consisted of the laughable eckmate"—Mr. Seadon as ffee, and Mr. Sims, (stage m. Sam Winkle came out hile the ladies' parts were n by Mr. Wickenden as Russe, and Mr. King as The other characters were "Branigan's Band," a dity was next gone into, of fun. This amateur com- aying at Victoria as soon as en several new features will

yron Bug Juice.

few nights about fifteen or have been amusing them- ng half-drunk and rowing wharf, there to create a bance, agreeable to them- but not to the neighbor- ght Officer Irving went down oliceman, to try and capture vellers, but, as soon as they wharf, the Siwashes would nce by paddling out into deep Irving succeeded in reach- p, and by making an example the others quiet for the

ent at the Tramway.

horning, about 11 o'clock, the which transmits the power es to the generators at the n, flew from the sheave and led in the pulleys. Steam ly shut off and the persons in n sought safety in flight, as hrashed by the detached ends After the machine stopped, hat one of the clutch pulleys htly damaged. The reserve orted to till evening; when turned on, the cars stopped tramway management ex- e cars at the usual hour this

Chinese Mission.

inadvertance, the name of rdner was omitted from the pening services of the Meth- mission church, which took y, of last week. Mr Gardner of all the services, and, on g, preached the opening ser- ring to his efforts that the own into its present prosper- Special services are being ing, and the regular services Sunday, under the direction r.

Play a Strong Team.

ations pending for some tween the Victoria Baseball Victoria Athletic Club, were st night by the reading, at a Baseball Club, of a commu- the V. A. C., accepting the amalgamate the two clubs Club thereupon disbanded, ring their property to the Most of the members, to- several others interested in nto the Athletic Club, and a lected to represent the institi- the season. As the club ses several good players, the will enable the management ng team in the field.

Chinese Taxes.

e Chinaman who keeps the on Johnson street, was sum- er in the police court yester- to answer the charge of re- the names of his employes. arter, provincial tax collector, summoned, is sure that the have to pay their taxes like d if any refuse they will be s of. As this was the first m was only fined $10 and being compelled to pay the tax employes.

also appeared, one of them keeping a bawdy house, and being an inmate. Both were l to-day.

nes Bay Jottings.

Church, M. A., has taken his new college build- on Beacon Hill park, which ndsome and convenient as had

has purchased from Mr. acon Hill cottage, two fine ich a handsome residence, observatory tower, will be mmer. The price paid for as $3,000.

all is making preparations to te and thoroughly modern e on Niagara street, which the most attractive and well- es in the neighborhood.

Obituaries.

, a young baker of this city, employed by Mr. Harding, of ed at the Jubilee Hospital, ning, of typhoid fever. He ears of age, and a noble grand dge, No. 1, I.O.O.F., by which hich takes place on Monday, ted.

ward, of Snow Shoe Creek, long home, his death taking w ranch, mouth of Keithley ch 7th. The deceased was , a native of Staffordshire, C. in 1859. He was a miner alia and California, before province, and was well known ected in golden Cariboo. n, formerly of the fisheries on er, and who for several years urable patient at St. Joseph's yesterday morning, aged 58

a Jolly Good Fellow.

d dining hall, last evening, a ty-five or thirty friends and f Mr. E. W. Matthews, and business men of Victoria, ne with that popular gentle- y him a parting compliment, is morning to take charge of n agency in Winnipeg. The andsome and appetizing one, s. Leconte, having evidently add to the brilliancy of his caterer, and the tables being er by the head steward of os. Wilcox. After dinner and speeches naturally fol- removal of Mr. Matthews of acquaintances here was etted. He goes now to pre- rger field commanded by the of the agency, of which he g the capable, courteous an nager here. Victorians hop r expect, that the growth of of the West will, before e agency in again promoting Victoria. While here he has ny friends, outside of his rant business acquaintances, lways hear with pleasure of prosperity. Mr. Matthews g on the Islander for Win- corted to the boat by his en-

The Colonist.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1891.

THE LAND BILL.

The independent Advertiser is evidently desirous to become the organ of the Opposition. In its opinion the Government never can by any chance do what is right or fair, and it never loses an opportunity to denounce it and all its works. It is hard to say which is its pet aversion—the School Bill or the Land Bill. One day it declaims against the School Bill as being a genuine Russian measure and a day or two afterwards it stigmatizes the Land Bill as being everything that is bad. It was this bill's turn on Wednesday. An article in the Inland Sentinel was, to it the richest kind of a windfall. Although the Sentinel in that article declared in effect that the News-Advertiser's denunciation of the Government's measure was such as no sane man would write, and although it pointed out the unsatisfactory nature of our contemporary's criticisms, it eagerly quoted without examination the Sentinel's objections to the Government's measure. The Sentinel said, after quoting the News-Advertiser's abuse of the Land Bill, "no sane man will believe that the Government are experimenting as to how far they can go in 'thwarting the popular wishes.'" And, still commenting on the Advertiser's strictures, it said:—

"Having formed so decided an opinion as to the demerits of the bill, we would have expected the News-Advertiser should have pointed out its flaws, and, aided by the expressions of dissatisfaction from all parts of the Province, suggested some improvements. But not so."

