

operation of Sections 55-57 of Chapter IV. of the Act, which give the Governor-General power to reserve any Bill passed by the Canadian Parliament for the Queen's assent, and provides that any Bill so reserved "shall not have any force unless and until, within two years from the day on which it was presented to the Governor-General for the Queen's assent, the Governor-General signifies, by Speech or Message, to each of the Houses of Parliament, or by Proclamation, that it has received the assent of the Queen in Council."

EDISON, the Wizard, is one of the most remarkable personages that has ever appeared upon the stage of human life. In the field of invention he has so far distanced all competitors that he stands out as a unique personality. It is characteristic, too, of his inventions that they are not mere displays of mechanical ingenuity, such as often enables men to make useful improvements upon machinery constructed upon principles about which they know little or nothing. Edison's inventions, on the contrary, are in the main applications of the laws and forces which the science of the age has brought to light, to such practical uses as add very greatly to the comforts and conveniences of human life. He is, from this point of view, a world benefactor. A remarkable token of the triumphs of his wonderful inventive genius is seen in the confidence which has been implanted in the public mind that whenever he puts brain and hand to any new project, his success is as good as assured. If it be true, therefore, that he has now undertaken to provide an electric motor which shall not only take the place of the smoky and noisy steam engine on long lines of railway, but at the same time increase the rate of speed of ordinary passenger or mail trains to one hundred miles an hour, without diminution of safety, the public generally will expect it to be done. It is said that the new invention is now in the hands of the Edison General Electric Company, and that negotiations are already in progress for the application of the system at an early day to one of the long lines of railway in the United States. Such a consummation would be, of course, far less wonderful than many of the achievements which are now matter of history and of daily convenience. But should the expectations that have been raised be realized, travelling by rail bids fair to become in the future a luxury in itself, apart from its objects. The removal of the smoke and the noise would relieve it of the chief causes of its present irksomeness. It seems probable, too, that the new motor, successfully applied, may be much less expensive than steam. There is at present, we believe, a well-founded and growing impression that the expense of railway travel is out of proportion to its cost on well patronized lines. With cheapened motive power it seems, therefore, not unreasonable to expect a material decrease in the rates, a decrease which would of itself so greatly increase the volume as to go far even now to counterbalance a considerable reduction of rates, if only railway companies could be brought to see it. But travelling bids fair to become, in the good time coming, a universal luxury.

PARIS LETTER.

AMERICAN salt meat, pork products especially, will have to meet the same tariff as those most famed nations, Germany and Italy—thirteen frs. the cwt. This tariff, like the laws of the Medes and Persians, altereth not. For ten years American pork has been excluded from France unjustifiably, and perhaps would be so still were it not for the rod in pickle that President Harrison possesses to correct those who play practical jokes on the commerce of the States. Unable to execute reciprocal treaties before next February, the new minimum and maximum tariff will be applied. The former, in the case of Spain, will kill her wine trade, and so add another enemy to France; while the latter will actually be a blessing in disguise for Italy, that can hardly be ranked among the friends of the Gauls.

Accident has produced a compulsory Court of Conciliation for differences between employés and employers. The Omnibus strike raised clear issues of overwork and of underpay on the side of the men, and a Louis XIV. arbitrariness on the part of the company's directors. The servants obtained redress, in addition to the recognition of their syndicate. It was stipulated that the drivers and conductors should give twelve hours work per day, less one hour and a-half for déjeuner and dinner. For three months they have been compelled to give twelve hours work, meal time excluded. As this was not in the bond, the men, instead of resorting to another strike and so perhaps irritating the public, have taken, through their legal syndicate, an action against the company for breach of contract.

Every day continues to produce its smash on French railroads. How is it that the officials and servants have

become so suddenly remiss respecting punctuality in the working of trains, in the observance of signals and the shuntings of passenger and merchandise traffic? To these dangers must now be added the chloroforming of travellers as the preliminary to robbery and murder. The latter has been re-inaugurated on the Havre line, where a tradesman had a very narrow escape with his life. The criminal was arrested; he seems to be a Parisian who has made the tour of the world. He states his revolver was too rusty to shoot, but he had two pounds and a-half of chloroform in a bottle. The anthropometrical department have been measuring his head and joints, and hope to establish his identity by arithmetic.

