

England and France, but to the Society of Arts of London is due the credit of inaugurating and carrying out the first exhibition of a truly national character. The effects of the annual exhibitions, held under the auspices of the Society, were so manifest and so important that in 1798 the French government decided on holding a grand national exhibition at which a special prize of a gold medal was offered to the exhibitor who could deal the heaviest blow at British trade. This exhibition, which was regarded as a national triumph, boasted of only 110 exhibitors, but during the succeeding 50 years the interest in these national fairs steadily increased, culminating in 1849 in the last of the purely national exhibitions, in which 449,4 exhibitors took part. Similar exhibitions to those held in France were held in other European countries prior to 1851, when the Prince Consort had the satisfaction of seeing successfully carried out his grand conception of a world's international exhibition. During the months in which the exhibition was held 6,000,000 persons visited Crystal Palace and viewed with amazement the panorama of the world's industry and products as displayed in the 17,000 exhibits there collected together, but if the success of this exhibition was indicative of the progress of civilization, how much more was that of the centennial exhibition held in Philadelphia in 1876 to commemorate the independence of the United States. In addition to the main building, which was upward of a third of a mile in length and between four and five hundred feet in breadth, 189 halls were erected in which the products of every country, in every clime, manufactures of all peoples, including all branches of industry, were admirably displayed. During its progress 9,000,000 persons visited the exhibition, and though it is probable that but few of them inspected more than one of the 60,000 exhibits displayed, the great majority must have gained new ideas respecting the civilization of other lands.

As a factor in civilization, exhibitions may be counted as one of the most important; through them men are taken out of the narrow groove of localism, they learn to recognize the defects in their own agricultural industries, or other methods, and to appropriate to themselves the fruits of a riper civilization.

DEATH OF A GREAT GERMAN.

Professor VonRanke, who died at Berlin last month, in the 91st year of his age, was born in Thuringia, December 21st, 1795. On March 31st, 1885, he completed the sixtieth year of his own professional career in the University of Berlin. The work that gave him his continental reputation was "The History of the Popes," and this was really a continuation of his "Princes and People of Southern Europe." It appeared in 1834, and the review of it by Lord Macaulay in the *Edinburgh* would alone have made VonRanke's name familiar to the English-speaking world. The greatest work undertaken by this wonderful German was a history of the world in nine volumes. Of this he had completed only six volumes, but it is understood he has left notes and documents from which at least one more volume can, without difficulty, be compiled. He was a man of great mental power, but some of his works exhibit prejudices, both national and religious, that are hardly consistent with the character of an impartial historian.

It is not, we believe, generally known in this country that Dr. VonRanke's wife was an Irish lady, whose maiden name had been Miss Greaves.

AN INTERESTING FORECAST.

The air is so full of politics and political rumors that one can scarce breathe in or think of anything in which politics are not concerned. With the adjournment of the Dominion Parliament, after a long session in which the railway interests of the Eastern Provinces received full consideration, comes the rumor of a dissolution, and an appeal to the electors throughout the country. The *Ottawa Journal* has obtained, from what it considers reliable sources, two estimates of the probable result of a general election. By these conjectures it will be seen that both Liberals and Conservatives are hopeful, scanning the prospects of their respective parties through rose-tinted glasses. According to the Liberal estimate, the returns will be as follows:—

	Liberals.	Conservatives.
New Brunswick.....	11	5
Nova Scotia.....	10	11
Prince Edward Island.....	4	2
Ontario.....	52	40
Quebec.....	40	25
Manitoba.....	3	2
British Columbia.....	0	6
North West Territories.....	1	3
Totals.....	121	94

The above figures, according to the Conservative estimate, are wide of the mark, the following being the correct estimate:—

	Conservatives.	Liberals.
Ontario.....	57	35
Quebec.....	33	32
Nova Scotia.....	13	8
New Brunswick.....	9	7
Prince Edward Island.....	2	4
Manitoba.....	2	3
British Columbia.....	6	6
North West Territories.....	3	1
Totals.....	125	90

These prognostications are interesting. According to the Liberal estimate, the Conservatives will carry Nova Scotia by a majority of 1, the North West Territories by 2, all Conservative members in British Columbia, while the Liberals will carry New Brunswick by a majority of 6, P. E. Island 2, Quebec 15, Ontario 12, and Manitoba 1, making the Liberal majority in Parliament 27. The estimates of both parties agree as to the result in Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, British Columbia, and the North-West Territories; but according to the Conservative prediction, that party will have in Nova Scotia a majority of 5 members, New Brunswick 2, Quebec 1, and Ontario 22, giving the Conservatives a majority of 35 in the next Parliament. These estimates, if closely studied by our readers, will be found both interesting and amusing.

