

nection with the graphic account given in the "Vision of Niers the Plowman," and other contemporary writings of the terrible social condition of England in the fourteenth century, would do much to clear up, if it did not justify, such views as those held by Wychf, defended by Prof. Milligan, and propagated by Henry George.

The refusal of Mr. Gladstone to go up to the House of Lords will do much to restore him to more than his former popularity, and will be warmly approved of by his admirers in America. No title could add any lustre to his name. It is well enough for the Northcotes, Lowes, Hardys, and even a Macaulay, a Tennyson, or a Disraeli to take a peerage, but it is gratifying to find now and then a man who prefers to be known to history under his own name, and who thinks he can afford to trust his fame to posterity without trying to enhance it by such adventitious distinction. It is to be hoped that no name will appear on his monument beside that by which he has been known for half a century—William Ewart Gladstone.

One of the Indians belonging to Poundmaker's band got the better of Gen. Middleton in the celebrated interview at Battleford. "Breaking-through-the-Ice," the Indian referred to, after making his statement expressed a wish that his mother, an old woman with a blue handkerchief on her head, should have a chance to speak. "We don't listen to women," said the General. "Then what's the reason the great mother (the Queen) sends her word here!" said Mr. Breaking-through-the-Ice; to which the General replied: "She has councillors who are men." This was obviously no satisfactory answer to the Indian's sharp question, nor can any be given. The truth is that so long as the British throne is filled, and well filled, by a woman, just as long will the opponents of woman's political enfranchisement find this question a stumbling-block.

If Queen Victoria were a mere figure-head this would still be so, but it is well-known that she has a mind of her own, and that she frequently insists in having her own way, especially in matters of foreign policy. There is good reason to believe that for two weeks past she has been using all her powers of persuasion, if not of intrigue, to secure a change of advisers. She promptly accepted Mr. Gladstone's resignation, and when Lord Salisbury declined to take office unless he received certain pledges of support from the Liberals she sought to induce Mr. Gladstone to make the required promises. Of course, in the long-run her councillors are virtually the choice of the people, who can send Mr. Gladstone back to advise her if they please; but within certain limits she can wield a powerful influence in matters of State, and the present Queen has not allowed that influence to become less if she has not increased it. No one knows this better than Mr. Gladstone, who has been twice Prime Minister, and to whom Her Majesty has no doubt given many a bad quarter of an hour. In a well-known magazine article, comparing the British with the American constitution, after reciting at some length the prerogatives and functions of the occupant of the British throne, he says: "It is plain, then, that there is abundant scope for mental activity to be at work under the gorgeous robes of Royalty." Yes, not Gen. Middleton, but Breaking-through-the-Ice was right in his idea of the Queen's position.

ONLOOKER.

## General News.

### CANADIAN.

Sir Leonard Tilley will sail for Ottawa on the 9th July. His health is much improved.

Five new cases of smallpox have been reported in Montreal, within the last two days.

Mr. Walter Shanly has been selected as the Liberal-Conservative nominee for South Grenville, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Mr. W. T. Benson.

The Toronto City Council at a special meeting last week, adopted the estimates for the year, and fixed the rate of taxation at seventeen mills on the dollar.

James Norley, aged 12, son of S. Norley, Peterborough, was drowned in the Otonabee river, on the 21st, while catching driftwood.

At Kingston, on June 21st, a man named George Davis, while drunk, dragged his wife and newly-born infant out of bed, and put them in the street. He was afterwards arrested and sent to gaol for a month.

Horbert Maddox, a youth between 15 and 16 years of age, son of Mr. Thomas B. Maddox, Manager of the Western Publishing Company, London, was drowned while bathing in the north branch of the Thames.

A boy named Smithers, 10 years of age, was drowned in the canal near Montreal, on Thursday last, while trying to save a companion. Deceased heroically jumped in, although he could not swim.

Low lying lands in the vicinity of Belleville have suffered somewhat from the very heavy rainfall of Monday morning. The crops in general, however, present a splendid appearance, and fruit promises to be abundant.

