

By the early part of next week the results of the borough elections in Great Britain will be known, and we shall be in a position to judge whether Salisbury or Gladstone is to hold the reins of Government in the coming parliament. In the meantime both parties are sanguine of success, each claiming the probability of a good working majority.

One very interesting and timely feature of the Chicago Exhibition will be the prominence given to methods of practical road-making. The experience of European nations on this important subject will be put before our friends of the United States. There seems to be no reason why we too should not profit by the object lessons which will be given in a matter so deeply important to our country.

The aluminium trunk is at present filling the "long felt want." This late invention consists of a light wooden frame, coated with the new metal. It can be tossed and beaten about in a manner which will delight the baggage porter, and yet will not distress the happy possessor, for it is especially adapted to stand rough usage. The new trunk is dust and insect proof, and as it is not an expensive article, it will soon become a popular addition to the traveller's equipment.

The Rev. Andrew Cartwright, formerly a slave in North Carolina, but now a returned missionary from Liberia, is giving some interesting facts as to the progress of that African Republic. He warns intending colored emigrants to beware of settling beyond or near the State borders, as their heathen brothers are not at all averse to kidnapping them and selling them into slavery. But for this drawback, he pictures a well-to-do people, already beginning to take part in commerce with the southern countries of Europe.

Recent researches in the Holy Land, under the direction of Major Candor and Mr. Charles Gordon, have resulted in a serious difference of opinion between the explorers and the clergy of the church of the Holy Sepulchre. It is now claimed that the Hill of the Skulls outside the walls of Jerusalem contains the once hallowed sepulchre, and many devotional meetings have been held on the newly-found sites. A few centuries ago, such an heretical theory would have been discouraged at the point of the bayonet, but now a newspaper paragraph serves to discuss a new opinion where once a crusade would have been thought necessary.

The rupture between Prince Bismarck and the German Government now threatens to assume a very serious aspect. Emperor William and his Ministers have steadfastly ignored the anonymous newspaper correspondence of which Bismarck is the supposed author, but it is impossible for them to let pass in silence the communication which the Iron Chancellor has over his own signature addressed to the Government at Austria. In this communication Bismarck ridicules the policy of the German Government, and refers in satirical language to Chancellor Von Caprivi. The German press condemn the imprudence and interference of Prince Bismarck, but at the same time warn the German Government to be cautious in the steps taken against the ex-Chancellor, otherwise the consequences may be most serious.

Viscount Hinton and his wife are continuing on their walking tour throughout England—a statement which would perhaps seem uncalled for were it not for the fact that they are strolling not for pleasure but for profit. This young scion of the nobility enacts the part of "Johnny Morgan" and "plays the organ" while his lady collects the ha' pennies in the traditional tin cup. As yet no monkey has been added to the travelling show but it is hoped that some philanthropic friend will start a subscription for the purchase of the much needed animal. It is now two years since the Viscount, after quarreling with his paternal relative, took to this itinerant life, which, by the bye, pays him very handsomely. His especial delight is to perform for picnic parties near his former home. As the musician is the heir to the magnificent estates of the Earl of Poolett, the public still smile amiably at his idiosyncrasies.

Li Hung Chang, the chancellor of the Chinese Empire, has been quietly making his influence felt in the world for the past score of years. The unchanging policy of his government has been "China for the Chinese," even if, in order to obtain this, "the barbarians must be beaten back with their own weapons." At the head of the "Ever Victorious Army" in 1861, he distinguished himself by promptly putting down a rebellion, and in 1863 General Gordon testified to his diplomatic powers and his shrewd foresight. The English naval system was introduced by him into China, and English officers were paid to instruct his countrymen in building iron-clads, arsenals docks, and lastly, in establishing a cadet school. Like many great statesmen of Western nations he is of humble origin, and it has been his continual boast that, although raised to the rank of "Junior Protector to the Emperor," he was but the son of a poor wood-cutter.