Who does not admire the humility of our Vancouver contemporary when, after these sharp rebukes, it sits at the feet of the Sentinel, so to speak, in order to learn something about the proper disposition of the public lands?

The Sentinel's objections are chiefly to a state of things that the present law is intended to remedy, and which it, no doubt, will remedy, but the Advertiser has the hardihood to say that "the Government proposes to perpetuate the evil by still permitting stockmen and others to purchase as much pastoral land as they may wish to acquire." Under the law now in force speculators have managed to get possession of much land that they represented as pastoral land, which was not pastoral land at all, but good agricultural land, or land which could, by irrigation, be converted into agricultural land. This the peculiar construction of the present law enabled them to do. Section 32 of the unamended act begins as follows:

"Mountainous tracts of land, which are unfit for cultivation and valueless for lumbering purposes, may be purchased at the rate of one dollar an acre: Provided always, that before any such lands are sold the applicant must make and furnish the commissioners, in duplicate, a statutory declaration that the lands applied for are unfit for cultivation and valueless for lumbering purposes."

Here, as the reader sees, the work of classifying the land was left to the purchaser, and it is not hard to understand how easy it would be for him to make a mistake in his own favor. The land being distant and perhaps difficult of access, the Commissioner has not always been able to verify the statement of the applicant, and the consequence has probably been that much land has been sold as pastoral land, which, if the country had been more thickly settled and better known, would not have been so classified.

But the amendment has remedied this weak place in the law. It provides that:

"It shall be the duty of the Surveyor to classify the lands, so surveyed, as first-class, second-class, or third-class lands, and he shall, upon completion of the survey," (of the land for which an application to purchase has been made) "annex to his field notes thereof a statutory declaration showing the area of first class, second class, or third class lands which are embraced in such survey."

Under the amended law, therefore, it will be the surveyor and not the applicant who will classify the land and attest to its quality. This provision of itself shuts the door to scheming and speculating. The public after this may depend upon it that the land hereafter sold as "pastoral land" will be *bona fide* what its name indicates. And here is how third class or pastoral land is defined in the amending bill before the House.

"Mountainous and rocky tracts of land which are wholly unfit for agricultural purposes, and which cannot, under any reasonable conditions, be brought under cultivation, and which do not contain timber suitable for lumbering purposes as defined above, or hay meadows, shall rank as, and be considered to be, third class or pastoral lands."

Speculators will not, we think, yearn after land of this description. It is not likely that they will buy an acre more of it than they want for the pasturage of their flocks and herds. We hardly think that either the Sentinel or the News-Advertiser could have given sufficient attention to this provision of the Amendment Bill to get a good idea of its effect when it goes into operation as law.

Much of what both our contemporaries say—or, to write more precisely, the Sentinel and its echo—refers to the way in which the business of stock raising ought to be carried on in the province. This, we submit, is something outside the sphere of the Government. Whether it is best for the rancher to keep a small bunch of cattle and occupy a small area of land or whether he would do better by keeping a large herd on a great range is a matter in the economy of stock raising on which the settlers themselves must decide. The Government cannot interfere authoritatively in the matter. It cannot say to the stock raiser "You must not keep more than a hundred or a thousand head of cattle." This would, indeed, be a genuine Russian mode of administration. All that the Government, as far as we can discern its purpose, desires to do is to discourage speculation in public lands. It is trying to prevent men of capital getting possession of large tracts of land and keeping them idle until, by the industry of the people and the improvements made by the Government, they get to be greatly more valuable than they are now. It does not arrogate to itself the power to dictate to the farmer how much land he shall cultivate or to the stock raiser what extent of country he shall occupy. The topic discussed by the Sentinel is interesting to herdsmen or those intending to be herdsmen, but it is one with which the Government, as such, has nothing to do. The man who intends to use and to improve the land should not be hampered by the Government. It should, on the contrary, give him the opportunity to do as much good as he possibly can, whether the extent of land he works and improves be large or small.

When our Kamloops contemporary studies the amendment which the Hon. Mr. Robson has signified his intention to propose, it will, we think, find that the greater number of its objections to the Bill under consideration will be removed. As this amendment is of very great importance, we offer no apology for reproducing it here.

The Premier gives notice to amend section 4 by adding the following sub-section between sub-sections (c) and (d):

"Provided that it shall not be lawful to issue a Crown grant for any lands purchased under the provisions of this section until after the purchaser shall have obtained a certificate from the Commissioner that he has improved the said lands to the extent of five dollars per acre, if first-class land, two dollars and fifty cents if second-class land, and one dollar per acre if first-class land."

