

## Notes of the Week.

Before our present issue is in the hands of our readers Lord Lorne, our Governor-General, will have returned to the Capital from the United States, to resume once again the burdens of his office. His Excellency appears to have been well received by our neighbors, and to have made an excellent impression. The Princess Louise has gone to Bermuda for the winter, and while enjoying the climate of that island will escape the serious and apparently oppressive task of entertaining the senators, members and officials of our Canadian Parliament soon to be in session at Ottawa.

It may be accepted as a proof of the unselfish treatment of the Egyptian question by England, that her views have been endorsed by the Cabinets of St. Petersburg, Berlin and Vienna. Taken together with the satisfaction evinced by the Egyptians themselves at England's policy, it redounds in the highest degree to the credit of our motherland.

There seems to be but little improvement in the state of Ireland. Politically and socially it has been in a wretched condition so long that it will take great wisdom and tact on the part of the authorities to restore peace and contentment to the people. If it were the common people only who are the agitators the task would be an easy one, but it is designing persons who simply use the peasantry as their tools. The *Dublin Gazette* gives the total number of outrages reported during December as eighty-five. The cases include two of firing at the person, two of assaults on the police, eight incendiary fires, six cases of maiming cattle, one of robbery of arms, fifty-four of threatening letters, eight cases of intimidation, and four of injury to property. It is thought that the police have succeeded at last in unearthing the chief promoters of the Phoenix Park and other unhappy outrages, and also of proposed new and even more terrible deeds of violence.

The arrest and conviction of Corey, of St. John, N. B., the vender of bogus money, will perhaps do good not only in frightening others of his class, but in opening the eyes of would-be dupes to the dishonesty of all such transactions. One feels, however, that in the majority of cases the dupes are quite as bad as those who dupe them, and deserve to be punished equally with them. If people are found willing to buy counterfeit money, they do it to practice fraud upon others, and are not one whit better than those from whom they buy.

In a speech delivered in Edinburgh on Friday, Sir Alexander Galt, High Commissioner for Canada, referring to the relations of the British Colonies to the Empire, said "it was doubtful whether or not, as the colonies increased in material power, they would continue satisfied with their present position of separation. It was neither necessary nor desirable." It is not a day too soon for this question to come up for discussion, as its solution immensely concerns England as well as Canada and the other Colonies.

The announcement made with authority that the Prince of Wales and suite will pay a visit to Canada about the first week in March, and that he will remain in this country until after the meeting of the Science Association, will be received all over the Dominion with the liveliest satisfaction. Nothing would do more to increase His Royal Highness' popularity in this country than a personal visit, and it is to be hoped that nothing will interfere to prevent it. The Prince, should he come, will note with surprise and pleasure the remarkable advances made in all directions since his previous visit in 1860. He will find a people happy and contented, loyal and patriotic, and a united country under a central government, embracing almost half a continent, extending from Prince Edward to Vancouver's Islands, with a future which the most sanguine mind can scarcely estimate.

For some time past a society has been in existence in England having for its object the cremation

of the dead. Recently it has been in communication with the *Home Secretary*, who has expressed an opinion that the burning of the dead ought not to be sanctioned except under the authority and regulation of an Act of Parliament. It is the duty of those who desire to pursue such a practice to obtain such an authority, and until it is granted Sir William Harcourt will adhere to the view expressed by his predecessor in office, Sir R. A. Cross who declared the practice to be illegal and punishable. Of course the common Christian mode of burying the dead with a proper recognition of the honor due to the Divine likeness has much to do with the opposition to such a proceeding, but there are objections of another kind which will probably operate in the eyes of the law to prevent cremation being generally adopted. We refer to the detection of crime and the conviction of criminals which in cases of poisoning cremation would render impossible.

The inauguration of the Ice Palace in Montreal during the past week, with its attendant carnival and numerous sports and games and gay scenes, has drawn to the metropolis many thousands of visitors from almost all parts of the Dominion, as well as very many from the United States. There appears to have been plenty of attractions, and the people of Montreal have as usual displayed unbounded hospitality to their numerous guests.

The Provincial Parliament of the Province of Quebec was opened last week with more than the usual brilliant array of beauty and fashion in attendance. We notice that the Premier appeared dressed in the Windsor uniform.

The Manitoba elections, which came off on the 23rd, resulted in a victory for Mr. Norquay's Government. The numbers, it is thought, will stand 18 to 11. In the interests of peace we are glad to learn that a calmer judgment has averted what might have led to much unpleasantness.

