

Current Events.

We now present to the readers of the UNIVERSITY GAZETTE, the first of a series of monthly articles on the most prominent events which transpire during each month both in America and Europe. It might be thought that it is out of place to notice the politics of our country, but on the other hand, we like all good citizens, have a stake in the country, and the references which will be made will be from a neutral standpoint, and any opinions we may hazard will be from no party construction of events or speeches, and we will devote in this, as in all other articles, the greater part of our attention to subjects connected with education and literature.

The Parliament of the Dominion was opened on Thursday, the 23rd October, with all due ceremony. The speech from the Throne treated of several subjects of interest, amongst them the announcement of a Bill to establish a General Court of Appeals, a measure of the utmost importance, and the carrying out of which will entail great difficulty. The surrender of their charter by the Canada Pacific Railway Company, is announced as having been executed and accepted, and the early commencement and vigorous prosecution of the construction of the railway is recommended. The other measures treated of consist in the establishment of a Dominion Board of Agriculture, an amendment of the laws relating to Parliamentary Representation, and the consideration of the Insolvency Laws. In regard to the Pacific charges, the evidence, together with the Report of the Commissioners, is laid before the House. In their report, the Commissioners express no opinion upon the evidence taken. It may be remarked that LORD DUFFERIN held the opinion that their office was rather inquisitorial than judicial, and that the Commissioners, concurring in that view, state that they consider their duty to have been fully discharged by the forwarding of the depositions and documents with their report to the Secretary of State, unless their opinion should be specially sought. The most important feature in the business of the day was the submission of LORD DUFFERIN'S despatches to Parliament together with the reply of LORD KIMBERLEY. The despatches are lengthy documents, treating of the causes which gave rise to the Pacific charges, the prorogation of Parliament on the 17th August, and the appointment of the Royal Commission. To us they appear to approach more closely to special pleading than was at all necessary, especially since the writer has been put upon his defence by no one but himself. As their rhetorical efforts they are worthy of being carefully studied. It is not easy to discover the reasons for lying this correspondence before the House at the present moment. We should fancy that it belonged rather to the British Parliament than to that of the Dominion. The suggestion of the Grit organs that it was done by HIS EXCELLENCY with the intention of influencing Parliament in favour of the Ministers, is not to be entertained for a moment.

In replying to the despatches LORD KIMBERLEY says:— "Her Majesty's Government have read these clear and able statements with much interest. It is not their duty to express any opinion upon the particular measures adopted on the advice of your responsible ministers, but they fully approve your having acted on these matters in accord with constitutional usage."

The battle concerning these charges is now being fought out on the floor of the House. It is not for us to enter into any discussion of the merits of the parties engaged in it. It is a strife of parties, but the national honour depends upon the result. What that result will be, it is impossible at present to foresee, but it is a satisfaction to know that the judgment is in the hands of the representatives of the people, and we may at least express the hope that the honour of our DOMINION may again shine forth before the nations of the world, undimmed by the slightest stain. To our minds the whole electoral system of the country is rotten, and the only panacea for our political ill is electoral regeneration.

The return of CAPT. HAYTER for Bath has excited the surprise both of the British Government and their opponents. It has been looked upon as a turn in the tide of Conservative reaction. Really, the Liberals have merely succeeded in retaining a seat. The victory is enhanced to the Liberal party, by the mortification of the Conservatives, arising from the fact that so certain was the result deemed that Mr. DISRAELI issued a manifesto in the shape of a letter to LORD GREY, which was read at a meeting of the electors. It spoke of Bath as leading public opinion in favor of Conservatism, and denouncing the policy of the Government in vis-à-vis to their "plundering and blundering." Nothing more was bably have an effect beyond Bath, and will injure the party more than the loss of the election.

The new Solicitor-General, Mr. HENRY JAMES, is elected for Taunton, and Mr. BRIGHT was returned without opposition. It is a thing unprecedented in the history of Cabinets that the latter gentleman should, in a speech to his electors, have referred in condemnatory terms to the most important Clause (the 25th) of the Education Bill, the test measure of the last Session. We presume that Mr. BRIGHT had the concurrence of Mr. GLADSTONE, and of other members of the Cabinet, in divulging a Cabinet secret; but it is scarcely likely that he could have obtained that of Mr. FORSTER, who was the author of the measure. This is another and most significant indication of want of harmony in the Imperial Ministry.

A late telegram informs us that Sir GARNET WOLSELEY has arrived at Cape Coast, and we may look for a vigorous prosecution of the ASHANTEE WAR.

An association for the reform and codification of International Law lately met in BRUSSELS. The United States, Italy, England, Germany, France and Spain, were represented, some by well-known publicists. The representatives, not being authorized by looked upon as official. The object which the Association sets before it, is not only the codification of the best principles of International Law, but also the substitution of new principles when the old ones are found to be bad or defective. Count Sclopis, in a letter to the President, urges the members to work upon public opinion by reason and sentiment in order to destroy the ridiculous notions of honour which now exist, and to gain by the establishment of universal peace the acceptance of such a code.

The object is good; its realization would be a grand era in the history of the world, but there is not the power to carry it out. The forces of reason and sentiment may be of great effect in working upon public opinion, but they have not the power to change either individual or national human nature, and the day of universal peace, when all nations shall submit to be governed in their relations to and intercourse with each other, by a Code of International Law, is yet far off. We shall not see it.

The energy of CASTELAR bids fair to restore peace to SPAIN, yet the situation may be still said to be "mixed." The Intrantigence ironclads have failed to breach the blockade of Carthagen, having been defeated by the Republican fleet. Although the Royalists have somewhat the best of it in the North, their success in the late battle is rather equivocal, and calculated to advance their cause but little. It is very difficult to form any opinion upon the situation, owing to the disconnected and unsatisfactory character of the reports.

In FRANCE the Monarchists have been looking forward to the meeting of the Assembly, called for the 27th of October, with the expectation of effecting a revolution by a vote in favour of Henry V. The restoration of the Monarchy would seem to be the best thing for France as she is at present situated, but we can scarcely hope that the expectations of the Monarchists will be realized. In referring to the contest, the *Saturday Review* says:—"So long as MacMahon is President the struggle will be fought out in the Parliamentary arena. * * * Though it would be more advantageous for the Republicans that the question should be decided in a new Assembly, rather than in the present one, it is still a gain to them that it should be decided by the Assembly, rather than in some less regular fashion."

We notice, amongst the University intelligence, the acceptance of the chair of Natural Science at VICTORIA COLLEGE, COBourg, by Dr. HANAAL, Ph. D., of the University of Breslau. It is stated that the learned doctor is master of eight languages, and has made some valuable discoveries in Chemistry in his native land. Men of learning are not so plentiful in our colony, and every addition to their number is to be welcomed as a great boon to the country.

The news comes to us across the lines that Mortimer E. Leggett, a student of CORNELL UNIVERSITY, has been accidentally killed during his initiation into the mysteries of the College Secret Society, known as the *Kappa Alpha*. It is a matter of regret that a secret society, whose object is to bring into a closer union the students of a University, should bring discredit upon a good cause by such outrages against humanity. We would not wish to see secret societies abolished, but we do wish to see them keep within the bounds of reason and decency in their initiations. It is scarcely possible that they can have arrived at the state of black-guardism set forth in some of the United States papers, but unless this fightful occurrence serve as a warning, we shall see the universities repress all such societies, as has already been done in Harvard.