Any impartial person can see that this provision itself will very effectually put a stop to the purchase of land for mere speculation. When the issuance of a crown grant is deferred until the improvements on the lands are equal in value to the purchase money, there will be an end to speculating in wilderness land. As the News-Advertiser is hopelessly irreconcileable we do not appeal to its impartiality. Its hostility to the Government has become chronic, and it connot and will not see the slightest good in any of its measures.

CORRUPT JURIES.

The New Orleans outrage has set the people of the United States discussing the value of trial by jury. The jury, it appears, is blamed for the failure of justice in the case of the accused Italians. A stupid jury, an ignorant jury and a prejudiced and wrongheaded jury are bad enough in all conscience. They, however, can be tolerated. But a corrupt jury is what no country can stand. When it is known that juries can be bought, whatever confidence there still remains in trial by jury will disappear, and the people will agitate for the abolition of the jury system. But how about the courts? Corruption is a deep-seated disease, and it in time spreads over the whole system. It is a kind of social and political blood-poisoning. If juries cannot be trusted, what guarantee is there that lawyers and judges will be worthy of confidence? How is the suitor to know that the lawyer he employs will not sell his case and that the judge on the Bench will not regard the justice he dispenses as a merchantable commodity? The integrity of courts in the United States is already often questioned. "Money," many people say, "can buy anything—even justice." It seems to us that the time is not far off when the worship of the almighty dollar must cease in the land, or worse things than New Orleans lynchings will befall our neighbors.

A NEW VIEW.

There are intelligent Americans who now say that not only are the fur seals not worth fighting about, but that the sooner they are exterminated the better. The fisheries of Alaska, they say, are very valuable. The products of the salmon canneries, they assert, have, from 1884 to 1890, amounted to $7,000,000, the price paid for the territory. Herring can be caught there in immense quantities, and the cod and halibut fisheries are of very great value. The seal is a greedy fish eater, and it kills a great many more than it consumes. If there were no seals in American waters the value of the fisheries would be greatly enhanced, and the fish are of much more importance to the population of the United States than the skins of the seals. Mr. Petroff, who lately took the census of Alaska, it appears, favors this view. At any rate his figures are quoted to show that the fisheries proper of Alaska are of greater value, and more worthy of protection than the seals that frequent the waters of Behring's Sea. We would not be at all surprised if this way of looking at the Behring's Sea question became general in the United States. When the Americans find out that the seals in the waters of that sea are not their peculiar property, they may conclude that they are of very little use any way, and the sooner they are exterminated the better.

The World Enriched.

The facilities of the present day for the production of everything that will conduce to the material welfare and comfort of mankind are almost unlimited and when Syrup of Figs was first produced the world was enriched with the only perfect laxative known, as it is the only remedy which is truly pleasing and refreshing to the taste and prompt and effectual to cleanse the system gently in the Spring time or, in fact, at any time and the better it is known the more popular it becomes.

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D. Ross, of Ross & Hewlett, the prominent sealing and shipping men of San Francisco, came in by the Sound steamer last evening. He will be in town for a couple of weeks.

THE MAJORITY.

Every one knows now that the Government has a good working majority and one that is likely to increase. There is, however, considerable diversity of opinion among even Conservative newspapers, as to the exact number of Sir John Macdonald's supporters in the new House. The more reasonable of the Liberal journals give Sir John a pretty fair majority, but the unreasonable ones make calculations of the wildest kind. They seem to imagine that they can take the sting out of the defeat of their party by magnifying little of the Conservative victory. They do not deceive any one, not even themselves. Their ridiculous calculations demonstrate nothing except the depth of their own disappointment. Here are some of the estimates made by the leading journals of the East:—

Toronto Empire	42
Hamilton Spectator	37
Toronto World	35
Montreal Gazette	32
Toronto Mail	29
Toronto Globe	27
Hamilton Times	27
Ottawa Free Press	4
New York Times	1
Montreal Herald—The Tories are in the run.	
Quebec Telegraph....20 majority for Laurier.	
Quebec L'Electeur....25 " "	

Our own opinion is that the Government's majority will, when Parliament meets, be found to be not less than thirty-five or more than forty. We would not be at all surprised if it is shown on the first division to considerably exceed the former number.

MR. BLAKE'S EXPLANATION.