SUMMER RESORTS IN ACADIA.

Tourists are already beginning to fly from the heat of the American cities, and while not a few of them will bend their steps to fashionable resorts, such as Newport and Orchard Beach, thousands will prefer to seek the quiet and the cool refreshing breezes which can alone be obtained in our pretty Acadian resorts. True, the hotel accommodation, both in Halifax and other provincial watering places, is not calculated to inspire the American visitors with any great degree of wonder at our progressiveness as a people; but as the hotels are, generally speaking, clean and comfortable, and the charges moderate, they will, perhaps, suit a much larger class of visitors than would patronize more pretentious establishments. It is a curious fact, but nevertheless true, that this Province is better known to American tourists than it is to our own people. How few Nova Scotians there are who have grown enthusiastic over the beauties of the Bras d'Or Lake, and enjoyed a week of Nature's sight-seeing, such as is to be had in the pretty village of Baddeck. How many have visited Parrsboro', clambered up the winding road leading to the summit of Partridge Island, or wandered on the Minas shore, enjoying the fresh, cool breezes of Fundy Bay? To how many are known the charms which year after year attract an ever-increasing number of tourists to the sloping hills of Digby, overlooking the historical Annapolis Basin; and in fruit season, have revelled in the unlimited supply of cherries, purchasable for a song, in Bear River and neighborhood? To the citizens of Baltimore, Chester has become a well-known summer resort, but how few of our people have ever sailed upon the peaceful waters of its Bay, and viewed from Aspotogan's height, the glorious panorama spreading to east and west? In all of these places, boating, bathing, fishing, and picnicking can be obtained and indulged in without interminable requests for dollars, such as a tourist at Orchard Beach has to endure? We are glad to have the American tourists visit us periodically; but we think it is time Nova Scotians began likewise to appreciate the attractiveness of some of our summer resorts. There are many of them, besides those named by us, in any one of which our business men and wearied housekeepers might enjoy a week or more of those pleasures which quiet, freedom from care, and change of scene alone can secure.

DANGER IN INDIA.

The present time will be considered by posterity as a period of general social discontent. All over the civilized or half-civilized world, subterranean rumblings are heard, breaking out here and there into dangerous volcanoes, and elsewhere threatening more general destruction. The laboring masses in the English-speaking countries have caught the socialistic infection from their disaffected European neighbors. The Czar of all the Russians moves cautiously about his palace, devising plans for foreign aggression which will turn the course of nihilistic violence from his devoted head. All central Europe is a hot-bed of socialism, while the extreme poverty of the Italian peasant will soon make him a ready convert to any revolutionary theory.

Looking outside of the European and civilized American nations, we find British India on the high-way to a general uprising, the horrors of which we can only estimate by the terrible experiences of the past thirty years. The greatest distress prevails among the *ryots*, or farmers, who are now forced to seek any other employment that offers, and to accept the paltry remuneration of five or six rupees (\$2.50 or \$3.00) per month. Again, the vast gulf created between the Europeans and the native tribes by difference of race and religion, is still further widened by the existence of two systems of criminal laws, the one for Europeans, the other for native Hindoos. Even in the laws which both races have in common, a most irritating distinction is recognized between the governing race and the governed. A third cause of disturbance is found in the retention of some native customs and laws such as infant marriage, and the forced abstinence of widows from re-marriage. These customs have always been a prolific source of violence and murder.

The native press in India is not behindhand in discussing these social questions, and no doubt does its full share towards fomenting discord. Nevertheless, recent occurrences would seem to indicate that the masses were being acted upon by some mischievous influence from without. The glance of suspicion is at once directed towards Russia by a remembrance of the events of 1857, and a consideration of her own peculiar methods of diplomacy. Already mass meetings, at some of which as many as 15,000 were present, have been held at various points; and it is said that the proceedings had a thoroughly European ring about them. However this may be, the government which next takes the helm of state in Britain will have many difficulties to meet; and among the greatest and most urgent is the agrarian discontent in India.