

to any possible extent to break down Sir John Macdonald. And the Quebec Liberals are at least taking the matter coolly. Mr. Joly's published telegram, avowing perfect reliance in the justice of the Imperial Government, and confidence in the belief that if they hear one side they will the other, is a model of coolness of its kind in the face of the fact of Mr. Langevin's mission. If the Imperial Government is appealed to to listen to the other side before deciding, it is difficult to see how such an appeal can be rejected, if the merits of the question are to be discussed, and it is probable, therefore, that Mr. Langevin's absence may be more prolonged than was at first supposed. But I understand the single question he will present or has authority to discuss, is the single one of the competence of Canadian Ministers to deal with this case.

One thing is certain, and every body knows it, that the situation is most serious, and that if the advice which Sir John Macdonald has tendered be not accepted, both he and his colleagues must resign. And as I have told you in previous letters, I see a two-fold position: One involves the question of constitutional right of Canadian Ministers having the confidence of Parliament to decide all matters of local concern, of which this is certainly one; and I cannot conceive it possible that the Imperial Ministers could think of attempting to interfere with this right. It would be against all the doctrines and tendencies which have prevailed for many years past, and especially since Confederation. But if, on the other hand, they should in any way take up the second question, and enter into the merits of the Letellier case itself, they might say words which would be exceedingly embarrassing to Sir John Macdonald, and might, as the London Times has done, take the fact of the case having been passed upon by the electorate of the Province of Quebec, upon a special appeal, in which all the issues were submitted—the Local Ministry which assumed responsibility of His Honour's act, being still in power, having had their supplies duly voted—as being a sufficient reason why they should not now step in to punish His Honour for an act within his constitutional function, however grossly abusive of that function, or treacherous that act might in itself appear, or however offensive it might be to the party not in power in the Local Government.

I have dwelt at this length on this question, in order to make the issues as clear as possible, as it is very apparent we have not yet done with it.

The House on Tuesday resumed its sittings after the Easter holidays. At its opening it dealt with some little matters relating to the dismissal of Postmasters, and Sir John Macdonald stated, in answer to Mr. Tassé, that so soon as the state of the public finances would permit, effect would be given to the resolution of the House of Commons in 1873, to erect a monument to the memory of the late Sir George Cartier. How we have missed, since his death, the force which belonged to that straight-forward, honest, character!

There was afterwards a debate on the Chinese question on a motion of Mr. Amor deCosmos. He made a very long speech, the point of which was that if repressive measures were not taken against the Chinese, they would take the place of European labour, and keep back the prosperity and civilization of the Province of British Columbia, while they would render it poorer by sending away in cash 75 per cent. of their earnings. Mr. Bunster, of course, took the same view, as did also Mr. Thompson, of Cariboo, contending that the Chinese were both a nuisance and a curse, and that in time they would spread over the whole continent. Mr. Mackenzie, on the other hand, thought the motion involved doctrines contrary to the law of nations, and contended that British colonies had always been open to all classes of the human family. I have not space at my disposal to follow this debate, which was of great interest. I shall therefore only say that Sir John Macdonald, upon a request from Mr. Mackenzie that he should give his opinion, pronounced the question not one that could be lightly disposed of. It had, he said, attracted the greatest interest both in the United States and Australia, where the Chinese came in contact with the whites, and he thought a special committee advisable to elicit more fully the facts and report them to the House at some future day.

Mr. Girouard's bill to reduce by one-half the capital of the Jacques Cartier Bank, passed without opposition through Committee of the whole, and at the third reading it will become law.

Mr. Casey moved the second reading of his Civil Service Amendment Bill. The special hobby of this gentleman is to improve the Civil Service by instituting competitive examinations for selection by responsible Ministers. He has, however, the weakness of many theorists arising from imperfect knowledge of the facts, despite the long string of questions and answers which he elicited by his committee and got printed. The nearer view his own friends when in power had, showed them the thing could not be made to work in this country the same as in England; but Mr. Tilley promised to look into the matter during the recess with a view to reform, and the bill was shelved for this session.

