BUSINESS NOTICE.

We wish to secure good CLUB AGENTS at every Post Office in Canada. Will our friends be kind enough to send in to us the names and addresses of any they think would be suited for this work—by so doing they will aid greatly. When in Toronto we would be pleased to see you at our office, and receive any suggestions or information you may have to impart.

The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, JAN. 11, 1878.

AN UNSATISFACTORY POLICY.

THE Montreal *Star*, in discussing the probabilities for the coming session of the Dominion House, says: "There is "every indication that the personal war-"fare against the great chieftain of the "Conservative Party will be renewed, "and it is certain that the opposition "will in no sense be backward in carry-"ing the war into Africa." But our contemporary has not a high opinion of the wisdom or value of the policy of making attacks on the ex-Premier in the hope of crushing him. It says: "The "policy of persecution has recoiled upon "its authors. Public sympathy has gone "out to meet the 'old war-horse' of the "Conservative Party. To-day he "stands higher in popular esteem than "ever; his strength and influence in the "Dominion Parliament has increased "with every session. If the Ministerial "party have not realized all that, they "have been blind indeed to passing "events."

The trouble with the Ministerial party is that, save and except abuse of Sir JOHN MACDONALD, it has no policy. It is a heterogeneous gathering agreed on nothing save the necessity of putting down its great opponent by fair means or foul. It has no national policy. It can do nothing for the languishing trade of the country. It is wholly unable to carry out the promises it made in opposition. It has absolutely nothing with which to go to the country, or even to appeal to the prejudices of its own followers, save assaults on Sir JOHN MACDONALD. To that end all its efforts are directed. The men who ought to be devising means for alleviating the appalling distress and stagnation that everywhere prevail are racking their brains and devoting their whole energy to the manufacture of charges against the statesman who, whatever his faults may be, has well served his country and is well able to serve it again. And this wretched vindictiveness and total neglect of the national interests they call Reform!

From a party point of view we certainly do not object to this strange method of governing the country. As the *Star* says, "the MACDONALD armour "is proof against their envenomed "shafts," and in vain do Messrs. BLAKE and CARTWRIGHT entreat the people to "tear the Tory idol from their hearts." The more the Ministerialists slander him, the stronger grows the people's love for him, and the deeper the people's conviction that a Government which tries to live by slander is neither honest nor competent. But when we see the industries of the country dying out, and all classes of the community suffering in an unparalleled degree, while our rulers spend the time in mixing mud with which to pelt Sir JOHN MACDONALD, we regard the slander policy as unbecoming a grave crisis and unsatisfactory to an intelligent community.

THE INDEPENDENCE OF PARLIAMENT.

MR. VAIL, a member of the Government, and Mr. ALFRED JONES, one of their staunchest supporters, concluding that discretion is the better part of valour have resigned their seats in Parliament and gone back to their old constituencies for re-election. And, lo and behold! immediately the organs become noisy over the resignation of Mr. MOFFAT a humble member of the Opposition, who is reported to have taken a similar step! We do not know wherein Mr. MOFFAT considers that he has done anything to invalidate his seat. Last session he protested his entire innocence, and there is no reason to doubt the sincerity of his statement then. Perhaps he has since discovered that, like Mr. CURRIER, he has unwittingly done violence to the Act, and if such be the case he does well not to return to Parliament without receiving the approval of his constitutents anew. Very different from his case are the cases of Messrs. JONES and VAIL. The noble twain are gross sinners against the law. They were proprietors chiefly, if not altogether, of the Halifax *Citizen*. As such proprietors, one of them being a member of the Government, they drew from the Treasury for public printing the snug sum of $24,000. No clearer violation of the Act could be conceived. It was almost as bad as Mr. ANGLIN's. It was barefaced contempt of the enactments of Parliament for preserving and maintaining its independence. It is hardly possible to fancy that Mr. VAIL and Mr. JONES did not know that they were illegally and corruptly using their positions to feather their own nests. Mr JONES is an able and successful merchant; Mr. VAIL is a man of average intelligence. It would be an insult to them to say that as Government cheque after Government cheque came into their newspaper office they were not conscious that they were taking money their positions and the law debarred them from taking legally. We shall not so far insult them as to say they did not. And, indeed, we have in their resignations the most convincing proof that their culpability is known to themselves. That Mr. JONES should so degrade his position as a member of Parliament is humiliating enough. That a member of the Government should voluntarily place himself in a situation so damning and disgraceful is a blot upon our political institutions.

