

enough for all useful purposes. In these days when economy is a necessity and taxes are always increasing, it is not worth while to spend money for the sake of ornamentation. Mr. Mowat's majority ought to overrule him in this matter.

Considerable discussion has been going on in the Montreal *Witness* over the proposed visit to the city of an Evangelist, the Rev. Mr. Hammond. Some of it has been reasonable, and some the reverse of that; some of it kindly and Christian, and some of it anything else. But the general impression left when all is said is that the Rev. Mr. Hammond will not meet with an enthusiastic welcome from all parties. And that is not to be wondered at. This getting up of revivals is hardly the work to which a thoughtful Christianity can lend itself. It means an appeal to what is merely emotional in man—it fosters fanaticism and very often brings about a most unhealthy state of affairs in churches. Revival is needed by all Christians, but it would be well for us to define what we mean by it. If Christians would exercise more brotherly kindness; if they would be less disposed to think and speak evil; if they would exercise their reason in theology, and their theology in their worldly work, they would bring about the kind of revival very much needed in the city of Montreal.

While Mr. Parnell is asking for sentimental and substantial sympathy from the people of this continent many of the Irish at home are doing their best to make a demonstration to the effect that they are worthy of neither. They are allowing their discontent to break out into open rebellion. In the County of Mayo, the police protecting the minor offices of the law, have been violently opposed by the peasantry, and in the conflict several persons, some of them women, have been wounded. The tenantry on Lord Leitrim's estates are excited and angry, and Cork is patrolled by mounted police. This is the natural result of the political agitation which Mr. Parnell and his sympathisers have been carrying on. The "patriots" who provoked the disturbance will escape—as they always do—while their poor befooled victims will have to pay the penalty of resistance to forces they cannot successfully oppose. It is a pity that public attention should be turned from the true issue—the giving of money to get bread for the starving—and directed to that which is as hopeless as it is foolish.

Speaking of this, the *New York Herald* very well remarks:—

"When Mr. Parnell arrived here the *Herald* was at the pains to advise him that if he was sincerely desirous of alleviating the distress of his suffering countrymen he ought to drop the political feature of his programme of agitation and endeavour to raise all the money he could to save his people from starvation. We pointed out to him that his first duty was to find bread, and that when that had been obtained it would be time enough to talk about breaking up the British government. The correspondence we printed yesterday from the city of Dublin shows the soundness of our advice. The government, it appears, is willing to help the landlords to give their tenants and workmen employment, by advancing, at a low rate of interest, loans which shall be used in internal improvements. Mr. Parnell, by his policy of obstruction and revolution, has so frightened some of the timid landlords that they will not accept the government loan, and as a consequence their tenants have to starve. The Parnell policy may be all very nice fun for the great agitator and his friends, but it is death to the poor people who are obliged to watch his meteoric career through England and the United States."

Prince Bismarck is ill, dying they say, and muttering his own version of "*vanitas vanitatum*" as he goes down to the grave. It is unutterably sad. A man with a great genius, an iron will, an indomitable purpose, a keen appreciation of times and men, and who has devoted them all to the known and supposed interests of his country, dying under the apprehension that he has laboured for nothing that is permanent, and spent his strength in vain. And the painful part of it is, that this is not merely a vagary haunting a worn-out brain. The Prince has managed to build up an immense army, to train officers for it—as the officers of no other nation were trained—to ward off the crisis until he was ready for it, to crush, humiliate and impoverish France, to assume the right of speaking last, and decisively in European Councils, to consolidate the German Empire and crown it with military glory.

But ever since the first intoxication of victory passed, Prince Bismarck has had to live a hard and wearisome life. For the opposition in the Riechstag could not be silenced by Uhlan sabres, and they did not always believe in the wisdom of measures proposed by the imperious Chancellor—and the Chancellor's temper was none of the best. Battles were constantly pressed upon him which tried his strength to the utmost; the church—the liberals in politics—the friends of free trade, and the advocates of popular liberties, were opposed to him. Notwithstanding the twelve milliards drawn from France, and the accession of Alsace and Lorraine, Germany has remained in miserable and discontented poverty—while France has put forth extraordinary powers of recuperation—has recovered all and more than all her old prosperity—has a stable government which gives almost universal satisfaction, and is in a position—if she should ever be in the mind—to assume her traditional position as a military power.

War with Russia now, or at any time within the next twenty years, would be a very serious, if not disastrous thing for Germany. France is well disposed toward peace, but France has not forgotten Gravelotte and Sedan, and that crowning of William which took place at Versailles—and Germany cannot contemplate a war with any power without asking what part France is likely to play in the drama. No wonder that Bismarck's failing brain causes failing in his heart. He has laboured hard and long for what looks very much like vanity.

I heard a knight who once was young,
Thus to his saner friends complain—
"O take away my pen and tongue,
Or give me, give me, back my brain." Q.

The colony of New Zealand has passed through the throes of a Ministerial crisis little less exciting than that we have endured in the Province of Quebec, and in many respects bearing a similarity to our own position. A dissolution of the Legislative Assembly, followed by a general election, resulted in the Grey Ministry being defeated at the polls, though the leader of the Opposition, Sir William Fox, failed to secure a seat in the new Parliament, and therefore recourse was had to Mr. John Hall as a leader of the dominant party. He is pronounced to be an able and experienced politician. The Grey Government had been defeated in the previous Parliament, and an amendment, in reply to the address, was proposed by Mr. Hall, which was only carried by a majority of two. After this Sir George Grey tendered his resignation, and Mr. Hall undertook to form a Ministry. A secession of two members, who had defeated the Government, threatened to bring on another crisis, but an endeavour to obstruct business and force discussion on a vote of want of confidence was frustrated by a firm stand on the part of Mr. Hall and his *confreres*. They insisted on passing measures which the previous Government had promised but failed to give, and they also refused to entertain the question of non-confidence until they had acquainted themselves with the position of the finances of the colony and other matters with which the country desired to become acquainted.

For nine days, it is stated, a dead lock seemed inevitable, so closely tied were the two parties, and it was feared another general election would have to be resorted to; but at last four of the Auckland members joined the Ministerial party, and the Opposition has been further weakened by disunion in their ranks. The Government which is able and honest, will now, it is to be hoped, be able to carry on the business of the colony.

The finances of New Zealand appear to be in anything but an encouraging state. In last year's revenue they had a deficiency of £393,939, and the estimated expenditure of the current year shows an excess of £532,934; but this is not the worst, as the returns for the first quarter indicate that the total deficiency for the year may reach over £900,000, as the estimates of the revenue appear to have been over sanguine and it is found impossible to at once make any great reduction in the expenditure. It is feared recourse will have to be had to increased taxation, and business is much depressed and the rate of wages for labour very low.

EDITOR.