

like other parts. The proposition seems one to arouse opposition, but the Government has its answer ready. The Liberals, when in power, gave a bonus of \$12,000 a mile to the Canada Central, running north-west to connect with the Canadian Pacific at lake Nipissing, and if it was right to help to build that link, it cannot be so very wrong to help to pay for the link which the Quebec Government has run in debt for.

One of the principal subjects of debate in the House has been the position of Sir Charles Tupper. The Liberals held it to be a dangerous thing to allow the Government to appoint men to salaried offices by simply saying "without salary," in the letters of appointment, for the Government could employ half the members of the House, granting them only these "expenses." Whatever may be said of the advisability of passing such an act, certainly none can doubt that it is altogether unlike the Tupper of old days to accept shelter under it. But when one notices Sir Charles' pale face marked with lines which show that there is more will power than vitality in the man, the trembling hand and the failing voice, and thinks how different was the Tupper of a few years ago, one must realize that the Minister is forced to take the course in which the effort to himself is lightened by the votes of his friends.

If there is any virtue in legislation, the double track on the Grand Trunk Railway between Toronto and Montreal is now almost assured. The Bill to authorize the company to rearrange its debt by perpetual stock to replace many classes of its securities has passed, the Committee on Railways and Canals, with the assent of the Government. A Bill of great importance to every-day people, is the new Insurance Bill. It is intended to check the operations of the American co-operative frauds in Canada. The purely mutual system of insurance established under the auspices of the Masonic and other benevolent societies has been adopted by American sharpers to serve purely selfish ends. In some localities, notably in places easily accessible from the United States border, trustful Canadians have been engulfed by the thousands. This is manifestly unfair to the Canadian people and the Canadian companies. But on the other hand it would not do to compel all societies run on this plan to submit to the restriction placed upon insurance companies. The difficulty is got over in this Bill by providing a special system of license and inspection for these concerns, and at the same time prohibiting all not so incorporated from doing insurance.

"Are the galleries a part of the House?" This is the question which got the deputies of the people into trouble on Thursday last. A question was put for the House to vote on. Mr. Fortin, who was in the gallery, heard the question and went down and voted. Mr. Trow, the Opposition whip, objected to the vote being recorded and asked the Speaker's ruling. "Did you hear the question?" asked the Speaker. "I was in the gallery and heard the question," was the reply. The Speaker said that notwithstanding the member was in the gallery, as he had heard the question his vote was in order. He referred to the well-known rule that if a member leaves his seat during the division his vote must be struck off if attention be called to the fact. Attention was then promptly called to the fact that Mr. Fortin had not only moved from one seat to another, but had come down all the way from the gallery. The vote was accordingly struck out.

Ottawa March 15th.

ED. RUTHVEN.

## THE CHURCHES.

ALGOMA has been fortunate in securing the services of a zealous missionary bishop. He is at present in England awakening interest in his field of labour, and appealing for contributions to aid in carrying on his work among the settlers and Indians. Last week a crowded meeting was held at Willis' Rooms, at which the Marquis of Lorne presided. A small steamer is required in the prosecution of missionary work in the diocese of Algoma. The Bishop will not fail in his object. He has succeeded in obtaining the influential support of Archdeacon Farrar.

THERE are twenty vacancies in the Cardinals' College. Although by recent appointments the number of Italians has been reduced, they still preponderate. One solitary survivor, Cardinal Schwartzberg, Archbishop of Prague, owes his appointment to the predecessor of Pius IX. and has therefore held his high position for nearly half a century. Thirty-seven were created by Pius IX. and already twenty have been elevated to the cardinalate by the present pontiff, while twenty vacancies remain to be filled. Cardinal McCloskey is, as yet, the only wearer of the scarlet hat on this continent.

THE building of the long-projected Roman Catholic cathedral in London is about to be begun. As was to be expected, it is to be on a scale of great magnificence. The site is that occupied by Tothill Fields Prison and has been purchased for \$575,000. The estimated cost of the building itself is about \$25,000,000. In magnitude the structure will surpass Westminster Abbey. It is designed to be 570 feet in length, and 350 in breadth, Westminster Abbey being 511 feet in length and 203 feet across the transepts.