Mr. Blake's famous letter was not understood. Although the subject of unrestricted reciprocity was discussed in it almost exhaustively it was not by any means very clear where Mr. Blake himself stood. Whether he was for or against annexation was a question which admitted of some dispute. The Toronto Globe, among others, considered that he regarded annexation as inevitable, and there were not a few who rose from the perusal of Mr. Blake's letter with the conviction that he would not be opposed to political union with the United States, if it were openly and honestly advocated. It is not a little remarkable that in a letter of that kind Mr. Blake should leave it uncertain which side he was on or what position he occupied. It is just possible that Mr. Blake's obscurity was accidental. He does not think as ordinary people think, neither does he express himself as ordinary people express themselves. Very probably Mr. Blake considers that he defined his position on the trade question and on the subject of Canada's relations with the United States with the utmost clearness, and that those who do not understand his letter as he meant it to be understood, are either exceedingly stupid or affect to be exceedingly stupid. It has always seemed to us that Mr. Blake has very little, indeed, in common with the great majority of his countrymen. He does not understand them and they do not understand him. This, we think, is why he failed as a political leader. The men of his party, as in duty bound, professed to admire his great speeches, but if they were asked if they understood them, the answer of nine out of ten of them, if it was honest, would be that of the simple Scotchman, who, when his wife asked him if he understood the sermon which he had pronounced grand, exclaimed: "D'ye think I'd hae the presumption?"

Mr. Blake's letter to the electors of West Durham resembles, in many respects, his four hours' speeches in the House of Commons. It is very fine and exceedingly logical, and shows what a wonderfully clever man Mr. Blake is; but it is to the ordinary newspaper reader nearly incomprehensible. No one need be ashamed to confess that he does not understand Mr. Blake's letter, for when so gifted and so well-educated a man as the editor of the Toronto Globe fails to see the full significance of that letter, there are few indeed who should hesitate to admit that they are in precisely the same position.

Finding that his letter has been misunderstood, Mr. Blake has found it necessary to send the following note of explanation to the Globe:

"To the Editor of the Globe:

Sir,—The contradictory inferences to which a sentence in my Durham letter, detached from its context, has in several quarters unexpectedly given rise, conquer my reluctance to trespass again so soon upon your columns; and I crave space to say that I think Political Union with the States, though becoming our probable, is by no means our ideal, or as yet our inevitable future. EDWARD BLAKE.

Ottawa, March 11."

It may appear to some obtuse people that this note does not show very clearly what position Mr. Blake occupies with respect to the question which has lately taken up so much of the attention of the people of Canada. The editor of the Globe himself is one of these. This is part of his comment upon Mr. Blake's explanation:

"But, with all respect for Mr. Blake, his position still remains obscure. For in his former letter he took the ground, substantially, that commercial isolation had failed and was making for annexation; that an imperial customs union, with protection as its basis, was out of the question; that a revenue tariff policy had well-nigh ceased to be practicable owing to the enormous growth of our burdens and for other reasons; and, last of all, that unrestricted reciprocity with the United States, which his old friends propose, probably could not be obtained without, and in any event would in all likelihood terminate in, political union. He closed or appeared to close every door of escape from that which he now says is becoming our probable, though it is not as yet our inevitable, destiny. Mr. Blake does not wish to keep the public guessing about his attitude on this vital question, nor is he the man to shrink from giving full expression to his views, even when he knows them to be unpalatable to the majority. We venture to suggest that he should take an early opportunity of explaining his position at greater de ail so that no one shall be able to misconstrue it."

It is just possible that the editor of the Globe is not so bewildered as he affects to be, but is it not a little singular that a man of Mr. Blake's capacity and attainments should, after having written so much on a public question of very great importance, leave any man of ordinary intelligence a pretext for pretending to be uncertain as to the position he (Mr. Blake) occupies with respect to it. For our part, we are far from regarding this mistiness and obscurity as a sign of profundity. We believe that a man of first-class ability will adapt his language to those whom he addresses, that he, will, indeed, prove his ability by the ease with which he will guage the capacity of his audience, and the skill with which he will frame his discourse, so as to produce the effect he desires.

SIR RICHARD'S GALL.

We live in the days of manifestoes. We have had Sir John Macdonald's manifesto and Mr. Blake's manifesto, and now Sir Richard Cartwright has issued his pronunciamento. There is no ambiguity about Sir Richard's post-electoral address to the electors of South Oxford. What he says is clear and easily understood. No one is under any mistake as to where he stands. He is where he was before the election. Defeat has not dismayed or discouraged him. He is as full of fight as ever he was. Of course he easily accounts for his defeat. The constituencies were bullied and he and his fellow Liberals misrepresented and maligned. He does not say one word about the intrigues of the men of his party in Washington or about treacherous pamphlets and disloyal letters. He places all that has been said and written on these subjects under the head of "slanderous attacks" that do not require to be answered. His forces are in good heart and present an unbroken front to the enemy while the Government's array is—

"A thing of shreds and patches, made up of the ragged remnants from half a dozen minor provinces, the great majority of whom do not even pretend to be actuated by any principle save that of securing a good slice of booty for themselves and the sections or constituencies they respectively represent."