Mr. McCarthy moved the second reading of a bill to repeal an Act passed by Mr. Mackenzie's Government making certain restrictions on Marine Electric Telegraphs. Mr. Mackenzie vigorously opposed the bill on the ground that it would have the effect of placing the telegraphic business of Canada in the hands of a gigantic monopoly, and insinuated in a somewhat unpleasant manner that Mr. McCarthy

was acting as an advocate of that monopoly having been apparently moved thereto by Mr. Pender at present in Ottawa. Mr. White, of Cardwell, supported Mr. McCarthy in his position, and declared the effects of the repeal would be precisely the opposite of that stated by Mr. Mackenzie. The second reading was carried on a vote of 54 to 28. In view of the charges and counter allegations made the question should be carefully inquired into by the Standing Committee on Railways, Canals and Telegraph Lines.

On Thursday the debate on the Tariff was resumed, and continued on Friday. A number of resolutions were carried. In the course of this debate immediately after the recess, Mr. Tilley upon an interpellation by Sir A. J. Smith, read the private letters to which I made reference in my last letter. I have already sufficiently described them upon the verbal statement which was last week made by Mr. Tilley, and the reply thereto by Sir Albert. As affecting Mr. Tilley's position personally, the matter has great interest and shows that despite the attacks which the present Opposition have made upon him, an attempt was made by a Minister of the Crown, it is alleged however without the consent of Mr. Mackenzie, to get him to take a second term of the Lieut.-Governorship with an ultimate prospect of a seat in Mr. Mackenzie's Cabinet. These flattering propositions Mr. Tilley declined, first for reasons of want of sympathy with that Government, and second from personal respect for himself in view of the nature of the attacks which had been made upon him by its Finance Minister, he deeming that it was his duty, in the face of these attacks, not to shelve himself, and not to place himself in a position where he could not repel them, but to stand up and face all consequences like a man. Mr. Tilley's character and also his kindly and conciliatory manners stand well before the House and country. There are whispers by some that he ought to be Sir John's successor; but Sir John everywhere declared during the late campaign that Dr. Tupper was that man, and the wonderful energy and ability which he displayed seemed to give him a title to that position. It is rather an *embarras de choix*. But I think both these men are far too able and patriotic to let any personal feelings impair their public usefulness.

Mr. Cramp, of your city, appeared before the Immigration Committee on Thursday, and gave very important evidence respecting the magnitude of the cattle trade with the United Kingdom; and I regret that the length of this letter precludes my following his statements to the extent I desire. He showed the value of the shipments of last year was \$2,117,525, and that the value of freight earned was over half a million of dollars. This trade alone had kept one or two of the steamship lines alive.

The Coteau Bridge has still continued to be a bone of angry contention, the Ottawa men being persistent in their determination to have it. More engineering opinions have been obtained, Mr. Shanly's among others, and he favours the project. But it must be said the incidents of a drawbridge are under all circumstances and in the best conditions both dangerous and delay. And certainly very cogent reasons ought to be shown before permitting such obstructions in such a river as the St. Lawrence, which is one of the most important of the commercial and physical features of the continent of North America.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE SPARROWS.—We devote two pages to the sparrows, as particularly appropriate to the season. The picture of the nest and chicks is from the pencil of the famous Giacomelli, and the verses framed on the second are our own crude translation of some charming French lines used on a like occasion.

MAPLE SUGAR-MAKING.—This is a thorough Canadian scene, which has been so often described as to require no further mention to-day beyond a reference to the principal merits of our sketch, taken from nature. Especially comical is the ancient party with "spees," sitting on a log and gazing at vacancy, and looking for all the world like Horace Greeley.

DOG HILL, QUEBEC.—This original sketch, taken on the spot by our own artist, is one of a series of picturesque bits which we intend publishing in the NEWS. We have no doubt that they will be duly appreciated, and the result will be the conviction on the part of our friends that we need not go to the Old Countries for sketches of scenic effect.

THE HEATHEN CHINEE.—The cartoon of this week has reference to the Anti-Chinese Bill brought before Parliament last week by Mr. Amor DeCosmos, junior member for Victoria, B.C. The measure was referred to a committee, and is thus disposed of for the present. It will be remembered that a similar bill was vetoed by the President of the United States.

