

becomes the great philosopher of the age. Another is enthroned as prince of economists for resolving all social phenomena into a question of land tenure, and tracing all social evils to the general abandonment by the civilized world of the system which lingers in its pristine beneficence among the barbarians of Afghanistan. The light of Mr. George is evidently declining in the west; but in the east rises another luminary, Mr. Hyndman, a disciple of Carl Marx, and one of a band whose object is to slay the two great oppressors of labour, Christianity and Capitalism. The condition of labour when Christianity came into the world almost universally was Slavery; and that Christianity had a large share in the emancipation of the slave is a fact as certain as the existence of Mr. Hyndman. The great crimes of Christianity in the eyes of the Nihilist are that it preaches self-reform and makes people content with their lot. If it prevented people from improving their lot, it would stand condemned; but the answer to any charge of that kind is the social and economical condition of Christendom compared with that of the heathen world.

A BYSTANDER.

### HERE AND THERE.

LORD LANSDOWNE is evidently a man shaped to the times. He appears to have made up his mind to understand the people and the institutions of the great colony in which he represents her Majesty, and is consequently rapidly becoming popular. "He is the best Governor we've had in a long while," said a member as he came out of the office the other day. "He is the first one that's talked to me in many years. Lorne used to talk at a person, not to him, and you always felt that the conversation was on a formal basis. Dufferin talked with you instead of to you. He always seemed to be saying to himself 'Ain't I doing this nicely? Here I am, a lord and a great genius, and I am actually indulging in a free and easy chat with a plebian.' But Lord Lansdowne talked to me just as you do; frankly, pleasantly, and with an evident interest in what I told him." If the Ottawans see much of Lord Lansdowne it will be more than they saw of his predecessors. It is the custom of the Governor-General to stay at Rideau Hall most of his time, and to go to his office only when he pleases. He gives two balls, the A to M ball and the M to Z ball, each winter. The first one takes in half the members of Parliament alphabetically and their ladies. The next takes in the other half. The ball-room is not big enough to hold them all, or he would give an A to Z ball and have done with it. He and his wife give occasional drawing-rooms, also, throughout the season, and in spring they go to the other official residence, in the Citadel of Quebec, whence they make trips to Montreal, up the Saguenay, or into the country, salmon fishing.

A New York correspondent who has been "doing" Ottawa says:

Rideau Hall is nothing but a patchwork. It is not a creditable establishment for a country as rich as the Dominion, which in population is as considerable as the State of New York. The only modern parts of it are the wings that Dufferin built. The one as you approach the hall from Ottawa is the ball room. The other is the tennis court. Three staircases meet in the portico. The two at the sides lead to the wings; the centre one leads to the original main hall-way. This hall-way, which ends in the great and beautiful conservatory at the further end of the house, is the best feature of the building. The parlours are at the one side and the dining hall at the other. Visitors like this floor because it is so warm in colours and cosily comfortable in its general effect. It is neither grand nor pretty, but it is what the English call "jolly." The big ball room, with its modern lambrequins and portieres of gay-hued satin, is a fine apartment. On the top floor are the bedrooms, but nobody who is not a prince, a lord, or a lackey ever enters them.

MONTREAL as seen by a representative of the *New York Sun* during Carnival-tide was a revelation, judged by the impressions he gives to the world. Everything tended to convince the visitor he was in a foreign country with a frigid climate. Snow was omnipresent, and furs were as plentiful as telegraph-poles in New York. The Canadian's one idea was to keep out the cold, and with a fur cap, a fur or double-cloth great-coat, thick under-clothes, and rubber-coated feet, cold did not avail nor did a tumble out of a sleigh hurt. Montreal is a city of magnificent limestone structures, and its American critic is bound to confess the public buildings are all as fine as any in New York. He was struck with the prevalence of French manners, but his impression was that the Gauls are generally carters, servants, small shop-keepers, privates in the militia, clerks, and labourers, whilst the wealth and enterprise of the city are more with the Scotch element. At the period of his visit "everything went on runners." The horses were tough Canadian ponies that rushed like mad along the streets. Hot Scotch and Canadian rye whiskey were the favourite tipples. It depends he thinks upon who you are as to how you are treated in Montreal, and "caste and aristocracy are not empty words" there. "There is not one smooth male face in one hundred in the streets, except among the boys. The old men let their beards grow all over their faces, and the young men wear side whiskers and moustaches. The Canadians say they can tell a New Yorker by his smooth face, his round hat, fat and well-

fed appearance. It certainly is a fact that the Canadians are spare as a rule."