THE Catholic directory for 1874 gives the following statistics of the Catholic Church in the United States: There are 13 archbishops, 57 bishops, 6,385 priests, 1,651 ecclesiastical students, 6,613 churches, 1,150 chapels, 1,476 stations, 22 ecclesiastical seminaries, 87 colleges, 599 academies, 2,582 parochial schools, 481,834 pupils attending the parochial schools, 204 asylums, and 139 hospitals. There has been an increase during the last year of 289 priests, 217 ecclesiastical students, 372 churches, 6 colleges, 20 academies and 41 parochial schools, and in the attendance an increase of 53,192 pupils, and 19 asylums. The number of Catholics in

the country is given at 6,623,176. The number of Roman Catholic clergy in England is 2,176. Scotland added six to her list of clergy during the year. The number of churches, stations and schools in Scotland and England increased fifty-one per cent. during the past twelve months. England has one archbishop and fourteen bishops, and Scotland two archbishops.

THE Roman Catholic Bishop of Montreal does not view with favour the exodus of French Canadians to the United States. He has recently issued a pastoral detailing in vivid terms the spiritual and other dangers to which the exiles are exposed. He strongly urges their repatriation and favours their colonization in suitable districts in their native province.

WHEN the Evangelical Alliance assembles in Stockholm the principal subjects for consideration are stated to be: Religious indifference among various classes of society and the best means for its removal; Sabbath observance; Sunday school work; Modern Unbelief and the best means of counteracting it; The harmony of Science and Revelation; Intemperance; Immorality; Home and Foreign Missions. The Alliance officials are already in possession of valuable and interesting communications from all over the world.

THE religious life of France is in a transition state. The Roman Catholic church is yet the church of the masses, but it is ceasing to exert a powerful influence on the minds of the people. Dr. Beard, an American Congregationalist minister, long resident in Paris, has, through various channels, of late been giving his impressions of the religious condition of France. In an address recently delivered before the Congregational Club of New York, he makes this statement: "The attitude of mind toward Romanism may be seen in the fact which I have from one whose figures I have found to be usually remarkably true, that at the Easter communion attendance, which is the supreme test of church loyalty, not more than one man in twenty-five attends, and not more than one woman in four. . . . So, as you go up and down the Provinces of France, you will find it common for the men especially, to sneer at religion; that is, at the Church. They hate the priests, they laugh at their pretensions, while at the same time they may record themselves as Roman Catholics in the census. After all, they wish some one to attend their children if they die." In an article in the first number of the *Andover Review*, Dr. Beard discusses hopefully the position and prospects of the Protestant Churches in France.

AN agitation in Bale, Switzerland, against the priestly control of education has resulted in a popular verdict against the continuance. The Grand Council submitted the question to popular vote. The ballot-box showed that 4,479 were in favour of committing the schools to the care of laymen, while only 2,910 voted for clerical control.

MADISON AVENUE Congregational Church, New York has been for months in a state of great perturbation. Stormy meetings have from time to time been held, the scenes at which occasionally rivalled the animation at political partizan assemblages. The present pastor of the congregation, Rev. Mr. Newton, was and is a minister in connection with the Methodist Episcopal body. He entered on an engagement to supply the pulpit of Madison Avenue Congregational Church. After a time a number in the congregation thought he should either consent to be formally installed as a Congregationalist minister or retire. Dr. Newman and his friends objected to the proposal and the antagonism subsequently became intense. A council has just decided that the course proposed by what is termed the Old Church party is the proper one to follow, and they advise the calling of a meeting to finally end what has been a long, unseemly and bitter contention. All parties in this militant congregation seem now inclined to manifest a conciliatory spirit.

IN response to the existing desire for shortening and simplifying creeds, a committee of Congregational ministers in the United States have issued a symbolical declaration of what they regard as the fundamental principles of the Christian faith. It consists of twelve articles or propositions substantially in harmony with the older creeds, but divested of the angular and archaic phraseology in which they are expressed.

ASTERISK.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### LOCOMOTIVE POLICEMEN.

To the Editor of The Week:

SIR,—The recent strike in the North-West, and the fact that there is only one railroad management, and only likely to be one railroad management, has opened a new danger to Canada—not only west of Ontario, but to all the eastern provinces that have any manufactories.

The Minister of Militia appoints officers and sends men into the North-West, and has an able and efficient force in the Mounted Police to protect settlers against Indians, etc. But when the settlers do come, and when they make their contracts and order in their supplies, the Canadian Pacific reduce the wages of the engineers, the engineers strike, no trains are run, and the settlers suffer more in one day than they ever suffered in ten years from Indians. For this there is no remedy. I forgot; there is a remedy, and that is, that "Mr. Arthur, of the Brotherhood of Engineers, who lives in the States," has to be consulted.

Now, the people of Canada have given the C. P. R. twenty-five millions of dollars and twenty-five millions of acres of land to build the railway, and have recently lent them thirty millions of dollars more to finish it quickly, and have given them the railway after it is finished. Surely they have the right to ask the Government for protection against railway aggran-