

averse the Imperial Government and Parliament were to receive or accede to any demands from Colonies for the Imperial guarantee. And we do believe that nothing but the gravest reasons of Imperial concern should induce its being given. In our apprehension, however, those reasons may be found in the work of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

We have another announcement from England, which shows the signs of the times as respects the great agricultural depression question. Two paid Sub-Commissioners are appointed by Royal Commission to visit the United States and Canada, in order to enquire into their means of competition with farmers in the United Kingdom. If these Sub-Commissioners are men who are thoroughly up to their work, they will take home with them a story that will carry heaviness to the hearts of British landowners. They will establish the fact that with the present organized means of transportation, both by rail and steamship, there exist means for exporting to the United Kingdom both wheat and cattle in almost illimitable supply, and at prices at which it is perfectly hopeless for British farmers to attempt to compete.

We notice in this connection that the Hon. J. H. Pope, the energetic Minister of Agriculture, has sent instructions to the United Kingdom to cause meetings of tenant farmers to be held, with a request that each of such meetings should send a delegate to Canada, in order to spy out the land, and report the facts to his fellows. Nothing can be more plain than the fact that the tenant farmers of the United Kingdom would have much more confidence in the report of one of themselves than in any possible statements that could be made to them by any agent, however authorized. The result will probably be that a number of these delegates will at once come, and they will report what they find. We believe that if the proper exertions are now made, Canada may secure a very large number of British tenant farmers with means, and they will be the most desirable class of emigrants that ever left the British shores. If they come in large numbers, they will immediately and sensibly add to the wealth of Canada, and the change will probably be beneficial for them and their children. The public thanks will be due to any Minister or Government which shall bring about such a result.

**THE ANCIENT CAPITAL.**

Another all-night sitting, and three motions of want of confidence—all in one week, after a like number in the preceding week. The struggle between the two parties is terrific, and although the eighth week of the session has arrived there is not the slightest sign of abatement. The Opposition appear determined to leave no stone unturned to put out the Government, and on the other hand the Government are equally determined that they shall not. So the war wages, each debate almost a counterpart of its predecessor, nothing but some extra amusement on the part of the members by throwing paper balls and chair seats about the House when the debate draws into the small hours of the morning to show that the session is drawing to a close.

For the past fortnight the business of the House has been practically brought to a standstill by the series of want of confidence motions moved by different members of the Opposition, each motion attended by a debate and concluded with a division always with the same result—defeat.

The general subject of conversation and wonder is why all these motions? The Government cannot be defeated because its supporters prefer the present to a possible future Government from the Opposition members, and many of them do not hesitate to say so; but why all these motions? Because the Opposition desire to have the note of each member on each separate act of administration of the Government for use in future elections, and they are rolling up a fearful and wonderful account against the present Government, but as things are now, and as they appear to be, it will be three years before they have much chance of using them, and by that time they may grow stale or may even be unnecessary.

There is a rumor current here among the quiet members, those who are sick of this constant struggle for power, that a Coalition Government will shortly be formed in which neither Mr. Joly nor Mr. Chapleau will hold office. It

has long been understood that Mr. Chapleau would retire from the Local House as soon as a change in Government is effected; he is wanted in a larger and wider field where a high position awaits him. This session he has proved that by study he has mastered the English language in a manner seldom acquired by so young a man in so short a time. Last session he seldom spoke in English, this year he has used that language several times, and in doing so has always elicited remarks of surprise and approval from those in the Press Gallery capable of judging, as well as from the English members of the House. By so doing he is but qualifying himself for the position before mentioned.

At the right hand of Mr. Chapleau sits Mr. L. O. Loranger, member for Laval, one who must be looked on as a future leader of the Province, and perhaps of that new Government now rumoured of. The best French speaker in the House, with an excellent knowledge of the English language, a political and personal record without a stain, respected and liked by both sides of the House, and always listened to by all; he is the one man who is able to command the respect and assistance of the moderate party in the House, now undoubtedly in the ascendant.