Sir Richard has been too fond of making little of the minor provinces for his own and his party's good. He should curb his temper and bridle his tongue when he speaks of the "minor provinces." He should remember that there are as good men in the minor provinces as there are in the major, and that they have as high a regard for the good of the country, and are as ready to do as much for its welfare. He should bear in mind that the men of the minor provinces possess some spirit, and that they have good memories; that they will not allow him or any other public man to insult them with impunity, and that when the time comes they will remember against him and those who follow him, his sneers and jibes and unprovoked affronts. The people of the minor provinces, as Sir Richard Cartwright has reason to know, are not so wanting in self-respect as to give their countenance and support to the man who traduces and maligns them.

The "motley forces," which Sir Richard so acrimoniously contemns, will, no doubt, give a good account of themselves when Parliament meets. He will find that it is much easier and much pleasanter work defying them at a safe distance than meeting them face to face in Ottawa. But, after all, the supporters of the Government should not feel angry when Sir Richard Cartwright vilifies the minor provinces and the leaders whom they respect. Experience has shown them that the Liberal Knight's bitter tongue has always done far greater injury to his own party than it has to his opponents. It is safe to say that his denunciation of the "minor provinces" has given moderate and judicious Liberals more annoyance and greater vexation than it has Conservatives of those or other provinces. Sir Richard predicts the almost immediate success of the Liberal Party. This is senseless brag. The prospects of the Liberals are, at this moment, far from bright, and many of them know that it will be impossible for them to recommend their cause to the people of this Dominion as long as Sir Richard Cartwright is one of their leaders and their principal spokesman.

A DEMORALIZED ORGAN.

It is quite evident that the Times does not wish what it says about the School Bill to be taken seriously. Its paragraphs about that measure read very much like the productions of the funny man of a tenth-rate comic newspaper. The organ of the Opposition bears internal evidence of being completely demoralized. It seems to have given up in despair the attempt to offer serious opposition to the Government. It treats the Independents, on whom it was so sweet, a little while ago, with undisguised contempt. Because they have not become part of the insignificant faction which calls itself the Opposition, it affects to believe that they are the humble and obedient servants of the Government, ready to do exactly as they are told. Would it not be wise to give those gentlemen credit for being really what they profess to be, independent, supporting those measures of the Government which they believe to be good, and opposing those which, in their judgment, are not calculated to promote the welfare of the province? It appears, from the course it has taken that the Times is not able to form the faintest conception of independence of this kind. Its ideal member of the Legislative Assembly is a man who opposes the Government at every opportunity, without paying the least attention to the nature of its measures. The Times says, with puerile petulance, that it regards opposition to the School Bill "as so much lost time." This is because the members of the Legislature have not been influenced by the feeble and tactious tirades which have appeared in the Times against that measure. If any of them were so weak-minded as to pay the slightest attention to the silly attempt which our contemporary has made to bring it into disrepute, he would indeed deserve to be spoken of as the Times speaks of the members who, after carefully considering it, have come to the conclusion to give it their support. It is because the Independent members have too much sense and are too consistent to be influenced by the organ of the Opposition that it affects to treat them as men who cannot be influenced by reason and argument.

RECIPROCITY WITH BRAZIL.

It is not likely that Mr. Blaine will, after all, be able to capture the trade of Brazil for the United States. The Brazilians are not so favorable to his reciprocity proposals as was expected. They observe that Brazil is not to be the only favored nation, but that Mr. Blaine is carrying on a kind of reciprocity flirtation with other tropical countries whose productions are the same, or nearly the same as those of Brazil. The prospect of having to compete in the United States market with free sugar from Cuba, the Hawaiian Islands and other countries is not very attractive. Thus they see that if they admit American manufactures free they will lose a considerable proportion of their revenue which must be made up by direct taxation. This is not pleasant to contemplate. There are also political complications at home to consider. It is more than probable that Congress will raise objections. The constitution of Brazil has not yet got into working order, and it is more than possible that the representatives of the people will take exception to the conduct of the Government in taking the control of trade out of their hands, particularly when reciprocal arrangements with the United States will make it necessary to add to the burdens of the people. There are also other nations to be considered, which have always been Brazil's best customers. Will it be wise, for instance, to grant the United States favors which are denied to Great Britain, whose markets are open to everything which Brazil has to sell, without any return being required? Great Britain's trade is to Brazil of even greater importance than that of the United States. So Mr. Blaine's reciprocity projects are not to be so easily carried out as he expected.

MAJORITIES.