This is, no doubt, the first move in the plan of campaign kindly sketched the other day in his pocket organ by the Premier. Why, we have been asked a score of times since last session by Grit newspapers, have not Mr. RUFUS STEPHENSON resigned, and Mr. MACKENZIE BOWELL, and Mr. MITCHELL, and Sir JOHN MACDONALD himself? Mr. NORRIS walked off with his $42,000, and Mr. ANGLIN with his $20,000, and Messrs. VAIL and JONES with their $24,000; and when their cases are mentioned we have thrown in our faces the names of the members of the Opposition which we have just mentioned. These gentlemen have not resigned, because they have not violated the law—such at least is their firm belief. Mr. BOWELL is a stockholder in a newspaper company, and as such less than a dollar came into his pocket out of the wind-up of a contract—if contract it was—which had been entered into long before the election in 1874. Mr. RUFUS STEPHENSON is, we believe, in something of the same position. Mr. MITCHELL owned a building somewhere in New Brunswick which prior to 1874 was rented to the engineers of the Intercolonial railway. When the present Government came into power they notified him that they would not require the building any longer and sent him a cheque for $200 in final settlement of the transaction. It is alleged that the receipt of this money unseated him under the Independence of Parliament Act. There is very high legal authority, however, for the statement that it did not. If Mr. MITCHELL did violence to the Act at any time, it was prior to 1874. But the election of that year purged him of the wrong, if any, which he had done. The payment of the $200 was not with respect to a contract entered upon after the election, but to close up one which had existed before. If it were possible under the influence of the most heated partizanship to move against Messrs. STEPHENSON and BOWELL, the same interpretation of the law would apply to their cases. If it dares, let the Government move against these men, and the country will readily respond to the injustice of the act. It would not surprise us, however, if Mr. MITCHELL, seeing such an evident preparation on the Government side for a hand-to-hand struggle, should go back to his constituents rather than trust his case to a committee prepared to hang and quarter him without the first tittle of evidence to sustain so extreme a step. The charge against Sir JOHN MACDONALD is simply a bit of Ministerial bluster, and a very small bit at that.

Are Messrs. VAIL, and JONES, and CUNNINGHAM to be the only ones out of the score or more on the Government side of the House who intend to appeal to their constituents? Messrs. VAIL and JONES are in the front rank, to be sure, but you may go through the back benches and draw the corrupted ones out by the dozen. Have these men been advised to brazen it out? What, for instance, does Mr. THOMAS WORKMAN propose to do? Never was member of Parliament more guilty than he; and he is but a type of a large number of whom we yet hear nothing. Some of them probably do not dread the penalties of the law; but Mr. WORKMAN at least cannot be indifferent to the large fine imposed for sitting in Parliament after one has legally disqualified oneself from doing so. Probably Mr. JONES would have faced the music if he had not had a Minister tacked on to him. There still remains, however, splendid quarry for the Opposition; and the country will expect them to do their duty, as far as in them lies the power, to purge the House of Commons of the men who, by corrupt connivance with the Government, have been pocketing large sums of money, seemingly without scruple or hesitancy. If the Premier is setting his house in order for the struggle, well and good; but we shall look to the Opposition to do, so far as they can, what Mr. MACKENZIE has refused to do by means of a general election—purify the House of the taint which now rests upon it by reason of corruptions extensive and unparalleled.

A BAD FREE TRADE ARGUMENT.

THE Toronto organ of our fly-on-the-wheel Government takes much pleasure in reproducing Free Trade articles from the New York *Evening Post*, of course with the intention of showing how much the cause is progressing. But the New York *World* is the leading Free Trade journal in the United States, and Mr. DAVID A. WELLS is the recognized head of the school there; and both these authorities agree that to attempt to reverse the country's established commercial system would be utter madness, fit only for lunatics to propose or to listen to. Certain modifications, they say, are desirable, but they must be cautiously introduced, and with moderation, for fear of precipitating a disturbance that might wreck the country's prospects for many years to come.

But the *Post*, being altogether on the side of the lunatics, despises such caution and throws fear to the winds. For such remains of hard times as are still left it would apply heroic remedies, and, like some of those terrible doctors of the old school, would bleed the patient to death to save his life. Iron mills in Pennsylvania, and silk mills in New Jersey, are stopped or running on short time, because a sufficient market to take all that they can produce is not to be had. Therefore, says the *Post*, let foreign iron and silk manufactures be admitted duty free, and the country will be happy. There being more of certain kinds of goods on the home market than it can take, the evil is to be cured by adding to the glut large quantities of the same kinds of goods brought from abroad. Mills being closed by twos and threes, it is proposed to do what would speedily close them by scores. Was ever such nonsense gravely argued before? If already the country can produce more iron than suffices for its own use, how are the producers of iron to find better employment when to the home supply there are added heavy importations from abroad? Yet this is the argument that Grit journals here reproduce as if it were the gospel of good times to a suffering country.

THE RIGAUD SENATORSHIP.