FORT PEARSON.—This fort, named after the Colonel of the 3rd Regiment (Buffs), commanding the column now at Ekowe, is situated upon an eminence which commands the lower drift of the Tugela river. It is a strong earthwork, with central citadel, and is armed with a 12-pounder Armstrong gun. The view from the fort is very fine, embracing the whole of the river to its mouth, and a sweep of about forty

miles into the enemy's country. To the left, in our view, is Smith's Store, where Lieutenant-General Lord Chelmsford had taken up his abode for a day or two whilst making an inspection of the position. Below Smith's store is seen the Pout, which has transported all the men and material across the river. On the right is the camp of the now disbanded Native Contingent, and farther on that of the 99th, on Euphorbia Hill, so called from a number of those trees which crown its summit. Here also is the burying-ground, tenanted by two of the Bulls, one seaman of the *Active*, one of the *Tenedos*, and an officer of the Natal Native Sappers. The rocky face of the hill on which the fort stands is very abrupt down to the river, and thickly wooded in the crevices with small shrubs and trees. As shown in the sketch, the river is very low, with mud banks visible, and the pontoon constructed by the Royal Engineers, high and dry. The Tugela is the natural defence of Natal against the Zulus. Gun and signal departments at the fort are in charge of a small party of men from the contingent.

THE INUNDATION AT SZEGEDIN.—This terrible catastrophe was caused by the river Theiss breaking through the embankment near the town. The waters leapt through and over the embankment, and in an hour and a half a great town, containing 9,700 houses and some 70,000 inhabitants, was swept in the blackness of night by the rushing waves. The destruction which followed was instant and enormous. Most of the poorer houses were built of sun-dried bricks, which melted away at the first touch of the inundation. Out of the 9,700 houses only about a thousand remain. The loss of life was nearly two thousand. This, indeed, would have been far greater, but that for more than a week the inhabitants of Szegedin had before them the probability of inundation, and the authorities had done all they could to lessen its worst consequences. Barges and boats were soon plying in the streets for the rescue of those who had still clung to their houses; engineers had sent down pontoons; the Danube Steam Navigation Company had ordered thither a number of their steamers; and the neighbouring district, as well as the rowing clubs of the capital, had contributed all that could be spared of boats and apparatus. This timely foresight was the saving of many lives; but thousands have escaped with life who have lost everything else in the world. The condition of men, women, and children, washed out of their houses in the dead of night, and perched shivering and shelterless upon the higher grounds that still lift themselves above the waste of waters, was as deplorable as can be imagined. Many of these were conveyed away to the neighbouring towns and villages, which freely opened their doors to the destitute fugitives; the railway to Temeswar carried thousands gratuitously; the Hungarian Diet invested its Minister-President with discretionary powers of assistance; and the Emperor of Austria has shown a warm interest in the sufferings of his subjects.

REVIEW AND CRITICISM.

The contents of the *Atlantic Monthly* for May are:—"Labour and the Natural Forces," by Charles Carleton Coffin; "Witchwork," by Harriet Prescott Spofford; "To Leadville," by H. H.; "English Civil Service Reform," by George Willard Brown; "A Fancy"; "Irene the Missionary," VI.-IX.; "The Ship from France," by C. L. Cleveland; "The Abolition of Poverty," by Alfred B. Mason; "The Faience Violin," by W. H. Bishop; "Seven Wonders of the World," by C. P. Cranch; "George's Little Girl," by M. E. W. S.; "The New Dispensation of Monumental Art"; "The decoration of Trinity Church in Boston, and of the new Assembly Chamber at Albany—by Henry Van Bruut; "Our Florida Plantation," by Harriet Beecher Stowe; "Emile Zola as a Critic," by Clara B. Martin; "Americanisms," VII., by Richard Grant White; "The Contributors' Club"; "Recent Literature."

LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE for May opens with a brilliantly written and finely illustrated paper, by Mrs. Sarah Butler Wister, which propounds and answers one question, "Why do we like Paris?" In another illustrated paper—"From Norway to York"—H. M. Robinson describes graphically canoe travel and transportation in the territory of the Hudson Bay Company. "The Tramp in Four Centuries" is a close but somewhat enigmatical study of a class which is commonly supposed to be a modern innovation, but which is here shown, on the evidence of curious unpublished letters, to have made its appearance on every occasion of social and financial revolutions. "My Hero" gives a very striking account of the career of General Paez, "the first lance in the world," by one who knew him personally while president of the Venezuelan Republic. Miss Ammie Porter continues her graphic sketches of "Village Life in Louisiana"; Nathan Clifford Brown describes "Beach-Birds," giving special attention to such as are rarest and least known; and Mrs. Hooper has an interesting account of Cardinal Richelieu's first and only appearance as a dramatic author and stage-manager. The serial and short stories are of the usual excellence; but many readers will find nothing so entertaining as the "Gossip," which is full of bright and amusing talk, chiefly on "society topics," including a witty little dialogue on "Proposals of Marriage."