PORTIONS of the New York and German presses continue to condemn the action of Prince Bismarck in returning to the House of Representatives of the United States the resolution of condolence on Herr Lasker's death. The more moderate and thoughtful American journals, however, perceive the absurdity and ill-breeding of the whole affair. Probably no other representative body in the world could have been guilty of such a breach of international courtesy. The resolution was simply the expression of American sympathy with the deceased gentleman as the representative of a party, with whom Prince Bismarck and the German Government have continually been at issue. It would be interesting to know how the United States would have received a resolution from the late Napoleon III., sympathizing with the disappointment of Jefferson Davis at the issue of the civil war. And yet the one incident is in the same execrable taste as the other would have been. What Germany wants from America just now is pure pork, not specious sympathy.

THE advocates of cremation in the United States have of late displayed renewed aggressiveness, and now seem to be surely gaining ground. An association was a few weeks ago formed at New York, others have more recently been formed at New Orleans and in Kentucky, and within the week the New England Cremation Society has been organized at Boston, with Nathan Appleton as the pervading spirit, and means to build a crematory at once. The leaders in this Boston movement report that the cremation idea is steadily growing in favour throughout New England, and that many women even are joining the society. The enlistment of women in this cause is a noteworthy indication of the breaking down of the opposition to incineration. It has long been clear, says the *Springfield Republican*, that this dislike has almost wholly grown up from the sentiment of the burial-ground. An urn full of ashes on a dusty shelf is not as poetic an object as a flower-strewn grave under green trees. But sentiment must gradually give way to the conviction of hygienic necessity, and the opinion is gaining ground that cremation is altogether the cleanliest and healthiest method of decomposition. And besides these considerations, the recent horrible cases of living burial have tended to bring the present mode of interment into disfavour.

MATTHEW ARNOLD won the eternal admiration of the *Buffalo Advertiser*—not by his lecturing or by his writings—not by his philosophy—but because, when discordant strains from an adjoining hall interrupted his lecture in that city, the apostle of sweetness and light "calmly polished the end of his nose and continued." The fact that Mr. Arnold practised the philosophy he preaches instead of hurling himself like a bull at a red rag showed, the *Advertiser* thinks, "his title to greatness clearer than ever." Had M. Frechette profited by the acquaintance he claimed with Mr. Arnold's writings, the unfortunate Montreal incident would have been avoided, and the poet would not have been forward to take offence at the repetition of an opinion he must have often read.

THE elaborate discussions upon the red sunsets of the past two months have brought two prominent theories before the laity who take an increased interest in the determinations and speculations of the scientists. The favourite theories as to the highly coloured and protracted glow in the western skies are that it is caused either by a vast accumulation of volcanic dust from the active volcanoes of the earth, or an excessive amount of meteoric dust in the atmosphere of our earth. The sunlight falling through this fine powder, produces the beautiful colour effects. Dr. Siemens, the distinguished scientist, holds that all interstellar and interplanetary space is filled with something more than imponderable ether; that vapour of water and gaseous compounds of hydrogen and carbon are universally diffused, and this material gas is drawn to the sun with great energy by the whirl of its vast mass; then bursting into flame, it is turned back into the compounded state, recombined by combustion, and gives back to the sun the heat generated by their reunion. The heat is thus used over and over again, the combustible vapours being sucked into the sun, utilized and liberated. It is possible that an excessive amount of energy in the sun, noticeable during the period of sun-spot frequency, may produce upon this pervasive material-vapour the effects observed of late at sunrise and at sunset. Sir Robert Rawlinson attributes the ruddy sunsets and sunrises to the existence of vast areas of space free from clouds. Anyone who has noted the effect of evening sunlight on clouds of dust will at once conclude that the peculiar colour effects in the western sky are due to the action of sunlight on material matter of some kind, like dust.