La Minerve of Montreal gives us a little bit of private history in connection with M. ROSARIO THIBAUDEAU's recent appointment to the Senate. It says the nomination has surprised everybody except the little clique which effected it. It is well known, it alleges, that M. LAFLAMME and M. THIBAUDEAU were at daggers' drawn ever since M. LAFLAMME nominated M. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST for the Lieutenant-Governorship of Quebec, passing over M. ISIDORE THIBAUDEAU, who, it declares, had the promise of the Governorship in "black and white." It is known, *La Minerve* goes on to say, that M. ROSARIO THIBAUDEAU denounced M. LAFLAMME to Mr. MACKENZIE, and that for months he talked bitterly on the streets and other places where Grits most do congregate against him, and swowed that he would not longer support the Federal Administration under Mr. MACKENZIE's leadership. That under these circumstances the vacant Senatorship should be given to M. ROSARIO THIBAUDEAU, our contemporary says, occasions no little surprise. But we do not see why it should be so surprising. M. LAFLAMME must have desired to heal the breach caused by his treachery to M. ISIDORE THIBAUDEAU, and Mr. MACKENZIE could not be less zealous in the good cause than his colleague the Minister of Justice. The Quebec East election was the opportune incident which brought the estranged friends together. Mr. ISIDORE THIBAUDEAU, by resigning for M. LAURIER, had established a substantial claim upon the Premier. There being a Senatorial vacancy in the Montreal District, why not give the appointment to M. ROSARIO? 'Twas no sooner said than done. The lovely quartette are again one in the bonds of a brotherly embrace—are pursuing the common object of a noble patriotism and the elevation of the standard inspired by the cohesive power of plunder and preferment. There is no reason to be surprised.

THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

THEY are going every day, those patriot souls who for a decade strove (with lots of money) to put down bribery and corruption! Paragraphs like the following are flying thickly through the press just now:

"It is certain that Mr. B. Trudel, the well known Liberal electioneering agent, is soon to be appointed Harbour Master of Quebec.

"Mr. Robert Reid, ex-stationer and ex-valuator of the Neebing Hotel, has been appointed Collector of Customs for the port of London.

"Mr. Kenneth McLellan, one of Hon. W. Ross' bribery agents in Victoria, will receive a revenue inspectorship early in January."

As to the victors belong the spoils, we do not grumble because the Dominion Government rewards its friends, although the keenness with which the latter scent and pursue office reflects somewhat on their old-time assertion that in seeking to depose Sir JOHN MACDONALD they wanted nothing for themselves. But we do protest against the Government filling the public service with men morally and otherwise unfit to discharge important public duties. In the case of TRUDEL, the Quebec *Chronicle*, a devout Government organ, entreats the Premier to withhold his hand and spare the merchants and shippers such a visitation. As for Mr. REID, he was a pretty fair stationer and a pretty poor valuator of slabs and culls, and we doubt if ten men can be found in all London to say that he is fit for the collectorship of that port. Of MCLELLAN we know nothing, but as the North Sidney (C. B.) *Herald* says "he can barely write his own name, "is nearly 70 years of age, and is as "deaf as a door-nail," we surmise that his qualifications are no better than those of the other two.

ANOTHER STATE TRIAL.

THE Queen v. PATRICK CASS tried the other day at Hamilton, before Judge SINCLAIR, was a very remarkable trial in many respects. CASS, a Tory, and therefore a "base hound," was assessor of Dundas for 1877. One URQUHART, a sound Reformer, had two lots, and these CASS assessed at $125 each, thus depriving URQUHART and the Party of a vote. This was appealed against and in November last Judge SINCLAIR increased the assessment of each lot to $150 or $300 together. The learned Judge then reported the facts to Mr. MOWAT, and the Attorney-General wrote to the local member, Dr. MCMAHON, on the subject. The doctor sent for CASS and after explaining to him the nature of the complaint against him, advised him to get the people to sign a petition to the Attorney-General begging for mercy. This CASS refused to do. He declared that he had assessed the property at its full and fair value to the best of his knowledge; and, we quote from the Dundas *Standard*, that "he "had neither intentionally nor knowingly done URQUHART any wrong, and "that he could not consistently with "what was due to himself as a public "officer and a man, peddle a petition "round the town which would be tantamount to confessing that he was guilty "of all that was charged against him." Whereupon County Attorney OSLER was instructed to indict CASS for having "falsely, wilfully, and improperly," done several things to the injury of URQUHART, and, it might have been added, against the peace of the sovereign Party. The grand jury threw out one of the two counts but found a true bill on the second, charging that CASS had "falsely, wilfully, and improperly "assessed the property below its value." The case came on for trial before Judge SINCLAIR on the 27th ult., and after hearing the evidence for and against, the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty," and this State prosecution came to an unprofitable end.

The prosecution of assessors at the instance of the Attorney-General is something new; but as it has been begun, let it be done thoroughly and without regard to the victim's politics, or else forever dropped. Our Reform friends appear to be partial to State trials, and, certes, if they indict every Reform assessor suspected of wilful under-valuation they will soon have their hands full.

NOBODY AT THE HELM.