When this millennium will arrive it is impossible to say, but it is the general opinion of the moderate party that such will shortly be the case.

Mr. Joly appears weary of the struggle, but he will not give way to the Opposition, as he believes he and his Government are better able to administer the affairs of the Province than the Conservatives.

This afternoon the House is transacting business and a feeling of relief is visible on the faces of the members, the subject of discussion being the Education Bill which proposes to reduce the salary of the Superintendent of Public Instruction from \$4,000 to \$3,000 per annum; also to do away with the French and English Journals of Public Instruction and the Book Depository.

Even the members of the Government express their regret at the necessity for reducing Mr. Ouimet's salary, and all unite in expressing their high opinions of his fitness for the office. The Opposition are to a man opposed to the reduction, arguing that as Mr. Ouimet gave up his profession and his position as a public man for the position he now occupies, and that his salary was fixed by statute, it is a disgraceful and shameful act to reduce it.

The two Journals of Public Instruction though abolished by Government will not cease to exist. After having lasted nearly fifty years it ceases to be a Government property, and will be carried on in future by private subscriptions. Only one narrative this week, which may be amusing. It occurred a few nights since and is illustrative of the general admiration Mr. Bontin has for everything and everybody appertaining to the Joly Administration. It appears that in one of his recent speeches Hon. Mr. Irvine noticed that the member for Bellechasse (Mr. Bontin) was quite enthusiastic, clapping hands and applauding with fury.

As soon as Mr. Irvine had terminated, being on his way to the Speaker's room, he tapped the hon. member's shoulder and said a few kind words to him. The hon. member paid him his compliments and said it was one of his best speeches; he had never heard him speak in a happier manner. Mr. Irvine thanked him in a few happy words, and was about leaving when Mr. Bontin said to him, "Pardon, monsieur, je ne comprends pas un mot d'anglais." Mr. Irvine had of course spoken English all the time.

The past week was a week of riots, fears and anxiety, but fortunately for those at present in the ancient city, "les jours se suivent mais ne se ressemblent pas." The rival forces having at last agreed upon a truce, or upon what is to be hoped will be a permanent peace, people began to sigh for something to turn their thoughts to. They were not long kept waiting, for it was announced a few days ago that Admiral Peyron and the officers of *La Galissonnière* were about to give an *après-midi*, at which dancing would be on the orders of the day. The day originally fixed was Tuesday, but Jupiter Pluvius, who, however, must be thanked for cooling the hot blood of the rioters, set his veto against the *fête* coming off on the day appointed. The treat was therefore postponed to Thursday. At two o'clock in the afternoon the Admiral's courteous aide-de-camp, M. Davoust, was at the Queen's wharf with a flotilla of boats, towed by the frigate's steam-launch; into them stepped a number of M.P.'s with their wives, daughters, sisters, cousins and aunts, together with members of the bar, and of the volunteer force and others. The sight on climbing the quarter deck was a pretty one; a large tent composed of the flags of all nations had been erected, and was tastefully decorated and hung with flowers and evergreens; from the centre depended a chandelier made of entwined revolvers and sword-bayonets, and on the grating at the foot of the mainmast was the device "Canada et France" worked out in flowers. Trophies of Chassepots, swords, boat-hooks, etc., added to the ornamentation of the ball-room. Dancing began immediately on the arrival of the guests, and, no doubt, out of compliment to them, the excellent band discoursed such time honoured strains as those of the old yet ever popular Mabel Waltz, and such good old-fashioned dances as the polka, polka-mazurka and Sir Roger de Coverley, were gone through. "Fast" dances, with the exception of two or three waltzes and a rattling final