M. Clemenceau, the demolisher of Cabinets, has taken to the war-path. So long as Boulanger lived it was an imperative duty for republicans to remain united to save the republic. The bugbear being laid, the old cleavages re-open. M. Clemenceau asserts that, trying to conciliate what cannot be reconciled, is simply mutual dupery, and he will no longer be a party to that policy. The present ministry has not kept its word, or displayed other than platonic interest in the matter of ameliorating, legislatively, labour grievances. This campaign means a return to the era of ministerial instability.

It would seem that the French are not quite pleased at being reminded so very frequently that, if the Cabinet be overthrown, the Emperor of Russia will take fright, and suspect his prudence in swearing an eternal friendship with the republic. It was the conduct, the sagacity, the sang froid of France, in picking herself up during the last twenty years, and not any ministry in particular that has won for her constitution the respect and the applause, not alone of the Czar, but of other rulers as well. At the bottom of the coming party fights there is an under current of dissatisfaction at keeping the nation in the dark respecting the nature of the relations between Russia and France. Has a treaty been signed between the two powers to aid, say, the triple alliance in maintaining the peace of Europe; a double barring of the door against perturbators? If so, let the fact be officially stated, and then shall be known where we are. The cold shade of this feeling for those who read between the lines was reflected at Brest, where some Russian warships looked in a few days ago, and whose officers were feted. Evidently throats are getting sore crying *vive le Czar*, etc., and musicians fatigued over the Russian Hymn. The Czar is to be congratulated in having obtained his French loan—to feed the starving Mujiks.

The friends of ex-President Grévy, and he has left a legion of them, intend that there shall be a statue to his memory in his native village of Dôle, erected in Jura granite—that of his own department too—which is a rival to that of Aberdeen. The monument will cost 160,000 frs., and the sum has been raised by private subscription. It will be very majestic, embodying the symbols of the Law and Justice, from which he never departed. Friends while deploring M. Grévy's parental blindness, that compromised his exalted station, do not forget the uprightness of his life and the yeoman service he did for democracy and the Third Republic. M. Grévy always desired to be first in the memory of his co-villagers.

Very deep sympathy is felt for the serious condition of Cardinal Lavigerie, who is dying from diabetes. The world could well spare a better man; he was engaged in the truly noble work of militant Christianity applied to the extinction of the Soudan slave trade. The Cardinal-Archbishop had in him the stuff of a Hildebrand, and that force of character quite fascinated the Pope, whose ear and full confidence he had. But marked out as a successor to his Holiness he could never expect to wear the tiara; the Italians forbid the banns; for, while the Italian prelates detest the Quirinal, they will never deprive the Church of the associations of the Vatican, and themselves of the pride to see Italy the rock on which the Church is built. Mental anxiety has worn away the Cardinal; since he rallied to the present constitution he was shown the cold shoulder by the monarchists, who closed their purses when he appealed to them; he was disappointed that so few of the high clergy followed his political lines, and the attacks of the clerical press on his "apostacy" were so many poignards turned on his wounded heart. From that moment he avowed that the seeds of death were germinating within him.

The world—at least that part of it known as France—seems to be getting topsy-turvy. Imagine the project being started to strike a medal commemorative of 1870-71, to celebrate the "Defeat of the Brave." That part of the French which I happen to be acquainted with desire no symbol to recal the events of 1870-71; they demand no decoration to keep alive a sadness so profoundly felt in their hearts, and so perpetually green in their souls.

Judging by the number of Anglo-Saxons passing through Paris by short and easy stages for Egypt, where they intend to pass the winter, the land of Goshen must be the land of health. No wonder the British decline to evacuate the Nile. It is said that Egypt has only three seasons—spring, summer and autumn—symbolized by a rose, an ear of corn, and an apple or a grape.

The intention of the Government to charge one franc for admission on five days of the week to the Palace of Versailles and the other museums meets with general approval. The proceeds will help to repair Versailles, where the out-door statuary is crumbling away, and becoming "sooty." There is one poor Venus rising from a basin so grimed as to colour that the goddess resembles her Hottentot sister. There is a Niobe, whose tears are

moss and lichen, and Ariadne whose feet have been for ten years dabbling in a pool of water, and are not quite white.