THE proclamation issued by the Government of Japan on the eve of their adoption of a Protective tariff contains many great truths which the majority of the Canadian people will appreciate. They say: "We have not adopted Pro-"tection without due enquiry and "study. We are of opinion that inter-"national Free Trade would benefit the "nations far more than the wisest of "Protective tariffs. So, too, interna-"tional amity and brotherhood would "be better than war. But we cannot "legislate for trade and commerce on "ideal principles. We cannot leave our "country without the protection of an "army when other countries near by "are filled with monster armaments; "nor can we be Free Traders so long as "those with whom we deal guard their "markets and guarantee the progress of "their industries with Protective "tariffs." Reference is made to the great commercial crisis, and the proclamation concludes: "We are "of opinion that the Protective system "which we are now about to establish "will relieve the strain upon our indus-"tries to the extent that it will secure "them their home market, and pre-"vent them from being swamped by "those of more advanced nations." Germany, France, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Russia, and all the other nations of Continental Europe long since discovered what Japan has just found out. In England, the folly of leading a Free Trade movement which other countries refuse to join is becoming more and more manifest every day. The logic of closed workshops and deserted iron fields is stronger than the most beautiful theory; and the presence of vast quantities of American, French, German, and Belgian goods in Manchester, Sheffield, and Birmingham is something the Free Traders can neither explain nor account for satisfactorily.

Canada alone, of all the intelligent countries under the sun, possesses a Government which in its ineffable wisdom refuses to be taught by experience. Our rulers don't believe in a prudent trade policy. They are strong adherents of theoretical Free Trade, and though Japan's experience of it is our experience, they lack the sagacity and enteprise of the Oriental statesmen. They are blind, because they don't want to see. They are wedded to an idol, and will not be persuaded that it is a false god. In a grave crisis like this, when immigration to Canada is at a stand-still and emigration to the States a thriving movement, when business is paralyzed and the best of our business men are running a stiff race with the constable, the men at Ottawa stand idly by and let the ship drift. Even when they go out into the country or meet Parliament, it is not for the purpose of taking counsel with the people as to the best means of weathering the storm, but to abuse and vilify the old pilot who took the vessel through many a gale in years past.

ENGLAND AND THE WAR.

The *Standard*, with an eye to possible British intervention, lays before its readers some interesting facts touching the positions of Checknadgee and Gallipoli in which the decisive struggle of the contest may probably be looked for, and where English interest will undoubtedly be centered. At present the very name of Checknadgee is unknown to most newspaper readers, but it may soon be familiar enough to everybody. It is on the Sea of Marmora about 20 miles from Constantinople, and is a naturally strong position against the advance of an army on Constantinople. There is, in fact, but a comparatively narrow passage by which troops could advance. The hills along this rise sharply, and a series of earthworks, judiciously placed, held by 30,000 good troops, would present almost impregnable obstacles to the whole forces of the Czar. The position indeed is far stronger than that of Plevna. Lying as it does only twenty miles from the capital, and enclosing a tract of country but twenty miles from sea to sea, it would afford ample space for the population who would fall back from Roumelia with their flocks and herds, on the advance of the Russians, and Constantinople, open to the sea and the Asiatic shore, could not possibly be subjected to the pressure of famine. The invaders, therefore, would have none of the advantages which enabled the Germans to take Paris. They could only depend on actual assault.

The position of Gallipoli, owing to its figuring so much in the Crimean war, is more familiar to the public. The *Standard's* idea is that it is even more strong than that of Checknadgee. The long narrow peninsula separating the Dardanelles from the Gulf of Saros is not four miles across. The guns of the fleet in the Dardanelles and the Gulf could cross fire over the whole line of defence. It is estimated that 15,000 men, with only weak works, could hold it against all comers. Consequently there remains only the consideration of the means to prevent any attack on Constantinople from the direction of Erzeroum, for which a fine position offers itself close to Scutari. Here the line extending from Chalcedon to the Giants Mountain is exceedingly strong. There are precipitous ravines on both sides, and military experts consider it could be strongly held against numerically superior forces. Summing up the natural advantages thus briefly sketched, the *Standard* remarks:—"Constantinople and the "Dardanelles can therefore be rendered "secure by just such a force as England "could place there at a minimum of "effort and expense—viz., a moderate "number of troops well supplied with "artillery, and protected on its "flanks by a powerful fleet. "Against such a defence as this the "whole scheme of Russian attack would "break up like waves on a rock, and it "is well that Englishmen should before-"hand make themselves acquainted with "the main features of the position."

AMERICAN EXPORTS.

THE exports of the United States for the first eight months of 1877, which have just been issued in summary form, are full of interest, particularly as regards the question of Free Trade or Protection. There is a large increase in firearms and ordnance manufactures, all of which used to be made in Birmingham. According to the Free Trade theory, Birmingham, being Free Trade, ought to hold the monopoly, while the workshops of Protectionist New England ought to languish and rot in idleness; but the very reverse is the case. There is also an increase of $5,400,000 as compared with 1875 and of $2,000,000 as compared with 1876 in the export of cotton fabrics, and the leather, saddlery and harness, and furniture exports are equally prosperous. The export of agricultural implements, locomotives and other machinery is rapidly increasing, and a Washington special boasts that the full returns will show that the Americans have literally driven English-made machinery and ironwork of all kinds out of Australia, and seriously invaded the strongholds of Sheffield, Birmingham, and the Northern country. The total value of manufactures exported during the eight months was $51,000,000.

