

WEEKLY MONITOR

The Weekly Monitor.

BRIDGETOWN, FEBRUARY 19, 1879.

OTTAWA.

The capital of the Dominion must be a busy place just now. The accession of a new Sovereign to the Throne—a new Viceroy—a General Election—or a change of Ministry always tends to impart unwanted interest to a parliamentary session. Never since the confederated Provinces were linked together in a Dominion—the colonial nationality—has general expectancy been so excited at Ottawa as it is now. The heir of the proudest Dukelet in Scotland occupies the Vice-Regal chair of State. A Prince Royal, his amiable wife, is imparting additional dignity and lustre to the drawing-room of Rideau Hall—the Governor-General's Canadian palace—and by her example, she is shedding a refining influence on social life at Ottawa.

Never before, perhaps, has the Canadian capital been so crowded with eager outsiders as it is today. Thither some have been led by curiosity—and others by interest. Visitors, in multitude, from all parts of the Dominion are no doubt there, haunting the lobbies, gazing the members, and pestering cabinet ministers with unreasonable importunity. Office-seekers, it may be surprised, make up no inconsiderable portion of the throng, who are thus darkening the door-ways, and crowding the corridors of the Parliament House.

The champions of the various industrial interests of every kind, will elbow each other in the crowded lobbies, each advocating a protective policy and such fiscal arrangements as he conceives most conducive to the upholding of the specific object which he has in view; for each imagines that what will be for his benefit will be advantageous for everybody else. How far outside clamor in the lobbies will influence the policy and action of legislation remains to be seen.

We would fain hope that stern statesmanship, with inflexible firmness, will so far assert its independence, and maintain its dignity, as not be intimidated or browbeaten by outside boisterous importunity. The financial minister should industriously seek information from every legitimate or available source, and in exercising the functions of his important office, he should not be unduly influenced by external dictation, but honestly act in accordance with his own convictions of what is inherently just, and most likely in his view to promote the general well-being and prosperity of the Dominion.

It is to be hoped that, during the present Legislative Session, party political feuds will be suffered to die, or at least lie dormant; that no factional hostility will be arrayed against good governmental measures, and that the predominant party will not turn a deaf ear to the suggestions and remonstrances of the Opposition. Ours is a new and noble country, and the energies of its best men, instead of being frittered away in political warfare, should be concentrated in the development of its immense resources, and in the up-building of a nationality which is destined to occupy a proud position among the civilized communities, which derive their origin from Anglo-Saxonism. Its extent "from ocean to ocean" is something grand to contemplate, and the field it offers for European emigration is without a parallel on the surface of our globe.

GAMBLING.

A bill was recently introduced in the Vermont Legislature prohibiting gambling of all kinds—even the grab-bag at church-fairs! Cards, dice and billiard cues are not the only means used in the practice of gambling. All games, of either chance or skill, are practically gambling operations. Whenever by these means, money passes from one to another without a substantial equivalent, the spirit of gambling is detected. Horse-racing, boat-racing, pugilistic encounters in the ring, and lotteries all come under the same category. The moral tendencies of them all are the same. Mercantile speculations are sometimes little better, morally considered than are adventures of the far-table. Where the rights of *meum et tuum* are lost sight of—in other words, where there is an exchange of property without fairly balanced equivalents, the spirit of gambling, though behind a screen, is fraudulently lurking. To this cause, in no small measure, may the present depression in trade be attributed. The spirit of fraud may pervade the counting-house as well as the gambling hells, where pecuniary and moral ruin is wrought by the aid of cards and dice. The gambler's slang praises are getting into the mouths of decent people, who are unconscious of the import of the words they are uttering. "I bet," though often innocently and carelessly spoken, smacks of the billiard-room, the turf, and the cock pit. It should be eschewed by everybody, and especially by people of taste and refinement.