The situation in France, which led to the arrest of Prince Jerome Napoleon, seems to have not yet reached a climax. The ex-Empress Eugenie has added fuel to the flame by paying a visit to Paris, but the Government notified her that her presence was not desirable, and she returned at once to London. It appears that she sought an interview with the imprisoned Prince, but was refused by the officials. It is said Eugenie recommended Jerome formally to renounce his claims as heir of the Bonapartes in favor of Prince Victor and to seal the union of the Imperialist party and confirm the testament of the Prince Imperial.

The name which has been prominently mentioned as a successor to Gambetta is M. Clemenceau. Believing that he is the man who will now come to the front, the Paris correspondent of the *Daily News* tells us that he is a man of great ability and noble instincts. It is a mistake, he goes on to say, to regard M. Clemenceau as an uncompromising revolutionist. He is very honest, domestic as any Englishman, and of sober habits. On the question of tectotalism he and Sir Wilfrid Lawson would agree. In private life M. Clemenceau is remarkable for the high flow of his animal spirits. He has visited England and the United States, and is familiar with the political histories of both countries. He regards Washington as the *beau ideal* of a President of a Constitutional Republic.

It has been stated that the children or grandchildren of those who have left the Church return to it and show an increased affection and more ardent devotion for its interests than did even their Church forefathers. Whether this can be asserted as a general principle we have not the disposition or opportunity to decide, but that very many, at the present day for example, whose fathers or grandfathers left the Church are occupying important positions in it, and are contributing largely to its present activity and influence, is beyond dispute. So many Bishops and Deans, Canons and Professors, Rectors and Vicars, as well as prominent men among the Laity, are well known that it would be superfluous to name them. But there is a name to be added to the list. The *West Briton* states that the new Archbishop of Canterbury is the grandson

of the late Rev. Joseph Benson, President of the Wesleyan Conference in 1798 and in 1810, who died in 1821.

It is known to our readers that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been exerting himself with marked and gratifying success to found a Royal College of Music which shall by Bursaries and Fellowships place the means of obtaining a thorough musical education within the reach of every deserving and ambitious boy and girl of England. As evidencing the popularity of the project, as well as showing how old countrymen in the new world still retain their affection for and take a lively interest in the land of their birth, we note that Mr. Andrew Carnegie, of New York, a native of Dunfermline, has subscribed \$25,000 to the new College.

A contemporary calls attention to the fact that while the French population of Canada has increased in proportion to the English during the last thirty years by over four per cent., the proportion of Roman Catholics to Protestants during the same period only shows an increase of between two and three per cent. In other words, the proportion of Roman Catholics to Protestants has increased with much less rapidity than that of French to English.

The Government intend to keep pace with the marvellous growth of Winnipeg, so far as the public buildings are concerned. It is their intention, we are told, to erect there one of the finest post offices in the Dominion. It will be built on the site of the present post office. It is also reported that the Government will erect a new Custom House in Winnipeg, of the most elegant design.

A cablegram announces the death of the Rt. Rev. Thomas G. Suther, D. D., D. C. L., Bishop of Aberdeen and the Isles, Scotland. Bishop Suther is closely related to a Nova Scotia family, and was a graduate of King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia. The deceased Prelate was a man of enlarged views, and was much beloved by his people from whom he received many proofs of affection.

The French Ministry has resigned, and the *London Times*, commenting thereon, says:—"The news is of a most momentous character. Even its immediate consequence cannot be at once divined. The resignation of the cabinet exhibits a catastrophe which threatens the political disarrangement of the country, and renders the substitution of a more powerful ministry a matter of exceeding difficulty." It would take but little to bring about another civil war in France, on the ruins of which would perhaps arise another Empire, although it is to be feared the material is wanting at present for a stable government.

The support which Bismarck has received from the "Catholic" party in the Reichstag, has led to a better understanding between the German government and the Pope, and the Emperor seems disposed to relax the famous May Laws if the Vatican will forsake its pretentious claims to the right of Ecclesiastical appointments within the Empire. It is thought that concessions on both sides will place the Romish Bishops in a more comfortable position than they have occupied for some time past. In a recent letter from the Emperor to the Pope His Majesty says he believes "the advance made by the Vatican in regard to the duty of giving notice of Ecclesiastical appointments to the government is even more to the interest of the Catholic Church than to the state." And no doubt it is only by living in accord with the laws of a country that the Romish Church can henceforth hope to exercise any influence.

We are glad to find that the unhappy loss of life by recent fires, and the almost entire lack of life-saving apparatus have led to a good deal of interest being displayed in the construction of something better than what we now have. The *Boston Traveller* says that a captain of one of their hose companies is perfecting a novel fire escape, intended for permanent use on hook and ladder