The export of "staples other than "manufactures" is largely on the increase. Here are nine of the principal items in that list:

Indian corn	$ 36,100,000
Wheat	51,100,000
Wheat flour	16,900,000
Raw cotton	107,000,000
Illuminating mineral oils	44,500,000
Bacon and hams	35,500,000
Cheese	11,700,000
Lard	18,600,000
Leaf tobacco	22,500,000
Total	$343,900,000

The trade in preserved fruits, fresh and cured beef, oysters, lobsters, etc., is developing rapidly. "On the whole," says the New York *Times*, "there is a "steady and growing demand in Europe "for the products of American in-"dustry, while the raw materials of the "United States continue to represent "no small portion of the world's com-"merce." Clearly the theory that Protection kills does not hold good in the case of our neighbours, who, in spite of a gigantic war debt, are flourishing "like a green bay tree."

Some of our fat-witted Grit contemporaries are making merry over the idea of local Protection, in such form, for instance, as that of protecting the farmers of any partiular district against competition in their own county town by those of another county. No such absurdity is favoured by Protectionists. The Protection they seek is national not sectional; it is in a word—National Policy. Their ideal is that of the nation as a Commonwealth, with all home exchanges free as air, the burdens of taxation to be, as far as possible put upon foreign and not upon home purchases. That such a policy is practicable is proved by the experience of the United States. Years ago manufactures were confined to the Atlantic States, and it appeared as if the West was suffering injustice for the benefit of the East. But the policy has been resolutely adhered to, and now what do we see as the consequence? We see this—that manufactures are becoming diffused, and are spreading westward, until some Eastern men have become jealous, and would like now to have just Free Trade enough to restore their old monopoly. But the West has got its hold upon manufacturing now, and is strong enough to defeat all attempts to change the policy of diffusion. The opponents of Protection on local grounds could have no stronger case anywhere in the world than existed in the United States twenty years ago, as between East and West; and the triumph of national as distinguished from sectional policy there assures its triumph elsewhere under much easier circumstance. The time is approaching when Halifax and St. John will follow the road that Chicago has gone, and will become strong Protectionist centres.

The English mail which arrived yesterday brings deplorable accounts of the dulness in trade and general distress throughout Britain. For the last ten years the iron and coal trades have never been so depressed as at the present time, and the demand for coal is only forced by the extreme low price at which it is sold. In no part of the country has the falling off been so great as in the South Wales ports. At the Cardiff docks there are now miles of laden coal waggons waiting for shipment. Since April the shipments of coal have fallen off from 363,000 tons a month to foreign ports to 215,000 last month. At Swansea the shipments have been falling off at the rate of 10,000 tons a month, and at Newport 20,000 tons a month. Coastwise the falling off has been nearly equally great. At Cardiff, owing to the large increase in the number of able-bodied men applying for relief, the guardians have been compelled, in consequence of the workhouse being crowded, to open a stoneyard for the employment of married men, and the applications for admission are increasing at the rate of about fifty a week. In November the outdoor relief amounted to about £260, it has now reached £292 a week, and the relieving officers affirm that there are many cases of extreme poverty in the town. Last week a family, consisting of seven persons, was found to have subsisted for days on a pailful of brewer's grains, which were intended for some pigs. In the North the distress is widespread and increasing.

In its account of a railway accident which happened a few days ago at the Great Western Station, Brantford, by which a young man named Robert Moffat was killed on the track, apparently through his own fault, the *Courier* says:—"Deceased was only about four months braking, and was rather awkward in working about a train." The remark seems an obvious one that trains should not be worked by persons who are "awkward" at the doing of it. To permit this brings danger of injury to themselves and others, as well as of loss to the Company. Of course young hands have to learn by degrees, but it appears advisable that only those who are active and quick-witted should be selected for railway train service. No one having defective sight or hearing, for instance, should be put upon train work, in any capacity, or to attend to a switch. We should think that caution in this respect is really necessary, and, if better pay be required for better men, by all means let them be obtained; in the interest both of the companies and of the public.

A war with Germany is the Frenchman's dream. A London paper, in an article on the new French army, which numbers 2,470,000 men of all grades and classes, says only those who have not studied the immense resources of the country will be surprised by the large development of physical force which has now been accomplished. Despite the astounding events of 1870-71, and the vast increase of burdens to which they led, France remained the most compact, rich, and homogeneous power on the continent. Nothing, save the will, was required to draw forth her inherent strength and organize it in a well articulated, highly trained, and thoroughly disciplined force. No pains have been, or will be, spared; and thus nearly seven years after the close of a disastrous war she stands erect, and far more redoubtable than she has ever been since her great strife with Germany was brought to an end.

