers of aristocracy, the wrong men were sent to negotiate with the passion.

On the 6th instant the Galatea, arrived at Hobartown, and remained there until the 18th, when she sailed for this port, and at daylight on the 21st she was signalled off the coast about forty miles south of Sydney. All became attached with the Prince fever, and over forty steamers put to sea laden with passengers anxious to go outside the Heads and meet the Prince, even at the risk of getting the mal-du-mer. The rain fell for nearly six months previously had not been more than one inch, but no sooner had the Galatea been in sight than Jupiter pluvius, condescended to reign, and from that time to the present there has scarcely been a dry hour. The Galatea entered the Heads about three o'clock, and as soon as she came in sight of H. M.'s ship Challenger (flag-ship on the station) the Prince saluted Commodore Lambert's pennant. On anchoring in the usual man-of-war rendezvous, a procession of steamers passed by, saluted and took their position for the night display. The Royal Sydney and the Prince Alfred Yacht Squadron followed their example, and soon after the Prince went ashore to Government House in company with Commodore Lambert. Night came and with it heavier rain, but it could not wash out our loyalty or stop our patriotic display. The ships, yachts, forts, buildings adjoining the seaboard became a blaze of light, colored fire and bonfires, Chinese lanterns, Bengal lights, rockets, in fact everything that could tend to add brilliancy to the fête was in full supply. At 9 p. m. the Galatea, hitherto the only dark object in our grand harbor, almost magically stood out the centre of attraction. Bile lights formed the Southern Cross on each mast, marked every port hole along her side and outlined her hull. In a few minutes after-ward she rang along the shores as an immense fiery dragon was coming along towards the shipping. It was a capital affair, formed by covering a stern wheel steamer of 110 feet in length with canvass and other substances to represent the body of the mythical monster. From the mouth and eyes were emitted colored fires, rockets and fireworks, and the illuminated twenty boats, covered with bright lights on both sides, ever and anon sent up showers of brilliant fireworks. At noon on the 22d the Royal Highness and suite left the Galatea under royal salutes from the naval training ship, the land batteries, and Her Majesty's ships in port. He was received by his Excellency the Governor, the members of the Executive, the Reception Committee, and other gentlemen. Under a grand triumphal arch, opposite to the landing-place, the Mayor of Sydney, surrounded by the civic dignitaries, presented an address, to which His Royal Highness made a suitable reply. The Prince then entered his carriage, with the Earl of Belmore, Lord Newry, and Lieutenant Haig, and drove through the city, his progress being marked by the deafening cheers of the people, who, through the line of route in thousands. The procession consisted of the Volunteer Fire Company, headed by a band; several lodges of Oddfellows, the Foresters; Sons of Temperance, Protestant Friendly Alliance, Mayors and members of suburban municipalities, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, officers of naval and military forces, the Executive, Reception Committee, his Royal Highness's Suite, the Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, the Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly, Mayor and Alderman of Sydney, and the Chancellor with other members of the University. The procession went along Castlereagh street North, Macquarie place, Bridge street, George street, Bathurst street, Elizabeth street, Liverpool street, College street, and Macquarie street. Arches were erected at several points; and on entering the gateway leading to Government House, a choir of 9000 children sang the National Anthem. In the evening, the city was illuminated, and, despite the drenching rain, the general effect was magnificent.

On the following day (Thursday) His Royal Highness held a levee at Government House, attended by many thousands of persons. In the evening there was a grand display of fireworks in the Outer Domain, at which there must have been 60,000 people present. On Friday a grand review took place in the Outer Domain, at which the Prince appeared in the uniform of a general officer of Saxo-Coburg Gotha. In the evening there was a dramatic performance at the University, which His Royal Highness attended. The plays performed were Terence's *Phormio* and Moliere's *Monsieur de Pourceaugnac*. On Saturday, the Duke's Day Races came off at Randwick, and Brigadier Wray the two principal events. The Prince remained to witness the last event, which did not conclude until 6 o'clock. The Earl and Countess of Belmore, Sir George and Lady Bowen with their suites, and the gentlemen in attendance upon his Highness were present. On Monday, the Anniversary Regatta took place, and the Prince was also present at that. Heavy rain prevented a good deal of enjoyment, and some races had to be postponed. His Royal Highness touched on board the flagship, with the members of the regatta committee, and his health being proposed, returned thanks in a neat and appropriate but brief oration. On the following day the Bishop of Sydney, in St. Andrew's Cathedral, on behalf of the children attending the Anglican Sunday schools in the dioceses of Sydney and Goulburn, presented His Royal Highness with a splendid Bible and Prayer Book in a rich basket.

The Corporation bill to His Royal Highness and Earl Belmore, the German national demonstration and several other items have been postponed until the weather improves. The Prince will leave here for Brisbane about the 21st ult., and after staying there ten days will return to Sydney, and finally leave here about the middle of March.

Mr. Robert Brown, the last of the Arctic voyagers, is preparing a work on the Physical Geography of Greenland from researches undertaken during three different scientific journeys to the Arctic Regions, the last of which was in 1867. He has obtained the assistance of Dr. Hooker, Prof. Oliver, Prof. Dickie, Mr. Lawson, Dr. Larder, Lindsay, Mr. Croal, Dr. Lutken and Herr Otto Morch, of Copenhagen.—*Athenaeum*.

THE WRECK.—Several rafts of lumber have been saved from the wreck of the bark Rosalia and towed to a place of safety. The vessel has entirely disappeared. The ship Fanny has been stripped by Captain Pain of her outside gear, anchors, chains, &c., several thousand dollars worth of which have been saved. An attempt to get at the cargo will be made in a few days.

BENEFIT OF THE VOLUNTEERS.—We understand that a performance for the benefit of the Victoria Rifle Volunteers will take place on Monday evening next, for which occasion a splendid programme will be arranged. There is no more worthy object than the Rifle Corps, and we hope the entertainment will be liberally patronized.

THE PRINCE'S SLIP.—At a meeting of the City Council yesterday it was resolved to memorialize the Government to send down a bill to the Legislative Council, authorizing the Corporation of Victoria to negotiate a loan of \$35,000, to be expended in the construction of a patent slip in Victoria harbor.

FROM ALBANY.—The schooner Codfish arrived from Albany on Sunday with a quantity of fish oil and tallow for Sprout & Co. The brig Byzantium, loading at the mill with lumber for Victoria, was to sail on Wednesday last.

NEW ZEALAND.—The St. John Journal reasons to believe that, so are concerned, the Dominion amended by striking off the article.