

## THE PRESS.

## BISMARCK'S SORE THUMB.

What with Bismark exhibiting his sore thumb daily through the German press and the pace given to the Iams thumb-stringing episode at Homestead by the American papers, thumbs appear to be up these days.—*World*.

## IT'S UNHEALTHY.

Ontario notices that the person of Elgin Myers, Q.C., ends abruptly at the neck, and Sir Oliver Mowat, when questioned, looks at the grand young ruin and proudly replies:

"Beloved province, I cannot tell a lie: 'twas I who did it with my little hatchet."—*Telegram*.

## WHERE DID HE LAND.

The Pope's Allocution says it was on the island of Guanahani Columbus first landed—Guanahani, also called San Salvador by Columbus. But what island was that? Long in controversy, it is said to have been settled by Murdooh, Major and others in favor of Watling Island, one of the outermost of the Bahamas.—*Liverpool Times*.

## WAITING TO BE KICKED.

If the Tories (British) insist on keeping in office until the assembling of Parliament, then, indeed, the humbling hand will fall all the heavier upon them. They will find themselves literally kicked out, and that with every sign of disgust and reprobation.—*London Universe*.

## THE ALMIGHTY POUND.

"Bribery, illegal voting, wholesale treating of voters and hiring vehicles to carry them to the polls." This, gentle reader, is not one of the charges preferred against a member of the Canadian Parliament, but is part of the petition against the return of Hon. Arthur James Balfour, late leader of the House of Commons in Great Britain! And still certain journals would have us believe that Canada is the only country in which the almighty dollar is one of the principal factors in the creation of public opinion.—*News*.

## WANTS THE FACTS.

It is difficult to see what is to be gained by the Prohibition Commission collecting opinions as to whether or not a prohibitory law can be enforced. On such a subject one man's opinion is just as good as another. If the commission is trying to ascertain the consensus of thought why not simply count noses? Mr. Chapleau did not go around to ascertain if the people thought he could prevent whiskey smuggling. He simply sent a force against the smuggler and captured him. As a rule opinion is not regarded as evidence, except when given by experts. What are wanted are the facts, and the public will then be able to form its own opinion.—*Mail*.

## EVEN THOUGH CHARITIES SUFFER BY IT.

No matter how economically the Government of this province may be administered the day of more or less direct taxation for provincial purposes is in the immediate future. It is well, therefore, that the beginning in this direction has been made by levying upon the wealth of those who go to a country to which riches cannot be taken. The tax on the estate of the late Alexander T. Fulton is the first fruit of a wise piece of legislation.—*News*.

## HOME RULE WILL NOT BE SHELVED.

The Liberal and Home Rule majority of forty-two is considered by the leaders of the party to be quite sufficient for the work that is to be done. As for the Home Rule question, despite all rumours to the contrary, there is not the slightest prospect of it being shelved in favour of other measures. Mr. Gladstone is pledged to put Home Rule to the front of his policy, and he will be loyally supported by all sections of the majority in doing so. The Labour members will put no obstacle in the way, as they recognise that until Home Rule is passed there will be a consistent block in the way of labour legislation.—*Catholic Times*.

## THE MODERN METHODIST MEETING HOUSE.

The Metropolitan Church Sunday week could hardly accommodate the throng which assembled to witness the unveiling of the two works of art on either side of the organ which fresco artists have been engaged upon for weeks. It is safe to say that among the vast concourse while there were many to criticise there were none to condemn the introduction of the finer arts in decorating the tabernacle. Yet in John Wesley's eyes this speck and span edifice would have been a portentous phenomenon prophetic of evil days near at hand. He exhorted his preachers to see to it that the meeting houses should be neat and plain, laying stress upon the plainness; else, he argued, rich men would become necessary to societies, and then farewell to Methodist discipline and to Methodist doctrine too. But then the world and Methodists have changed in prominent respects since John Wesley's time.—*World*.