galop, were at a discount. Below, in the officers' mess-room, was a buffet laden with cold dainties, and in the smoking-room, men too *blasés* to dance could puff away the fragrant *régie*. A novel drink was introduced, and a sensible one at that; it was cooling and gave fresh vigour to the dancers. Many givers of balls will be astonished when it is said that this was simply iced beef-tea, a delicious innovation which met with great success. It is to be recommended as an excellent substitute for lukewarm negus, bad champagne or sour claret-cup, three abominations which are responsible for many a headache after a ball. It is needless to add that throughout the whole afternoon all enjoyed themselves thoroughly, and that the gallant officers were ubiquitous and unceasing in their efforts to make the dance a success. Of course, Montreal ladies will be anxious to know something about the toilettes worn by their Quebec rivals in grace and beauty; on this point, however, it is impossible to gratify them, as there was little or no dress worth speaking of. Paris-like, the writer hesitates in naming a belle; for when was there ever a ball given at which there was not a belle? However, public opinion having pronounced itself, he has but to chronicle its verdict and to say that it awarded the golden apple to a young French lady, a resident of Quebec; she, with two American ladies, one of whom is the wife of one of our most hard-working and intelligent M.P.'s, were praised and sought for as much for their gracefulness as for their splendid dancing. The Hon. Premier "danced" a quadrille, setting an example to the youth of the present day who "walk" through the "square" dances. Shortly before six o'clock the whole party left and made a rush for Dufferin Terrace, to witness the arrival of H. M. ships "Bellerophon" with the Governor-General and H. R. H. the Princess Louise, "Tourmaline" and "Griffon." The affair took place amidst much booming of big guns, and a cheerful and an eventful day was thus brought to a close.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

CREDIT VALLEY RAILWAY,  
TORONTO, Aug. 21st, 1879.

To the Editor of CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

SIR.—In your issue of the 16th inst. reference is made to an article of mine in July's *Nineteenth Century*, and a notice from a correspondent who says that he has been fifteen years trying to find my address. His "researches" have scarcely been very extensive, as I left Upper Canada at the period he mentions to take the position of Engineer to the Board of Works of the Province of New Brunswick, in which capacity I remained three or four years, and I was subsequently, and till within the last three years, engineer and manager of a leading railway in Nova Scotia, running between Halifax and St. John. I have been associated with most of the railways and public works in the Lower Province, and anyone connected with either of them could at any time during the twelve years I have resided there have given your correspondent my address, which, as a public man, I could not, had I wished to have done so, conceal. It is scarcely fair for a man to use your columns in the way he has done, to make me the butt of a lot of uncharitable criticism, and to publish his own ignorance of what is doing in the sister provinces, for any peevish annoyance he may have had in seeking the address of a party, who, by his own showing, had left his own rather obscure locality five years before he wanted to find him. The above address will find me for the next three months.

Yours faithfully,  
VERNON SMITH.

[Our esteemed correspondent will forgive us if we express the belief that he misinterprets the spirit in which the inquiry from Stirling was made. From the name of the writer and other internal evidence we understood this inquiry to result from a desire to know more concerning the author of a remarkable magazine paper. Had we suspected any other design in it we should certainly not have published it, as we altogether share the admiration for a writer whose articles we twice had occasion to quote in our columns.]

**HEARTH AND HOME.**

**MOTHERS.**—Children always need a mother's devotion, and need it as much when they are nearing maturity, or by and by when they are bearing the heat and burden of life's noon-day, as when they are babes in arms or toddling over the floor. Mothers should save themselves, even by what seems to them selfishness, from too early fading and dying. Recreative idleness, pleasuring in purpose, time to read taken from time spent in sewing, and a visit here or there, would keep from many a too-wholly-devoted mother the coming of that fatal messenger whose token is "an arrow sharpened by love."

**MODESTY AND BASHFULNESS.**—There is a great deal of difference between modesty and bashfulness. The latter is a terror of being approached by strangers or confronted with an unaccustomed fact or position. It proceeds from egotism, for, if we were not fancying ourselves observed by others and fearful of their criticism, we should simply appear at ease, and do what we were required to do as a matter of course, and, so doing, would appear well. Modesty is never self-assertive. It doubts itself, but is never afraid to express its willingness to attempt what

is asked; and, when we are successful, modesty prevents us from boasting or supercilious assertion.