The contests in some of the constituencies of the Dominion were very close, in others the majorities were extraordinarily large. In this province, Messrs. Earle and Prior in Victoria, and Mr. Corbould in New Westminster District, were returned by exceedingly large majorities, when the number of voters are taken into consideration, but in the East some of the Conservative members were returned by majorities so large that it is surprising that the seats for which they stood were contested at all. The following are a few of the Conservative majorities:

Sir Donald Smith, Montreal West	3,706
Mr. Wood, Westmoreland	2,165
Mr. Denison, West Toronto	1,759
Mr. Davis, Alberta	1,700
Mr. Desjardins, Hochelaga	1,491
Mr. Coatsworth, East Toronto	1,405
Mr. Curran, Montreal Centre	1,220
Mr. Pope, Compton	1,129
Mr. Mackintosh, Ottawa	1,076
Mr. Corbould	1,137
Mr. Earle	630
Mr. Prior	619

Only two of the Liberal members had majorities which exceeded a thousand. They were Mr. Sutherland, of North Oxford, 1,908, and Mr. Lavegne in Arthabaska, 1,129. These figures indicate that the Liberals did not make many inroads on constituencies which were soundly Conservative.

THE SUNDAY LAW.

To THE EDITOR.—I would like through your columns to call Hon. Mr. Robson's attention to the most serious aspect of this whole business of introducing Sunday Laws, and trying to enforce the same in British Columbia. To begin with, I would suggest to him, that it may just be possible that the larger number of voters throughout this city and throughout the province would be decidedly averse to anything that would tend in the least measure to hinder the entire and unrestricted freedom of all classes of our people. But apart from that, it seems to be a conclusion arrived at by all men of intelligence, that no majority has any right, either in or out of Parliament to coerce the minority, or to impair in any measure the freedom of any member of any community.

For instance, it is proper for legislatures to make laws having in view the maintenance of order, the keeping of the peace, or defence from invasion; because all parties are alike interested and concerned in the enforcement of these laws. It would perhaps also be in keeping with good government to insist that all days should be held to be sacred, that no intoxicating liquors shall be sold or exposed for sale, on either day of the week; that falsehood shall at all times be accounted perjury; that cheating in any way shall be considered to be fraud; that gambling of any kind (even to playing marbles for keeps), shall be punishable; but to enact laws that have for their mission the intentional attempt to force even a minority of the peaceable people into observing any certain day of the week in a manner entirely inconsistent with their own ideas of right and wrong is merely a subversion of freedom, a tampering with the rights of an intelligent people; and has the full peculiar flavor of a dish that has been prepared, cooked and served up as a portion of the *menu* of an intolerant church.

Such laws are not only unreasonable, ungenerous, obnoxious and absurd, but their tendency and effect are alike harmful and would do more to stir up strife and ill-will and hatred among the sovereign people, and to pollute and defile the free air of our lovely province, and toward the desecration and defilement of our hearths and homes, and the dethronement of what is in deed and in truth the truest kind of religious liberty, than all the combinations of evil influences that ever beset any community of people.

Let us take one stride in advance of the old mandates, and in place of making one day sacred by legal enactment, let us all endeavor by our lack of hypocrisy and by our own true and genuine liberality to make all days sacred. In such a matter let each be a law unto himself.

Let us maintain order, keep the peace, defend our homes, be loving and kind and honest and good and true on the Sunday, and let us maintain order, keep the peace, defend our homes and be loving and kind and honest and good and true on every other day of the week as well.

Let the air be so free that the sounds of innocent joy that strike over hills from our holiday pleasure haunts shall echo to other lands the full, free, lofty name of LIBERTY.

J. FORSYTHE CHANDLER.

THE SUNDAY LAW.

To THE EDITOR:—Your correspondent "Nemo," who evidently lives with the church, is an able exponent of Christian principles. He would have a Sunday law. Why? And those who do not like it may go to a warmer place than Victoria. How Christian like!

What do "Nemo" and his ilk complain of in the existing state of things?

Does it offend their Christian (?) eyes to see a person with a fishing rod or a gun on a Sunday?

They need not look.

Does it grate on their Christian (?) ears to hear a merry excursion party taking a little well-deserved recreation on Sunday, in many thousands of cases the only available day.

"Nemo" would do well to bear in mind the old saw, "Never to look for that one doesnt want to see."

If "Nemo" prefers to don his best suit on Sundays and go to church three times or more, let him do so, no one will find fault, not even the Nimrod or the disciple of Izaak Walton, who, according to the Christian (?) deserves to go "where Judas went."

No man has a right to annoy his neighbor, but, up to that point, no one may say what a man shall do or what he shall not.

If "Nemo's" display of "profound ignorance and bigotry" is the result of living *with* the Church, then I am content to take my chances without it.

ONE OF THE CROWD.

NOT THE SABBATH DAY.