## VENTED HIS SPLEEN.

One of the most contemptuous and patronizing criticisms of American journalism ever penned appeared in the July number of *The Nineteenth Century*, over the signature "Edward Delille." The *New York Sun* says "the writer is we believe the son of an American actress." This is another case of a naturalized American citizen following the example of Mr. H. M. Stanley and becoming ashamed of his country for good and solvent reasons as they appear to him. But in all conscience *The Nineteenth Century* looked very foolish giving circulation to Mr. Delille's spleen.—*Empire*.

## GOOD ENOUGH LAW.

Hats off to Mayor Fleming for his action regarding the children and the parks!

For years the half intoxicated loafer has been at liberty to sleep off his debauch under the trees of any of our breathing spots, while the machinery of the law was immediately put into force if half a dozen youngsters had the temerity to start a game of ball. The loafer was within the law; the children were misdemeanants.

The law of common sense is in this case good enough law for the Mayor of Toronto. Henceforth youngsters can run and play and shout to their heart's content. And the only persons to object will be the aforesaid drones whose afternoon siestas will be disturbed.—*Telegram*.

## HE BRAYED HIS WAY.

Our esteemed Catholic Contemporary, the *London Universe*, heaps coals of political fire on the head of Stanley Africanus thus: "That respected aspirant to parliamentary distinction, Mr. Henry M. Stanley, has been appearing in a far more genial and congenial character at a donkey show in the East end. He knows something about the long-eared quadruped; he knows nothing, or the wrong thing, which is worse than nothing, about politics. In acknowledging the vote of thanks on behalf of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts the explorer said that he had been enabled to pass through a savage district in Africa half as large as England by means of a donkey named Mirambo, who used to bray in a most stentorian manner at the word of command, and frightened all the natives; and when the expedition left Africa homeward bound, the last thing they saw was the donkey perched on a cliff braying a sad farewell. It is easier to frighten natives in Central Africa than to influence voters in North Lambeth."—*Boston Republic*.

## THE END NOT YET.

The recent action of the British Privy Council in confirming the acts of the Manitoba Legislature, which abolished Separate Schools in that district, is very likely to have a far different result from what the Manitoba legislators or the Privy Councillors anticipated.

The Constitution of Manitoba guaranteed to the Catholic residents of that territory Separate Schools maintained at public cost, and until quite recently there has never been any effort made to deprive the Catholic Manitobans of those rights. Recently, however, the territorial Legislature, in defiance of the Constitution, passed a law doing away with Separate Schools; and this enactment being vigorously opposed by the Catholic element, as was right and proper, the legality of the Legislation was referred to the British Privy Council, which has confirmed it.

The end of the agitation is not yet, however. The Catholic element in Manitoba, whose constitutional rights have been thus shamefully taken away, is largely French-Canadian, and the French-Canadians of the Province of Quebec show a natural readiness to espouse their cause, and threaten to seek annexation to the United States in case the decision of the Privy Council is enforced. Says *Le Canada*, an influential and prominent French-Canadian organ: "If the English-speaking community of the Dominion now goes back on their bargain and wipes out the French-Canadian sentiments that have tied them to the crown, then Quebec can only look to its material interests, and as those interests would be greatly improved by annexation to the United States, there being no other sentiment to bind that province to the British crown, they can only go in favor of their material interests;" and it remarks in conclusion that such refusal of the rights of the French-Canadian people as this Manitoba legislation, now sanctioned by the British Privy Council, will eventually drive them to annexation with this country.

Should Quebec, which is practically all French Canadian, seek admission into this Union, Great Britain would be powerless to prevent her coming, in the event of the United States being willing to receive her, of which there would be no question. And with Quebec and Manitoba attached, and the Maritime Provinces dissatisfied, the Canadian Dominion would be reduced to sorry proportions. The best thing the Manitoba Legislature can do is to repeal the enactment which deprives the Catholics of that territory of the educational rights the constitution guaranteed them, and which the decision of the British Privy Council does not render any the less unfair and unjust.—*Boston Republic*.

Fame is vapor; popularity an accident; riches take wings; the only certainty is oblivion.—*Horace Greeley*.