**JADED HEADS.**—One of the first and most imperative symptoms that the strain of living is becoming too great is the jaded head—the head that cannot be depended upon for a long stretch of work, that grows weary prematurely, that has to be coaxed from the pillow in the morning, and that does not face the work of the day cheerfully. There are more of such heads than might be supposed. They are found in every rank of life, but chiefly among persons of sedentary pursuits, and among both sexes, and almost all ages above fourteen. Generally the first symptom of the malady is discomfort during headwork in the back of the head and in the upper part of the spinal region. He is a happy man who meets this symptom with rest, and seeks in sunlight and fresh air some new investments for his nervous system.

**THE UNHALLOWED HAND.**—In the border counties of Scotland it was formerly customary, when any rancorous enmity subsisted between two clans, to leave the right hand of small children unchristened, that it might deal the more deadly, or, according to the popular phrase, "unhallowed" blows, to their enemies. By this superstitious rite they were devoted to continue the family feud or enmity. The same practice subsisted in Ireland, for in an old history we are told, "In some corner of the land they used a sinful superstition, leaving the right arms of their infants, males, unchristened (as they termed it), to the end it might give a more ungracious and deadly blow."

**A CHEERFUL FACE.**—Carry the radiance of your soul in your face; let the world have the benefit of it. Let your cheerfulness be felt for good, wherever you are, and let your smiles be scattered like sunbeams—"on the just as well as the unjust." Such a disposition will yield you a rich reward, for its happy effects will come home to you and brighten your moments of thought. Smiles are the higher and better responses of nature to the emotion of the soul. Let the children have the benefit of them, those little ones who need the sunshine of the heart to educate them, and would find a level for their buoyant nature in the cheerful, loving faces of those who lead them. Let them not be kept from the middle-aged, who need the encouragement they bring. Give your smiles to the aged. They come to them like the quiet rain of summer, making fresh and verdant the long, warysome path of life. Be gentle and indulgent to all; love the true, the beautiful, the just, the holy.

**FASHION NOTES.**

LACE fans are always in fashion.  
TUSCANY straw fans are in favour.  
BLACK lace will be very fashionable this fall.  
THE lily-of-the-valley bonnet is very popular.  
AT Newport the hat is worn over the left eye.  
THE old lace called point à Paris is again in use.  
GLEENER'S hats are worn by young English girls.  
MARTHA WASHINGTON lace collarettes are in style.  
MORNING balls are exceedingly fashionable in Paris.  
DRESS-SLEEVES are becoming shorter and shorter.  
HIGH-HEELED shoes are worn with short dresses.  
TORTOISE-SHELL sticks are very handsome for black fans.  
HANDSOME satin parasols are embroidered in pale and wood shades.  
REAL bouffant paniers should never be worn by short or stout women.  
FOR light mourning are black satin fans with open carved wooden sticks.  
DRESSES gathered to the waist are confidently predicted as the coming style.  
THE Pekin ribbons are most admired for garnishing black grenadine dresses.  
THERE is nothing new in the chains used in suspending the fan from the belt.  
THE skirts of dresses are nearly all short, and are becoming shorter and shorter.  
BRIDESMAIDS adopt the English fashion of wearing large quaint hats or bonnets.  
SKIRTS of plain linen, with long, loose princess jackets, are the fashionable house dresses in Paris.  
BLACK satin and black French hunting make a handsome as well as an inexpensive walking costume.  
"JACK, your wife is not so pensive as she used to be." "No, she has left that off and turned expensive."  
A SAN FRANCISCO woman calls her husband her darkest hour, because he generally comes just before dawn.  
THE woman who said she wouldn't marry the best man living kept her word. She married a very poor specimen.  
LATE handkerchiefs are round, finished with French needlework, and trimmed with closely-plaited Valenciennes lace.  
THE Cincinnati girls complain that the coal smoke spoils their complexions, but then the young men are easily sooted there.  
ONE of the prettiest costumes seen at present is the short, plain skirt with the *bouffante matinee*, as this style of polonaise is called.  
SLEEVES are made to fit the arm closely, the latest styles showing the arm above the elbow fitted as closely as to the waist or shoulders.