To THE EDITOR:—I quite agree with "Nemo." Sunday is not the Sabbath. Therefore the commandment of the Decalogue does not apply to Sunday. Believing this I cannot comprehend on what grounds "Nemo" justifies the Hon. Mr. Robson's Sunday law. If Sunday is an institution of a Church, its observance is binding only on members of that Church. "Nemo" may just as reasonably ask the Legislature to enact a law compelling everyone to attend his Church and to accept his Church's service, as add to the Statute Book a law forcing them to observe the day his Church has set apart for worship. I am afraid that "Nemo", although he is the least bit in the world imperious and arrogant, is not logical.

Does he not see that when he admits that Sunday is not the Sabbath Day, he completely "gives away" the case of the Sabbatarians. He makes the observance of the Lord's Day a matter of liberty and not a matter of law. The day was when those who held "Nemo's" views with regard to Sunday were logical. They passed laws compelling men not only to observe the day, but to attend the church, by law established. The world has outgrown laws binding men's consciences in these matters, and I hope that "Nemo" is not one of those, who, if they had the power, would make non-conformity a penal offence.

I am quite sure that if the Leader of the Government was of "Nemo's" opinion, that Sunday is not the Sabbath, he would not dream of enforcing its observance by law.

LIBERTY.

LATE PUBLICATIONS.

The Dominion Illustrated is improving under its present management, and is growing in favor. The enlargement to 24 pages weekly has afforded opportunity for great improvement in its literary contents, the contributions to which include many well-known writers. Historic sketches, healthy fiction, crisp editorials on current topics, bright correspondence, sports and pastimes, humorous sketches, etc., make up with the numerous illustrations, dealing chiefly with Canadian scenes, events and personages, a charming journal for Canadian readers and a welcome weekly visitor in every home.

The March issue of The Canadian Live Stock and Farm Journal, published by the J. E. Bryant Co., Toronto, contains timely papers on horse raising, selection of boars, Clydesdales in 1890, Holsteins as a dairy cow, and others of equal interest at this season. Prof. Shaw, in his "Pure Breeds of Cattle," commences the history of the Hereford Breed. Prof. Craig, of Wisconsin University, contributes a valuable paper on the benefits of milk testing. The counsel table is devoted to a discussion on the best method of hog raising to suit the present market; and the number is embellished by an engraving of a handsome group of Shorthorn cattle, the property of Mr. W. C. Edwards, of Rockland, Ont.; and also by an engraving of Celvin Grove, the Sweepstakes Medal Farm, Ontario.

"ONWARD AND UPWARD" is the title of a modest little monthly magazine edited by the Countess of Aberdeen. It is intended chiefly for women and girls engaged in domestic pursuits, and is just such a book as it will do a tired woman good to read. The editorials are well written, bright and helpful. The stories are good, and the magazine is nicely illustrated. Lovers of flowers and lovers of poetry will be alike pleased with the article on the "Wild Flowers of Burns," and Canadians will take especial interest in the description of the visit to Canada of the Countess of Aberdeen entitled "Through Canada with a Kodak," commenced in the February number. The Countess is evidently an intelligent and appreciative observer, and one whose opinion of us and our country will be worth reading. The young folks tell one another about their pets in the children's page, and the editor provides for them a pretty fairy story translated from the Swedish. "Onward and Upward" is intended to extend and increase the usefulness of the Haddo House Association, a woman's society, which has many branches in Great Britain. The department "All About Ourselves," is filled with reports of the doings of the society. To judge by those reports and by the tone of the magazine the association is brightening and elevating the life of many a woman who would otherwise be tempted to look upon her work as mere drudgery. "Onward and Upward" costs a penny a copy, and may be had from the Editor, Haddo House, Aberdeen, or from White & Son, Union Street, Aberdeen.

FRANK LESLIE'S POPULAR MONTHLY, FOR APRIL, 1891.—The American Museum of Natural History in the Central Park, New York city, occupies a noble pile of buildings, the recent additions to which are just approaching completion. It is an institution in which every American ought to take pride. The most complete description of its treasures, and the educational work it is doing, is given, with abundant pictorial illustrations, by Mary Tioomb, in the April number of Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly. Another seasonable article is Carrie Stevens Walter's account of a visit to Senator Stanford's famous Palo Alto stock farm.

Ship Titania, hence for London, is now 120 days out.

A REMARKABLE SENTENCE.

The Judge who Took Delight in Sending a Prisoner to his Death.

One of the most eccentric, and at the same time one of the ablest judges that ever sat upon a far western bench, says a Santa Fe letter in the Pittsburg Leader, was Kirby Benedict, who for 13 years was a justice of the supreme court of New Mexico, having been first appointed in 1853 by President Pierce, and reappointed by President Buchanan, and appointed chief justice of the court by President Lincoln. He was a man of great ability and learning, strong in his prejudices, violent in his passions and relentless in his convictions.

