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We invite the attention of our readers to a very important and interesting map and article, on another page, relating to trans-Pacific cable routes, and it appears to us that either Great Britain, her Colonies and the United States combined, or the United States *separately*, must adopt the Northern route, as projected and advocated by Mr. Gisborne.

The latest report concerning Emin Pasha is to the effect that he is in excellent health, that his safety is assured and that he had obtained a remarkable victory over the Dervishes.

The Colonial Secretary declined to interfere with the Jesuits' Estates Bill in response to the petition of the Evangelical Alliance, on the ground that the matter rested entirely with the Canadian Government.

Some excitement was caused in the British House of Commons by Sir Richard Webster's veracity being called in question by Sir Charles Russell. The Attorney-General's explanations were considered defective.

The Quebec Legislature was prorogued on the 21st inst. Among the most important measures of the session were the act to extend the franchise to the sons of farmers and students, and another to disfranchise Government employees.

Some of the United States Republican senators took their revenge on Mr. Murat Halstead for his action in criticizing their conduct, some time ago, by subjecting his nomination to the German mission to unflattering discussion.

The people of St. François de la Beauce were startled some time ago by the sight of an extraordinary meteor in the shape of a luminous ball, which darted through the sky, and by its fiery gleams lit up the whole country side.

The Club National, of this city, on the motion of Mr. Gouin, recently passed a resolution disowning the *Toronto Globe* as an organ of the Liberal party, on account of its sudden change on the question of the Jesuits' Estates bill.

The collapse of the Comptoir d'Escompte has crippled the producing power of France. It is thought however, that confidence will be restored by the efforts made to reorganize the institution. Large subscriptions have been promised to that end.

The Hon. Col. Rhodes, Provincial Minister of Agriculture, attended at the convocation of the Montreal Veterinary College last week. Sir Wm. Dawson, Prof. Penhallow and the president of the institution, Dr. McEachran, also took part in the proceedings.

The Santa Clara gold mines in Lower California, which were announced, some time ago, to be a new

Eldorado, have turned out most disappointing—the precious metal being scattered thinly over a large surface and the cost of working eating up the profits of the miners.

An event of considerable importance in dynastic history is the meeting of the Queens of England and Spain on the territory of the latter sovereign. During one short but eventful period of English history the King of Spain and the Queen of England were husband and wife.

The thirteen members who voted for Col. O'Brien's motion for the disallowance of the Jesuits' Estates Bill were: Messrs. Barron, Bell, Charlton, Cockburn, Denison, Macdonald, of Huron, McCarthy, McNeill, Scriver, Sutherland, Tyrwhitt, Wallace and Col. O'Brien himself.

A bill has been introduced into the Canadian Senate for the extension of the Blake Act so as to make it illegal throughout the Dominion to carry a revolver without special license. The frequency of murders or attempted murders during the last twelve months has made some such measure an urgent necessity.

The discovery at Zurich, Switzerland, of a manufactory of bombs, which had not the authority of the law, and the alleged connection therewith of Russians, has set the Government of St. Petersburg on the alert for signs of Nihilist conspiracy. Further developments are anxiously awaited and additional safeguards have been taken to protect the life of the Czar.

A report, based on the municipal returns for 1886, that the population of this province has undergone material decrease since the census of 1881, has happily proved unfounded. There has, it is true, been emigration from some of the rural districts, but it has been more than compensated for by the natural growth of the population and by the arrival of immigrants.

The President has appointed Mr. Robert T. Lincoln American Minister to Great Britain. Mr. Lincoln has had some experience in public life, having served in one Cabinet, and his appearance in London is sure to be welcomed by hosts of persons who held his father's name in veneration. Col. Fred. Grant, another President's son, has received the mission to Austria.

It was apprehended at first that President Harrison's Behring's Sea proclamation was likely to lead to international controversy. Its wording, however, is susceptible of a construction which need cause no alarm on that head. Mr. Blaine seems to be fond of *equivokes* in his foreign policy which, while giving him prestige at home, creates no risks abroad. Vagueness, however, is an old defect of international diplomacy.

The mind cure or Christian science movement has received a shock which will seriously arrest its progress through the death of three prominent professors of that system. One of them, Mrs. Bertha Hoyt, of Birmingham, Conn., obstinately refused to have medical attendance, and the physicians who were called in, when it was too late, expressed the opinion that her life would have probably have been prolonged but for her persistent delusion.

The vote on Col. O'Brien's motion in favour of disallowing the Jesuits' Estates Act was a surprise to the House and to the public, only 13 being for, while 188 were against, the motion. Among the chief speakers against the bill were Col. O'Brien,

Mr. Dalton McCarthy, Mr. Clark Wallace and Mr. Scriver, while on the side of the Government's policy were the Minister of Justice, Mr. Colby, the Hon. Mr. Laurier, Sir John Macdonald, Sir Richard Cartwright and some others. The Hon. Mr. Mackenzie, who is extremely feeble and is rarely seen in the House after six o'clock, created considerable enthusiasm by coming in between one and two in the morning to register his vote.

The Right Hon. John Bright, who has, for a considerable time, been in declining health, passed away peacefully and painlessly on the morning of the 27th of March. Mr. Bright, who was the son of Jacob Bright, a prominent cotton spinner and manufacturer, of Rochdale, was born in that place on the 16th of November, 1811, and was, consequently, in his 78th year. At an early age he was taken into his father's business. His power as a speaker was soon recognized; he took a prominent part in the anti-Corn Law agitation, and in 1844 entered Parliament as member for Durham. He quickly rose to a leading position on the Liberal side of the House of Commons, and for about forty years was one of England's most distinguished public men, his fame as an orator extending to every portion of the civilized world. Mr. Bright held office twice under Mr. Gladstone, as President of the Board of Trade and as Chancellor of the Exchequer of Lancaster. He separated from his old leader on the question of Home Rule for Ireland, which he strongly opposed. Both the Conservative and Liberal leaders have paid tributes to his memory.

Dr. Robert Palmer Howard, Dean of the Medical Faculty of McGill University, died at his residence, Union Avenue, in this city, on the 28th inst., after a comparatively brief illness. The deceased physician, who was universally esteemed, and whose loss will be severely felt by the institution with which he had been so long connected, was born in Montreal on the 12th of January, 1823. He was of Irish descent and was a kinsman of the late Dr. Henry Howard, of Longue Pointe Asylum, and of the Harbour Master, Capt. Thomas Howard. His son is Dr. R. J. B. Howard. The late Dean of the Faculty studied medicine at McGill College, completing his course in Great Britain and France. In 1849 he began a practice, which was soon firmly established and assumed large dimensions. He succeeded the late Dr. Holmes as Professor of Medical Theory and Practice. He held the position of President of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, of the Canada Medical Association and of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Quebec. He was for nearly a quarter of a century an attending physician at the General Hospital, was a member of the Provincial Medical Board, and held other offices of responsibility. He contributed largely to the literature of his profession and was regarded far and wide as an authority. He was twice married—to the daughter of Judge Chipman, of Halifax, by whom he leaves a son, and to Miss Severs, of London, Eng.

THE ILLUSTRATION OF THE NORTH-WEST.

Our readers may recall that, when the *DOMINION ILLUSTRATED* was established, one of the objects which its founders undertook to promote was the dissemination of needed knowledge touching the resources, scenery and people of our great North-west. Although in recent years a great deal has