

Gladstone and the ministry card-sharpers and thimble-riggers,—since 'bonnet' is thieves' slang for the confederate who plays innocent for these swindlers in order to decoy greenhorns into the trap. And yet Sir Stafford comes of one of the most ancient landed families of England, with a pedigree going back 780 years, and he ought to be a gentleman."

A good clerical story is told in an English paper. Canon Knox Little had been preaching in St. Paul's, London, and his peculiarly revivalist style was being much criticised before a high ecclesiastic. "*Vox et præterea nihil?*" asked one of the commentators of the dignity. "Oh no," he replied, affecting to be shocked, "*Knox et præterea Little.*"

THE scene in court when Lord Coleridge was attacking Mr. Yates and the *World* is said by a London correspondent to have been very exciting. Lord Coleridge can be as severe as any living man; but he is capable of intense indignation, and the way in which he denounced the *World* and its contributors and its readers made the court stare. For a moment the Chief Justice assumed the rôle of a chastiser of the faults of the age; and as he used the whip, the follies he abominates seemed to fly. No such a scarifying judgment has been delivered from the English bench in our time. The same authority thinks unless Mr. Yates can manage to defeat the judgment of the Court of Queen's Bench by raising what seems like an unpromising technical point, he will find himself placed in prison for four months. Mr. Yates is now fifty-three years of age, and probably the thing he will have most to fear would be the sudden cessation of his very active habits.

RACING proper, in England, may be said to begin with the Newmarket First Spring Meeting, which commences on Tuesday and the following days of next week, and racing representatives of all nations will be drawn together on the classic downs, associated with that far-famed home of horse racing, for at this meeting the horses in training belonging to Lord Falmouth are to be brought to the hammer. Racing in England has attained to such gigantic proportions that it may be almost looked upon in the light of an important native industry, and regarded as such. The retirement of Lord Falmouth from the turf must be deemed a national calamity. Since the retirement of Lord George Bentinck, in 1846, no event has excited so much surprise, or caused such universal regret, as the announcement that the whole of Lord Falmouth's stud was to be disposed of. The turf is now in a transition state, and the loss of one who has for so long been its brightest adornment and its strongest pillar is an irreparable one. In the last year or so the turf has, by the iron hand of death, lost too many of its most distinguished votaries: Prince Batthyany, Lord Stanford, Count Lagrange, Mr. Gretton, and Mr. Stirling Crawford have all crossed to the majority. The voluntary retirement of Lord Falmouth makes the gap the more conspicuous. For over a quarter of a century his lordship has figured prominently in racing circles, and now retires with a reputation for probity and straightforwardness against which the breath of scandal has never been raised.

History sometimes repeats itself. Lord George Bentinck disposed of a Derby winner in "Surplice." There are more unlikely things than that "Harvester" may credit his purchaser with the Blue Riband of the turf, though, unlike Lord George, the colours of Lord Falmouth have twice been carried to victory in the classic event—to have secured which Lord George would have given ten years of his life. It is well known that Lord Falmouth never bets. He is said to have made but one in his life, and that sixpence, with Mrs. Scott, when he laid against his own mare "Queen Bertha," who won the Oaks in 1863. The bet was paid with a brand new sixpence, set in diamonds, and mighty proud of it was the happy possessor. All the great events of the turf have, in turn, fallen to the manipulation of the powerful triumvirate, Lord Falmouth, Matthew Dawson, and Fred Archer. The value of stakes won in the last fifteen years amounts to considerably over one million dollars, yet it may well be doubted whether Lord Falmouth retires a winner in the long run from his racing speculations.

A LADY went from London to Oxford to ascertain for herself about the difference between Puseyism of that day and Anglicanism. After having spent a short time there in visiting several churches and university chapels, she was constrained to leave without having satisfied herself fully upon the point. On her way up to London, however, she met a reverend gentleman in the train who happened to be Dr. Pusey himself, and, without knowing who he was, she asked him if he could enlighten her about the object of which she was in quest. His quaint reply was: "I, also, heard a good deal about the Puseyites, but I can assure you, madam, that I am not one."