With regard to Mr. Moffat, of Restigouche, the Montreal *Gazette* says:—"Mr. Moffat has resigned his seat, having been advised by his counsel that his ownership of certain vessels, in which rails for the Intercolonial were brought out, rendered him liable to the penalties under the Independence of Parliament Act. It is reported that Mr. Haddow will oppose Mr. Moffat. The opposition is to be regretted, especially as Mr. Haddow is a Conservative, and will be just as warm a supporter of the Conservative party as Mr. Moffat has ever been. Under these circumstances we think he should permit Mr. Moffat to be re-elected and wait for the general elections."

It is said that Cardinal Manning and other learned Catholic contributors to the London monthlies have been requested to drop their connections, not because of heretical tendencies displayed by any of the writers, but because they are alleged to aid in the diffusion of irreligious opinion by promoting the circulation of the reviews in which they are published. In future no Roman Catholic ecclesiastics will contribute to the London *Contemporary Review*, even in defence of their own views; and their disappearance from print will be due to the strongly expressed opinion of "superior authorities."

Says the Belleville *Ontario*:—"There was a rumour, long since, which originated with the Conservative press, to the effect that Mr. Bernard Devlin, M. P. for Montreal Centre, would soon be made a Senator in the room of the late Charles Wilson, for the Rigaud district." In Montreal, they tell it differently. There the cognoscenti aver that immediately after Mr. Wilson's death Mr. Devlin himself set the rumour going in order to see if Mr. Mackenzie would bite.

A Berlin correspondent says Bismarck chuckles over Russia's position. The Czar used to pose as the arbiter of the destinies of Europe, yet he finds himself crippled in overcoming the weakest nation on the continent. France's only hope lay in an alliance with Russia, but the Czar will not be able, Bismarck thinks, to undertake any new war enterprises for years to come.

Cicero says that in his day two augurs could not look each other in the face without laughing; they knew they were arrant humbugs. So, we venture to think, Messrs. Vail and Jones will enjoy a quiet grin while hearing each other denouncing Tory corruption and lauding the efforts of the Government to secure the independence of Parliament.

It appears that the Turkish commander at Kars did not sell out to the Russians, as alleged in the first reports of the fall of that stronghold. On the contrary, he fought with desperate valour to the last, and, when hope had fled, escaped over the mountains, which border the plain of Kars, with 150 gallant followers.

On the 30th November the total amount of Dominion Government deposits, at call and after notice, in all the banks in Ontario was $810,000, and Senator Simpson had $445,000 of it. Mr. Cartwright is keeping up to the bargain he made with the worthy Senator in January, 1874, like a man. Reform is indeed very beautiful.

A singular coincidence happened at Bridgeport, Conn., the other day. A Turkish agent was in the steel works ordering 300,000 bayonets, when a Russian agent walked in and ordered 600,000. The intelligent Protectionist who controls the works introduced them over a bottle of the best Bourbon.

There will be a total eclipse of the sun visible throughout North America on the 29th July. The line of totality runs through Kamsckatka, Alaska, British America, and across Texas to the Gulf of Mexico. It will portend the utter collapse of the Dominion Government in the fall.

This day four years ago, the great Reform Party was burning to get to the polls. Now they would be happy if there wasn't a general election for a decade; they are so fatigued with standard-elevating.

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

The Growth of the War Feeling—Cavalry Horses from Canada—The Next Governor-General—Canadian Enterprise—The Emigration Business—English Cricketers for Canada, &c.

LONDON, Dec. 27.

I may say that a week ago if called on to express an opinion I should have doubted the existence of a war-party in these islands. The peace-party was so strong that dissentients held their tongues. Things are changing. Chamber of Commerce are still memorializing the Oriental Sphinx of Downing street to keep quiet; but every day the tone of their missives implies the recognition of greater difficulty in his way. In a railway compartment on the Great Western were five fellow-travellers with myself. They were all for war. Now the causes of war are not in history always so clearly delineated as are the pretexts. If England once more fights Russia it will be because she feels herself snubbed and asked to take a back place. A leading Russian journal has said that the Three Emperors will not need the co-operation of the Empress of India when dictating the terms of peace at Constantinople. The same paper has derided our "handful of troops." A German paper has said it will be fruitless for a *sick old woman* to lend assistance to the Sick Man. And these things are rankling in the mind of John Bull, never a safe animal to bait. *Bell's Life* and the *Daily Telegraph* point to the States and Canada as the only quarter whence a supply of cavalry horses may be got.

The bellicose letter from Mr. Edmund Tattersall in Monday's *Telegraph* is everywhere very highly spoken of. The writer is essentially a typical Englishman, who speaks for an immense class of persons, for those "not in business" of the city, and for pretty nearly all the dwellers in the shires. His opportunities of getting at public sentiment are exceptionally good, dealing as he does with and for the best of those who have to do with horses—and their name is Legion. His allusion to Canada as the place whence England is to get her cavalry remounts bears out all that I have written in the matter, and shows that the continued notices of Canadian stock have not been given in the London papers for no purpose.