During the gale which blew steadily all day in the vicinity of Gravenhurst, on the 22nd, a tree standing beside the Musquash road, near the railway crossing was blown down, instantly killing a man named Richard Newton, who was walking along the road at the time. Newton leaves a family of two.

Farmers from various parts of Ontario say the condition of the crops throughout the Province is such as to promise a splendid yield of all kinds of grain and roots. Hay is likely to be a short crop.

The St. Catharines City Committee of the Dominion Alliance are consulting to consider what proceedings should be taken to punish the rioters at the recent Scott Act meeting, who have sent further threats of violence. The ring-leaders likely to be prosecuted are E. Dorr and A. Bayne, saloon-keepers, and J. Malcolmson, bookkeeper at the brewery.

The condition of the crops in the Province of Manitoba is of the most promising character, and farming prospects are reported to be better in every branch than ever before in the history of the Province. A wheat yield of 7,179,530 bushels is estimated. There is every indication of an early harvest, the season being two weeks earlier this year than the average.

The Grand Lodge of Canada (Ontario) of the I. O. G. T., opened its thirty-second session Tuesday morning in Hamilton. A resolution was adopted appointing a committee to suggest measures for taking aggressive action in the direction of total prohibition. A resolution thanking those members of the House of Commons who assisted in defeating the Senate amendments to the Scott Act was also adopted. Mr. F. S. Spence, Editor of the CANADA CITIZEN, and Secretary of the Alliance, was elected Grand Worthy Chief Templar for the ensuing year.

A great deal of impatience exists among our boys at the front at the detention in the Northwest, when there now exists very little reason for their remaining there. Of course, the delay is caused by the following up of Big Bear and his braves, but it is out of all reason keeping such a large force in the field, when those of the troops, who have volunteered to remain on active service in the Northwest, would form a sufficient force to cope with the rebellious chief and his insignificant band of warriors. The troops are getting enough of this sort of warfare; forcing their way through an almost impassable country, and suffering from the heat during the day and the intense cold at night.

**FIRES.**—A despatch from Gladstone, Manitoba, announces the burning on June 17th, of the old Union Hotel and registry office. They were owned by Mr. Cameron, and Mr. Mason. Cameron lost two children and J. Logie one child in the fire. Only two bodies have been recovered. The fire was originated by the children (who are all under 3 years of age) lighting matches. —At Penetanguishene, on June 20, Tate's planing mill was totally destroyed by fire. Cause unknown; loss about \$3,000; insurance \$800, in the Commercial Union.

### UNITED STATES.

Hog cholera is causing great loss to the farmers near Shelbyville, Ill.

Gen. Grant dictated ten pages of his book on Tuesday, the bracing air of the mountains having strengthened his throat. He feels much better.

Instructions have been issued to the American Customs officials to impose the ordinary duty on fish and fish products of Canada and Newfoundland after July 1st.

Several linen, print and cotton mills are shutting down in the States, the markets being over-stocked. Thousands of people will be thrown out of work.

Within a week 21 persons living in Meriden, Conn., have been poisoned by eating ice cream bought of street vendors. Some of the sick are in a critical condition.

An insect called the dumb locust is committing ravages in the apple trees in some of the southwest counties in Virginia. The trees are dying by hundreds.

Farm and railroad property and crops for many miles in Southern Illinois have suffered serious injury from floods caused by heavy rains and the bursting of a waterspout.

Crop reports from the principal wheat-growing counties of California indicate that the yield will be only about three-sevenths of that of last year. The fruit crop, however, will be large and good.

The June estimate of the wheat yield in Kansas made by the State Board of Agriculture is proved by the results of the harvest in twenty-seven counties to have been fifteen per cent. below the actual yield.

There is great excitement at Fort Reno, Indian Territory, over a threatened outbreak by the southern Cheyennes, who are making preparations to go on the war-path. Troops have been despatched to quell the disturbance.

On Monday, near Lancaster, Pa., a gang of workmen on the Pennsylvania Railroad stepped from the north to the south track to avoid a train, when they were run into by the mixed train. Harry Kennedy, Wm. Conover and Jos. McIlvaney were instantly killed.