

Why not leave the Italians to settle their own disputes, and have one kingdom or half-a-dozen, as suits or pleases themselves.

The Great International Exhibition was opened in Hyde Park on the first of May, with great pomp and ceremony, and under the most favourable circumstances. The arrangements were perfect, and everything went like clockwork. Upwards of 30,000 people visited it the first day, and the amount realized is said to have been about £8000—a fair beginning. We may have some faint idea of the value of its contents from the fact that the insurance upon them exceeds £15,000,000 sterling.

The Japanese Ambassadors had arrived in London and were present at the opening of the Exhibition. Their astonishment must have been very considerable. We trust they may carry back to their native country such a report as may induce their countrymen to desire a closer and more extended intercourse with the Western world.

Much of the public attention has been occupied since the celebrated exploits of the Merrimac, with the experiments which have been taking place at Shoeburyness with the 300-pounder Armstrong gun. This tremendous weapon has proved, beyond all doubt, its power to penetrate the side of a ship much stronger than that of any iron-clad vessel yet in existence, by demolishing utterly a target, an exact model of the side of the Warrior. It is very questionable whether it is possible to build ships under any circumstances invulnerable to modern artillery.

In Canada the Ministry have been defeated on the Militia Bill, and have resigned. It is very evident that if Canada, with so near and restless a neighbour, is to live in peace and security, she must have a large available military force of some kind to depend upon; and the policy foreshadowed in the intended Militia act, was, we think, both a wise and economical one. For the present it has been overruled, but faction cannot drown patriotism in Canada—it is too real for that. Their Parliament House is expected to be finished next year. It will be quite an imposing structure, as may be understood from the following newspaper paragraph:—"Our Parliament has met, with the usual formula, but nothing worthy of note has transpired in it. The Parliament buildings are expected to be finished next year, whence the last Hegira of our Government takes place. An understanding of the extent of the buildings may be formed from the following: They contain 300 rooms, and they cover nearly four acres of ground; there are ten acres of plastering; twelve miles of cornices, over 1200 windows and doors, 12 millions of bricks, and an enormous quantity of carved and cut stone masonry. When the buildings are finished, and the quadrangle graded and covered with green turf, relieved by shrubs, vases, and

fountains, the effect of the whole will be magnificent, and rival in beauty some of the most gorgeous European structures."

The coal oil springs of Canada promise to be of great value, and to open up quite a new article of commerce,—one well yielding its owner oil at the rate of 40 gallons a minute.

The gold fields of Nova Scotia continue to yield well,—some of the quartz giving as much as 20 ounces of gold to the ton. Individual adventurers are said, however, to be making out poorly, and the excitement is by no means very great.

The Intercolonial Railway is again being largely discussed,—the British Government having offered to guarantee the loan necessary for its construction, but declined to provide any of the funds. How Nova Scotia or New Brunswick is to provide their share does not seem to us very clear.

We regret to have to record the death of Sir James C. Ross, the illustrious Arctic navigator.

An extraordinary price has lately been given for a picture by Paul de la Roche, viz.: £32,000. The subject is the execution of Marie Antoinette, and the purchaser a London brewer.

The Lord Advocate has introduced another Parish School Bill for Scotland, which will likely largely engage the attention of the General Assembly. It is not likely to become law, as no party, if we except the Roman Catholics, seem to be pleased with its provisions.

WE have now and then the pleasure of seeing an occasional article in the *Record* turning up again in other publications, sometimes acknowledged, sometimes not. Of the latter we do not complain much, as we dare say it takes place for the most part through inadvertence; but we noticed something the other day which we confess we did not like—viz.: the extraction of an article of ours by a religious journal, and ostentatiously headed *original*. This, we think, is taking too much liberty.

IN the list of subscriptions from New Glasgow, in favour of the Young Men's Scheme published last month, instead of Wm. McDonald, 7s. 6d., read Mrs. McDonald, 7s. 6d.

We are willing to allow agents a commission to the extent of forwarding six copies for the price of five; or we will send ten copies for 5 dollars. Single copies, 3s. 1-2d.

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