INTER-DOMINION AND PROVINCIAL FINANCES.

ONCE more, a demand for an increase of the Federal subsidies to the Provinces has been granted. It is in the nature of those calls that twice as much as is asked has to be given. Three or four provinces, finding themselves deficient in revenue, call upon the Federal Government to supply their wants; and the necessity of balancing one dole by another makes all the provinces sharers in the increase. For the addition some provinces had no need; and the supposed adjustment of interests by these make-weights involves inevitable waste. Some Provinces get money which they do not want, and which they must either needlessly spend or uselessly hoard. Temptation to extravagance is put in their way; and if they yield to it, as they are sure to do sooner or later, habits will be formed which will demand a constant increase of expenditure. The imprudent expenditure of Quebec, which lies at the root of these demands, will meet no check so long as supplies can be got from the Federal Government for the asking. The money distributed to the Provinces must first be collected from them; but as it will be collected in different proportions, the richest Provinces, consuming most dutiable goods, will be made to contribute to the local expenditure of the poorer. What is offered as an equitable adjustment really causes an unequal and unfair distribution of burthens. If Quebec requires more revenue, her necessity does not warrant her in forcing Ontario, indirectly, to assist in contributing to its increase. The subsidies do not form the sole resource of the Provinces; powers of taxation were conferred upon them, to enable them to supplement this source of income; but they will not risk the opposition of their constituents by an exercise of those powers, so long as they can supply their wants by repeated demands for an increase of the subsidies.

The great danger of these concessions is that they are not controlled by the check of any constitutional limitation. The gulf into which the increasing amounts are, from time to time, thrown, is unfathomable. A constitutional limitation there was—each Province was to get a stated sum—but means were found to break through or get over the fixed limit; and there is no scruple about making demands to supply wants created by imprudent expenditure. The latest amounts granted are capitalized, and interest thereon is payable to the Provinces. If the whole of the subsidies were capitalized, and represented by securities liable to be paid off, and a constitutional inhibition against any further increase of the amount were set up, there would be ground for hope in connection with what is now the most hopeless feature of our finances.

It is perhaps unfortunate that any agreement for subsidies was ever made. But the bargain, once entered into, should have been strictly carried out. On the Dominion was thrown the burthen of the greater part of the pre-existing public debt. Nor was this an unreasonable arrangement, since to the Dominion were accorded the customs and excise duties. But Quebec becoming impatient under its share of the load of debt, a redistribution of burthens was made; the load of Ontario and Quebec was lightened, not wholly thrown off, at the expense of the Dominion; the other Provinces receiving an increase, by way of make-weight. The demand for the shifting of the burthen came from Quebec, and Ontario acquiesced in the settlement. The other Provinces were glad to receive an increase; so strong is the delusion that the Provinces can be benefitted individually by robbing themselves in the aggregate.

Some of the Provinces backed the demand for increased subsidies by an argument which is, from any point of view, inadmissible. The ground was taken that, since the Federal Government receives the customs and excise revenue, it is bound to supply the Provinces all the means necessary to maintain the local administrations in a state of efficiency. To a subsidy of eighty cents per head of the population, according to the census of 1861, certain powers of local taxation were added; and by the exercise of these powers any additional revenue that might be required was to be obtained. If any Province does not choose to exercise those powers, it must be prepared to limit its expenditure to the amount of the subsidy; its neglect or refusal to do so can give it no claim on the Federal Government. The Federal Government, unlike the local, which may have a resource in public lands, has no revenue but what it raises from taxation; and to increase taxes, either by local or federal legislation, is not a welcome duty, but a duty it is that must sometimes be performed. There is one element in the autonomy of the Provinces, on which the advocates of local rights do not sufficiently insist: the right and the duty of each Province to raise its own revenues, beyond what is secured to it by the terms of Confederation. Beyond this, what Parliament gives, it can take away; there can be no security for provincial autonomy when the purse-strings are liable to be closed by the hand of a stranger, and closed they would have to be, if any great pressure were put on the finances of the Dominion.