There are many anecdotes told of Judge Benedict. But the crowning act of his judicial career was the sentence of death passed by him upon a prisoner convicted of murder, which sentence was as follows:

"Jose Maria Martin, stand up. Jose Maria Martin, you have been indicted, tried, and convicted by a jury of your own countrymen of the crime of murder, and the court is now about to pass upon you the dread sentence of the law. As a usual thing, Jose Maria Martin, it is a painful duty for the judge of a court of justice to pronounce upon a human being the sentence of death. There is something horrible about it, and the mind of the court naturally revolts from the performance of such a duty. Happily, however, your case is relieved of all such unpleasantness, and the court takes positive delight in sentencing you to death.

"You are a young man, Jose Maria Martin, apparently of good physical constitution and robust health. Ordinarily you might have looked forward to many years of life, and the court has no doubt you have, and have expected to die at a green old age; but you are about to be cut off as the consequence of your own act. Jose Maria Martin, it is now the spring time; in a little while the grass will be springing up in these beautiful valleys and on these broad plains and mountain sides flowers will be blooming, birds singing above your lowly head.

"The sentence of the court is that you be taken from this place to the county jail; that you there be kept safely and securely confined in the custody of the sheriff until the day appointed for your execution. Be very careful, Mr. Sheriff, that he have no opportunity to escape, and that you have him at the appointed place at the appointed time; that you be kept, Jose Maria Martin, until—Mr. Clerk, on what day of the month does Friday, about two weeks from this time, come?" "March 22d, your honor." "Very well—until Friday, the 22d day of March, when you will be taken from your place of confinement to some safe and convenient spot within the county (that is in your discretion, Mr. Sheriff; you are only confined to the limits of the county), and that you there be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and, the court was about to add, Jose Maria Martin, 'may God have mercy on your soul,' but the court will not assume the responsibility of asking an all-wise Providence to do that which a jury of your people have refused to do. The Lord couldn't have mercy on your soul. However, if you have any religious belief, or are connected with any religious organization, it might be well enough for you to send to your priest or your minister and get from him such consolation as you can; but the court advises you to place no reliance upon anything of that kind. Mr. Sheriff, remove the prisoner.

PILOTAGE FIGHT.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 19.—A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held, to-day, to consider the pilotage bill, recently passed in the Assembly. It is claimed that the provisions of the bill are of such a nature that, should it become a law, serious injury will be inflicted upon the ship-owners of this port. Pilots would reap, in addition to their receipts, from $15,000 to $20,000 a year, and those from whom the income would be derived are unanimous in their condemnation of the pilots who used their influences in favor of the bill after Judge Hoffman had declared their attempt to collect pilotage on a vessel from New York unconstitutional. Should it become a law the act will tax all vessels bound to and from this port and Nanaimo, Atlantic coast ports and our own coast ports. Unless the vessel has a coasting licence she will be taxed for pilotage. As a ship cannot go to British Columbia, unless under a register, it follows that every vessel carrying coal will have to pay half pilotage rates if she does not take a pilot. Every one of the large lumber vessels carrying a cargo from Puget Sound to San Pedro and thence back to this port will have to pay the tax. The bill, however, chiefly aimed at the clipper ships trading between the Eastern coast ports and San Francisco. Many of these vessels do not call upon a pilot as their masters are fully competent to bring their ships into port aided by a tug.

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

In Henry Clew's, New York, Financial Review, of March 14, just to hand by mail, occurs the following: "The reports of railroad earnings have not, as a rule, confirmed the late discouraging anticipations, but show that there is a freer movement of trade in the interior than had been supposed. The latest Government crop report confirms the impression that the earlier estimates of the Bureau of Agriculture under-rated the out-turn of last year's cereal crops, especially those of wheat and corn. This was an unexpected boom to the corn-carrying roads; while the western shares were benefited by the rejection by the Kansas Legislature of all bills adverse to the interests of the railroads. A favorable impression was produced also by the appearance of London orders for certain stocks, indicating the beginning of the revival of the speculative int rest in American securities on that market. At the same time, consols advanced; and the improvement was attributed to an expectation that Mr. Goschen's proposal to authorize the Bank of England to issue notes of smaller denominations than £5 would be adopted. That measure would draw from the home circulation a large amount of gold into the Bank of England and replace it by paper money, thereby increasing the gold resources of the bank and strengthening its resistance to oscillations in the international specie movement. Another favorable indication from London is the fact that, while the Bank's rate of interest remains at three per cent., its reserve shows a considerable increase, although the loan from the Bank of France has been fully paid and the anticipated withdrawal of £600,000 of gold on account of Russia has been met. Moreover, private cables indicate that a large portion of the Baring's liabilities have already been liquidated, and that little remains on that account to warrant distrust. With the signs of a favorable turn in affairs foreign and domestic above indicated, there is reason for hope for some early improvement in the situation. The temper of the market, however, is conservative."