There is a crusade against *La Trolle*. The latter is a barometer of hard times. Small manufacturers of goods, cabinet makers especially, when they cannot dispose of furniture, and want ready money, sell their goods on the sly at any price. This pulls down the general trade rates, and affects the guild all round. In the public auction mart nothing fresh from the work-shop will be accepted.

The Comte de Paris has taken down all the pictures in his gallery at Eu, save two, which have always hung side by side—"Jeanne d'Arc" and "Queen Victoria"—two good guardian angels.

From the middle of the month the new time and distance measurer for cab-hiring will come into operation, but six months must elapse ere all the cabs be furnished with the apparatus. The plan will possibly obviate disputes over fares, and for short distances the public will gain thirty-three per cent.

Prince Victor Napoleon is said to cry whenever the name of France is pronounced. In his exile days the late Napoleon III. also did the weeping willow. Z.

NEO-BUDDHISM AND M. LÉON DE ROSNY.

THE newspapers have had much to say, during the past few months, concerning the progress of Neo-Buddhism in the West, and more particularly regarding the conversion to that system of the well-known Professor in the Sorbonne at Paris, M. Léon de Rosny. Two genuine Buddhist priests have indeed taken up their abode in Paris, but not under M. de Rosny's wing, and there are some English-speaking Neo-Buddhists in Liverpool as well as in Boston, but, apart from the difference between the excitable French and the phlegmatic English temperament, there is little to choose between M. de Rosny's audience that drinks in his lectures on Buddhist morality, and Professor Max Müller's that listens to discourses on the Science of Religion. An English contemporary thus places the situation:—

Decidedly the literary lion of the Parisian season of 1890 has been M. Léon de Rosny with his lectures on the doctrines of Buddha, his admiring would-be disciples—largely composed of the fair sex—and the lively interest, not altogether on the amicable side, he has created in the world of religion and philosophy. He has been a fruitful theme for journalists and correspondents during the middle months of the year, and has had to bear as the burden of his popularity innumerable interviews and interviewers, the reception of innumerable letters and persons asking advice. If the commotion and interest of the spring had been merely a passing wave of curiosity, likely to vanish with the summer holidays, and to return no more to trouble the future life of Paris, the short article of M. de Collens in an April edition of the *Siccle*, the badinage of M. de Saunier in an August number of the *Requet*, and the other accounts in French and English newspapers, giving details more or less similar of M. de Rosny's person and house, of his garden-wall, with its Buddhist inscription, and of his library, with its Oriental wax figure, might have sufficed for the delectation of the reading public. But the serious position of M. de Rosny as professor of the Ecole Spéciale des Langues Orientales, his reputation as an Eastern scholar, and his original initiative in forming the Alliance Scientifique Universelle, which bids fair to become a freemasonry of the learned and scientific men throughout the world—these qualifications give to his purpose of further treatment of Buddhism a character deserving of more permanent attention.

Speaking on the authority of an interview just accorded to us, we may go so far as to assert that the professor has had thoughts, perhaps the more correct word would be temptations, leading him to enter boldly "en chaise," and to become the leader of Neo-Buddhism in the West. If he has decided against this step it is from reasons affecting rather the utility of this particular line of action than the convictions which mark his mental standpoint. Yet, if questioned flatly whether or not he is an out-and-out Buddhist, M. de Rosny replies no. The fact is that disciples in these days who belong to any school of thought are no longer the disciples who accept without criticism the teachings of a master whoever he may be. Probably M. de Rosny would not covet the name of disciple. He claims more properly to be an interpreter of the chief Buddhist doctrines, to co-ordinate in some measure the "reincarnation" part of Sakya-Mouni's philosophy with the modern evolution theory; to develop side by side with his own understanding of the *a priori* argument the Nirvana principle of life, postulate at once of spirit, pre-existence, and immortality; and further, to illustrate as far as example will allow, the Central Buddhist teaching of Karma by the hitherto but partially explained variations of character and experience. It is no doubt a fascinating subject for all who have not lost their desire to see behind the veil of Isis while still bound by body and appetite; and a lecturer with the knowledge and eloquence of M. de Rosny is capable of lending an extra charm to its treatment. Better than any testimony of our own to his persuasiveness and eloquence, of which indeed an hour's conversation gave us a fair specimen, is the simple fact—we have it from the Professor's own lips—that on one occasion Claude Bernard and himself, returning together from some domestic ceremony, got into discussion about three o'clock in the afternoon as they were passing the