Many respectable newspapers still continue to say that the Duke of Manchester will relieve Lord Dufferin in October next; but it must be evident that they speak without any warranty. A piece of patronage to be exercised after the prorogation of Parliament is not likely to be settled before Parliament meets. For this there are reasons too evident to need recounting. The rumour is merely idle gossip

Snow on the ground is a fit and proper dress for the country to wear at Christmas time; but the misery and wretchedness produced here by five degrees of frost are really in excess of the ill effects of five below zero on the Canadian poor. Here there are no precautions taken, and in any old-fashioned house frost simply means discomfort of a kind unknown in Canada to what one may call well-to-do people. It is a subject on which it will be incumbent on me to write at length in my next letter, provided we don't have a thaw in the meantime; for it is no use grumbling at people who never saw a stove and have been nurtured on draughts, chills, shivers, and wet feet, till they think such things inseparable adjuncts of existence. A momentary relief came to me the other morning, in the shape of sympathy. Sitting in the coffee-room of the Royal Hotel at Norwich, the door of which was a swinging one opening into a snow-clad yard, I remonstrated with the waiter for fastening it open! The only other occupant of the room proved to be Mr. Popham, of Montreal, who was at this jumping-off place of old England, pushing the wholesale importation of Canadian-made boots and shoes, and—he told me—with great success. Go where one will, in fact, Canadian imports, live and dead, prove the growing energy and enterprise of our traders, and the fact that, deprived of reciprocity with the States, our live men have sought and found other and equally satisfactory markets.

I shall be present at the great sculling match on the Tyne next month (14th Jan.) when Boyd and Higgins contend for the championship, and shall not fail to see if there is any probability of a match being made next summer between Hanlan and the winner. Trickett's answer to Hanlan's challenge is not known in England, but the appearance of the Australian or of the January winner at Newcastle upon the Toronto Bay may I think be confidently looked for in 1878. I am led to doubt Trickett's coming to Canada on any terms, from the tone of the *Australasian* Oct. 27th, which decidedly points to Sydney as the scene of any contest he may undertake yet awhile. Meantime Boyd's training is interrupted by a severe attack of bronchitis. Cricketers, too, may rest assured that an English gentleman team will be out in August. It was reported that W. G. Grace had positively refused to "be one," but a letter from the Leviathan this morning shows him still open to persuasion. Mr. Fitzgerald's malady has assumed a more violent form, and the many friends he made in America will be sorry to hear that his recovery is despaired of. The Walkers will be on hand, the redoubtable V. E. taking Mr. Fitzgerald's place as Commander-in-Chief. It is too early to speak with certainty of his associates. In another branch of sport the most important item of news is that the governing body has issued an edict that no hurdle-race shall be over less distance than two miles. This is a step in the right direction, and taken with the object of stopping speedy roarers from acquiring fame over the sticks, soon to retire upon their ill-gained laurels, and too often transmit their infirmities broadcast, for it is known that roarers, choked by a continuous run on the flat, get a rest for their pipes during the moments of leaping which enables them (paradoxically) to make the greater exertion with success.

The Allan Company, doing all in their power to help on emigration, have distributed hundreds of thousands of a neat and comprehensive circular, pointing out the advantages of Canada as a home for the industrious labourer or small capitalist, and the Dominion line have followed suit, the character of the latter production being best estimated perhaps from the fact that the name of Creasy J. Whellams appears in nearly every page of it, an indication I presume of his having been employed to manufacture it. Mr. Dyke, our agent at Liverpool, is to the fore and with the limited means at his disposal works wonders.

The volunteer force of the Mother Country on the 20th December consisted of 175,000 men, viz.: 32,000 artillerymen, 7,000 engineers, 133,000 infantry, and the remainder mounted rifles and permanent staff. The yeomany numbers 14,000 sabres, and the militia 115,000 men, making the total defensive force over 300,000 men.

TORONTO ITEMS.

Hanlan's brother and sister walked from the island to the city on Monday on the ice.

Mr. W. H. Howland has been re-elected as chairman of the Hospital Trust Board.

A telephone is to be set in operation between Osgoode Hall and several law offices in town.

During 1877 there were registered at the City Clerk's office 786 marriages, 2,221 births, and 1,593 deaths.

A father was fined $1 and costs at the police court the other day for neglecting to register the birth of his child.

A New Brunswick paper places Lieut.-Col. G. T. Denison, the Police Magistrate, among the illustrious dead in its review of the year.

It is understood that Mr. Rine will take a house in Toronto, whence he will radiate throughout the Province on his Temperance lecturing tours.

Vice-Chancellor Blake has resigned the position of Superintendent of the Church of the Ascension Sunday school, and has taken charge of Grace church Sunday school.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Williams, Chief of the London Police, has been presented by his former comrades on the Toronto force with a pearl-handled silver-mounted pistol, as a New Year's gift.

