

gration, and a variety of other matters. The Hon. Mr. Brown has taken steps towards effecting this, and it is to be hoped that the matter will take effect in the shape of practical legislation this year.

The present winter seems to be one of exceptional severity everywhere. Most grievous complaints reach our ears through the English press, and it is almost comical to see what suggestions are made as to the best mode of living in such a state of things as has prevailed there this winter. One writer gravely gives it as his opinion that old people ought never to rise from their beds during the prevalence of cold weather. That might be very comfortable for them, but it would be somewhat troublesome to the household of which they form a part. If Mr. Greville is to be relied on, George the Fourth lived almost wholly in bed for years together, and that from sheer laziness. But he had abundance of people to wait upon him, whom he appears to have taxed beyond endurance. It is not every old gentleman that can command the services of valets night and day; and, on the whole, most of them would conclude that a continuance of life was scarcely desirable if every winter was to see them shut up in the prison of a bedchamber until spring.

The Grand Trunk Railway has kept remarkably good time, so far. We have had little of the old experience of trains many hours behind time, for weeks together, with an occasional block for days. Once only has there been anything of this kind, while the ordinary working of the line has been everything that could be desired. Far different, however, has it been with the short railways running North and South. Nearly all those centring in Toronto have been subject to heavy drifts and most serious delays. North-west winds have extensively prevailed, and have drifted portions of the narrow gauge lines to an enormous depth. The ordinary roads, too, have been impeded; banks of snow of most unusual height have blocked the highways, and travel has been difficult in all directions. The temperature, too, has been singularly low for the Western Province, and altogether the experience has been more like

that of the Province of Quebec than such as is generally experienced in Ontario. Whatever, however, we have experienced has been paralleled by what has been felt in the Northern and Western States. More severe cold has been felt there than even in Canada. Our neighbors in the States have the idea that Canada is a colder region than theirs, forgetting that a considerable portion of Canada lies far south of much of the Eastern States, and of the northwestern regions of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and that through the whole of the vast Prairie regions the cold has a far more bitter effect than in the wooded districts of Canada. Our English friends will learn these things also in time.

It is too early yet to say aught as to the opinions and sentiments of the people over whom Alfonso the XIIth has been placed king by a knot of courtiers. There are not a few points of resemblance between the recent political change in Spain and that of England after the death of Cromwell. But there are more points of difference, and those of a very radical nature. A republic in both cases is abolished, and the scion of an exiled family put on the throne from which his parent had been driven. The army in both instances was the instrument of expulsion and restoration, and troubles in the northern part of the realm disturbed both of the republics during their ephemeral career. When Charles came back to Whitehall he was welcomed by the people. The masses rejoiced in the ratio of their illiteracy, as their vices and their rude sports were again to have freedom, the only liberty they could understand. But in Spain the Republic had no higher moral aim, and no keener sense of the nation's degradation, than had the Court of Isabella, and there is nothing in the return of the old dynasty to stir the enthusiasm of the masses, for it brings them nothing from which the "common people" ever draw that coarse excitement they delight in. There has been much said about the name of the new king being a tower of strength to him; Alfonso is so Spanish, so regal. Names are not without their associations, and