We are not at all sanguine that the good people of Vermont will succeed in suppressing gambling by legislation; the *pulpit* and the press may do much in forming a public opinion, which is more potent in opposing immorality than are legislative enactments and possess the best one outside of Hali-

OUR POOR.

In a recent conversation with one of the overseers of the poor for this poor district, we learn that a much larger percentage of poor persons are, and have been applying for help from the overseers, than in former winters. This is, no doubt, owing to the impossibility of procuring work, and the prospect is that it will continue so. A large number of poor persons are being cared for by the overseers in our midst, and several others are paid so much per week, and are left in the hands of friends. Taking it all together from the outlook at present, we shall be called upon at the next town-meeting to make a very much larger bill for the support of the poor than was provided for at the town meeting held in October last. Almost every year this occurs, and we have no hesitancy in saying that it is owing to the wretched system that is year after year adopted in the district. Some more effective steps should be taken, and at once, in reference to this matter. We are paying far too much taxes every year in this direction, and it is time the rate-payers looked more closely into the matter. Two years ago there was a move made to try and establish a county poor-house for the benefit of all, but it appears that this is impracticable, owing to the discrepancy in the amount of taxes paid by the various districts in the county—some paying, like ourselves, an enormous amount per head, and others comparatively nothing. The only remedy we can suggest for the difficulty is this: let us buy a suitable farm for our own district, and do it at once, before another thousand dollars or so is squandered away. We do not wish our present overseers to think that we are blaming them for existing circumstances: the rate payers themselves are the parties to blame. Let a meeting be called at once, and ways and means provided for the purchase of a suitable place for the poor, and we shall have less taxes to pay in future. Our taxes have more than doubled in the past five years, and this year from what we learn the prospect is that we shall have to pay a still larger amount.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Our military forces in South Africa have encountered a disastrous reverse in a skirmish, which swelled into the proportions of a battle, and terminated in an admitted defeat. A number of British officers fell in the conflict, as well as about five hundred of rank and file. The foe was a large force of Zulus, a warlike tribe of the great Negro family. The British troops were misled by an artful stratagem of the enemy into a dangerous position, and thus became exposed to a terrible slaughter, which amounted to a savage massacre. As soon as the appalling tidings of this bloody event reached the ears of the British Government, prompt and energetic measures were adopted to make the enemy feel the potency of British valor and the invincibility of soldiers, that was victorious at Waterloo, and irreducible at Sebastopol. Twelve regiments with ample munitions of war, without delay, have been ordered to the scene of the late conflict, and are now being borne away "over the ocean wave" in a number of steamers, which in a few days will reach their destination. As we call to mind what feats were accomplished at Delhi and at Lucknow twenty years ago by a handful of British troops, we have no fears but that the Zulus, like the refractory Sepoys, will be chastised into quiescent submission. The speech of the Commons is to be regretted, however, that adequate and timely means had not been employed to prevent the calamitous occurrence to which we have referred. There has been a lack of vigilance somewhere. Proper precaution could not have been exercised to guard against such a disaster. "Prevention is better than cure" is an axiom in the mouths of the medical faculty; and the principle which it recognizes is as applicable to some other matters as it is to the physical "that the flesh is heir to". The statesman or the soldier, as well as the physician, should forsake, as far as possible, contingencies and ward off evils by preventive measures.

MIDDLETON.—The Reform Club here was entertained on Saturday evening, 27th inst., by Professor L. Bloomfield Page who delivered his deservedly celebrated lecture on Scientific Subjects. Mr. Page treated his varied subjects with such ease and freedom as to impress his audience that he knows "whereof he speaks." Being familiar with his subjects, and having a large variety of chemicals, together with the necessary apparatus to demonstrate the reception which he had accorded to himself by His Majesty's representative, I am also commanded by the Queen to thank him for his courtesy and kind manner in which they have welcomed her daughter.

The contribution of Canadian products and manufactures to the great national exhibition in Paris last summer was the largest of any nation. The report of the Canadian Commissioners will be laid before you when received.