The reporters, whose hats were used for the purpose of taking up a collection at Mr. Rine's meeting Sunday, carefully examined the inside linings afterwards with the hope of discovering a stray five cent piece, but were disappointed.

One of the sights on Yonge street Tuesday was a "Heathen Chinee" in hot pursuit of a "Melican man" who had neglected to settle his little bill for washing; "Me no washee if you no payee," was the exclamation of the irate Celestial.

NORTHERN RAILWAY.—Mr. Barlow Cumberland having retired from the position of General Freight and Passenger Agent in the service of the Northern Railway Company, he has been succeeded by Mr. Robert Kerr, who assumes the duties of that office from the first of the year.

BURIAL STATISTICS.—The number of interments at the city cemeteries during the year just closed as compared with those of of 1876 are as follows:—At the Necropolis 757, against 872 in 1876; at St. James' 706, against 732 in 1876; and at Mount Pleasant 181, against 46 in 1876.

In the Court of Appeal judgment has been given in the Lincoln election case, declaring that the votes in St. Catharines, Port Dalhousie, etc., were not invalidated by reason of the letter of the law not being complied with in a specific description of the property upon which the right to vote was based.

THE ELECTIONS IN YORKVILLE.—The friends of Mr. Severn, the defeated candidate for the Reeveship of Yorkville, have decided upon demanding a scrutiny of the ballots cast on Monday, as they consider that he was not beaten by fair means. Mr. Severn himself does not wish such a course to be pursued by his supporters, but they are determined upon carrying out their intentions.

CONFINED TO BED.—We regret to hear that Mr. E. King Dodds is confined to bed at his residence at Weston, somewhat seriously indisposed. Doubtless it is in a measure a reaction from the excitement of his many campaigns last year. Persons throughout the country with whom Mr. Dodds had engagements for lectures, &c., will learn from this notice why he is unable to keep them at present.

Mr. DAVISON, School Trustee, has moved that in the opinion of the Board, the Income Franchise Act should be so amended that all persons having income votes shall have the privilege of voting for School Trustees, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Secretary to the Hon. the Attorney-General for his consideration. The motion was carried. Mr. Bain's motion to the effect that all pieces of music and recitative passages intended for use at the half yearly examinations be submitted first to the Committee on School Management for approval, was carried without discussion.

IMMIGRATION STATISTICS.—The arrivals of immigrants at the Toronto agency during 1877 were considerably less than during 1876, there being only 2,718 last year, as against 7,135 for the year before. During the year just past the arrivals were as follows:—From England, 1,486; Ireland, 399; Scotland, 534; Germany, 234; Norway, 572; Switzerland, 37; Iceland, 57; United States, 30; Mennonites, 184. Total, 2,718. The 7,135 who arrived during 1876 are represented as follows:—From England, 1,803; Ireland, 585; Scotland, 450; Germany, 858; Norway, 779; Switzerland, 38; Iceland, 57; Mennonites, 1,355. In 1877, 1,815 left for the United States, as against 1,616 in 1876.

THE EDUCATIONAL ENQUIRY.

Mr. Justice Patterson's Report.

To His Honour Donald A. Macdonald, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario:

In pursuance of Her Majesty's Commission bearing date the 24th day of September, 1877, addressed to me, Christopher Salmon Patterson, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Court of Appeal, and appointing me a Commissioner to inquire into and report upon the two charges therein set forth—that is to say two charges which, amongst others, had been publicly brought through the medium of newspapers against the Central Committee of Examiners of the Education Department, or certain members of it, viz:—

First—That there is within the Central Committee a Ring, the members of which have dishonourable relations with the publishing house of Adam Miller & Company, of Toronto; and,

Secondly, That in the preparation of examination papers in connection with the Public and High Schools there has been collusion between members of the Central Committee and other parties interested in the work or the result of the examinations.

I have the honour to report as follows:—

I have enquired into the said charges and have taken the evidence of all persons who appeared before me or were adduced as witnesses to give information upon the matters in question, which evidence is submitted herewith.

It will be sufficient to say, with respect to the first charge, that it was entirely unsupported by the evidence. It was not shown that the firm in question enjoyed any peculiar advantage, as tested by a comparison of the number of authorized books published by them with the number published by the house of Campbell & Son; nor was it shown that, in the competition for such books as they control, their success was due to any other cause than intelligent enterprize. The existence of dishonourable relations, as well as the assumed foundation for the charge, not only received no countenance whatever from the evidence given, but were expressly and satisfactorily negatived.

The clear result of the whole evidence, in my judgment, is that neither charge has any support from affirmative proof; that the charges have not been allowed to be disposed of as simply unproved, but that both have been conclusively rebutted.

All which is respectfully submitted.

The Clearing House Association of New Orleans, representing the entire banking capital of that city, have pass