ST. NICHOLAS for May has a May-song in it,

and a coronation, of course, but no May Queen. It is a sort of story number, and has nearly forty pictures. Besides the two serials, there are:—A spider story, an elephant story, a gunpowder story, a bear story, an astronomical story, a mythological story, a botanical story, a mathematical story, a story of a girl who couldn't, and more than one of girls who could, besides an ascending tale of a boy who made a man and found him a very difficult person to manage. A stirring account is given of how "The Big Bear of Wannetola" was hunted and slain—the closing struggle being shown in a striking picture by W. L. Sheppard. The "Land of the Powder-Players"—Morocco—and the wild sports, on horseback and afoot, of its dark-skinned warriors, are described by Ernest Ingersoll, with the aid of seven illustrations. Harriet Prescott Spofford's story of "The Boy Astronomer," concludes by carrying him to the Observatory and telling what he there did and saw. Kate Gannett Wells, in "She Couldn't," a narrative of girl-life, warns all whom it may concern to find out what they cannot do, as well as what they can do. The pictures in these two stories are by Reinhart and Eyttinge. Mary Mapes Dodge, the editor, contributes a poem for May-Day; and Mrs. E. T. Corbet, in some comical verses entitled "The Three Wise Couples," winds up the adventures of the Three Wise Women and the Three Wise Men, their absurd doings being shown in two full-page pictures by L. Hopkins.

ECHOES FROM LONDON.

MUCH comment is caused by the strange conduct of a clergyman in Bristol. About service time he marches through the streets dressed in a white surplice and an ecclesiastical hat. In one hand he carries a book marked with a large red cross, and in the other a bell, which he rings as he walks. He continually cries, "Come to church," and he has with him a boy carrying a lantern. He is, of course, followed by a large crowd.

The churchwardens of a church in England, being disgusted with the penuriousness of a rich peer, who, since the collection began to be taken up in a bag instead of a plate, contributed nothing but coppers, resolved to shame him into liberality. They cut a slit in the bottom of the bag and passed it first to his lordship, whose bronze penny fell with a resounding clash on the floor plain to be seen of all men. Next day his lordship took all his prayer-books and cushions home, and deserted the church for good and all.

A RECENT inventory of the Royal plate at Windsor makes up a total of £1,800,000, and includes a gold service, ordered by George IV., which will dine 140 persons, and one of the finest wine-coolers in the world, added to the collection by the same monarch; a shield formed of snuff boxes, worth £9,000; and thirty dozen plates, worth £10,000. There are also a variety of pieces brought from abroad and India. The latter include a peacock of precious stones of every description, worth £30,000, and Tipoo's foot-stool, a tiger's head, with crystal teeth and a solid ingot of gold for his tongue.

A GOOD story is going the rounds. Some few Sundays ago, a stump speaker in Hyde Park was making one of the conventional attacks upon the Government of the country and its institutions. He inveighed especially against the aristocracy, which, as he made out, muddled our affairs whenever they took them in hand. "Look at what has happened at the Cape!" he cried. "There was a good general out there who was doing as well as man could do, General Theisger. But he could not be left to do the job; the Government must needs send out a lord, Lord Chelmsford, over his head, and look at the mess he has got us into."

MR. LOWE'S mishap in the House of Commons recently, caused no little amusement in the lobby. It was Mr. Forster's hat he seized, and in attempting to force it down over his brow, he did not improve the appearance of the rather wonderful-looking covering in which Mr. Forster delights. Mr. Lowe and Mr. Forster possess hats which, in age, general dilapidation, and dust, resemble each other very closely. They differ only in the matter of size, and it was here that Mr. Lowe's vision played him false. He described in the gloom two hats on the table. He clutched at one of them, and, as he explained afterwards, "he could have declared by the feel of the brim" that it was his. All that was wanted he thought was a little extra pressure, and this he gave, inflicting the *coup de grace* on Mr. Forster's hat. Mr. Forster subsequently attempting solemnly to put the ill-used article in order was a spectacle never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

NILSSON'S MUSICAL SECRET.

Nilsson is a devotee of Liebig. When she is about to appear in opera, she rests, after rehearsal, the entire day on the sofa, abjures solid food, but has a cupful of her favourite essence of meat every two hours. This is her unvarying regimen, and she finds it nerves her for the effort and triumph of successive nights.—*Whitehall Review*.