I am pleased to inform you that the amount awarded to the Fishery Claim under the name of Princess Louise has been given to an audience composed almost exclusively of town folk, the unpassable state of the roads precluding any one from the surrounding country attending. There was a good house, however, and the performance was immensely appreciated by all who had the pleasure of witnessing it. For an amateur club we confidently assert that we have the best one outside of Halifax.

OLD AGES.—Below we give the names and ages of five persons, brothers and sisters, who were raised in this vicinity. Mrs. James Taylor of Cornwallis, 98; Mr. Benjamin Foster of Berwick, 97; Mr. Samuel Foster of Hampton, 95; Mrs. Frank Tupper of Cornwallis, 93; Mr. Philip Foster of Cornwallis, 77; making a total of 420 years. The grandmother of the above died at the age of 105 years.

—The "Bay Pilot" published at St. Andrews, N. B., gives a list of twenty-three aged persons now living in that place.

—Of the twenty-three, — four are 80, four 81, two 82, one 83, two 84, two 85, three 86, two 87, one is 88, one 91, one 92.

Here are twenty-three living witnesses to the healthiness of the Shire Town of Charlotte Co."

VALENTINES.—On St. Valentine's day the wife of Mr. Archibald Gillis, of Dalhousie west, presented him with a couple of valentines in the shape of twin daughters. Our informant says mother and children are doing well.

SOCIALS.—A sociable will be held at the residence of Mr. W. W. Saunders in this town, on Tuesday evening, the 25th inst. Tickets, 25cts.; proceeds to be applied to the Parsonage fund.

—The recent thaw made good skating and sleighing on the river, and on Saturday and Monday quite a number of teams and skaters were enjoying themselves theron.

DONATION.—The friends of the Rev. N. Vidotto intend giving him a donation visit on Thursday, the 4th of March.

DYEING.—The subscriber is agent for Gilbert's Lane Dye Works, of St. John, N. B. Sure to give satisfaction! **FURRIES PAID FOR** DYES AND CLEAN CLOTHES. Will receive payment in full at the instance of H. S. PIPER, Bridgetown.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE.

Ottawa, Feb. 14.

From an early hour this morning it was evident that a difficult session was going to be. Not that an opening of Parliament in Ottawa is a new thing, but the fact that a live Princess was going to appear on the throne tended to add greater interest to the ceremonies. There had been many hundred more tickets issued than the general public had expected.

—The large portion was set apart for ladies, who were in full dress, and to whom had been extended invitations to occupy seats on the floor, but there was not sufficient room. From 10 o'clock large numbers of ladies took up their station at the main doors, determined to have a choice of seats as soon as the doors were opened. The hour of opening the main doors was fixed for 1 o'clock, and long before that every corridor leading towards the galleries was塞满 with a select crowd, composed almost altogether of ladies. The crush when the doors were finally opened was dreadful, and it was a helter-skelter scramble for the front seats. In a very few minutes all available space was occupied, and husbands who were supplied with tickets had to stand outside. A party of ladies in full dress had tickets of admission for, began to fill up likewise the seats on the floor of the house. The dresses of the ladies were got up in the most recherche style, and the thundering of the canons from Nepean Point announced to the world that the first session of the fourth Parliament of Canada was duly opened.

—THE MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

The state dinner at the Government House was a most brilliant affair and will probably not soon be forgotten by those who were present. Such an important gathering of the highest dignitaries of the country has, perhaps, never before taken place in Canada. Present from the service were the Guards, and the Princess Louise was driven up at 2:45 o'clock, a royal salute was fired from the battery at Nepean Point. The guard of honor also gave a royal salute, and the regimental colors were displayed by the Royal Guards. His Excellency the Governor General arrived fifteen minutes later, accompanied by his A. D. C. The same military ceremonies being again gone through, with 3 o'clock they entered the Senate Chamber, the crowd both on the floor and in the galleries rising.

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