An ingenious and successful method of obtaining money under false pretences has just been discovered in England—that is, discovered by the authorities, for there is no data to assure the public that the same fraud has not been successfully perpetrated for some years past. It has not been generally understood that all fire-brigades were paid by county councils, or out of funds set aside for the purpose, and by taking advantage of the lack of this knowledge, several people have collected money in order to aid

various firemen's companies. One old woman organized the Norwood Fire Escape Brigade, which consisted of two boon companions and a tumble-down ladder. Through solicitations they obtained no less than £700 before the scheme was discovered. When on trial they gave the names of several who were engaged in the same lucrative business, and now the proper punishment for such impositions the public is being meted out to the offenders.

His Majesty, Someditch Peran Paramide Malia Khoulatonkorn, King of Siam, is the happy inventor of perhaps the most unique house in the world. It is built entirely of glass and can be lowered into water at pleasure, for it is perfectly water-tight, and is well ventilated by pipes leading upwards. There are some trifling drawbacks to this super-naturally cool abode, and it is to be hoped that the monarch has no stone-throwing propensities, for we well know the fate of those who live in glass houses and indulge in the bombarding habit. There is the danger too of a jealous spouse, who might slyly crack the transparent wall, or cut off the ventilation shafts. His Majesty would be safer on the solid land.

Mr. Edward Bellamy, whose schemes for improving the world were made known to us through "Looking Backward," has aroused a rival in the person of Mr. Edward Atkinson, who believes in simplifying the cares of living, but who rejects the communistic theories of Bellamy and strives to retain individuality in every home. Mr. Atkinson's strong point is the waste of food and fuel in our present system of living. He has invented a patent cooker, which, when placed over a lighted lamp, will boil, fry or bake the food for the coming meal. By following his receipts, which, by the way, sound very toothsome, one could live excellently for eleven cents a day. He has also invented a tiny oil stove to be used in connection with an ordinary tin lunch pail, which is inexpensive and eminently practical.

We note, with a sense of amusement, the tendency among the people of the world, and among Halifaxians especially, to put up with things as they are. During the week of the Wanderers' Fair, some thousands of our citizens and visitors were put to some inconvenience by a trifling which would not be tolerated in many a smaller city. The beautiful enclosure opposite the Exhibition Building which is the delight of near-by owners of property, and an ever present joy to the children of the neighborhood, affords a foot path from the corners of Morris and South Park streets to an excellent chain fence, under which every man, woman or child must bob uncouthly before gaining the sidewalk. The Exhibition Building is in constant use, as the well worn foot-path attests, and we would suggest to the authorities that they should remove the chain at the end of the path and erect a turnstile or, preferably, a post exit. We trust the needed improvement will be made before another large entertainment is given, for a proper approach through the well-kept open square will prevent the absurd scenes of the past week being re-enacted.

The report of John McQueen, one of the Scottish Farmer delegates who visited this Province last summer, is one that should make every patriotic Nova Scotian stop and think. Mr. McQueen's reference to our mines can be of no great weight, seeing that he had no practical knowledge of mining, but in speaking of farming, he advises emigrants not to come to this country. Our soil and climate he regards as well adapted to farming pursuits, but the limit to the markets, caused by the enactment of the McKinley Bill, makes farming unprofitable, and hence the exodus of so many of the young people to the United States. His panacea for all these ills is unrestricted reciprocity. Are Mr. McQueen's statements absolutely correct, and if so, how can we remedy the state of affairs to which he refers? Our farmers are certainly not responsible for the McKinley Bill, nor is it in their power to bring about its abolition. Our young people are leaving the country, and many of our best farms are only half worked. We believe that the remedies for these ills are within reach of our own people. While the markets of the United States may be closed to our farm produce, we still have a practically unlimited market for much that can be raised upon the farm. Our export of horses, cattle and sheep are insignificant, as are also those of pork, cheese and butter, and yet there are hundreds of farms in Nova Scotia where these could be produced to advantage. Our fruit-growing industry is on the increase, and is attracting both capital and labor. This is due in a large measure to the efforts of the Fruit Growers Association, which has systematically and persistently been educating the people in all that pertains to fruit farming. We believe that our public school system is responsible for much of the distaste that our young people evince with respect to farming; and this distaste is more than doubly increased by the farmers' shortsightedness in neglecting to recognize that the labor of their sons has a marketable cash value, and that in refusing to pay for this labor they are assisting the exodus. Another fact that must be patent to anyone travelling in Nova Scotia is, that our farming population work more leisurely than they do in any other country under the sun. If our farmers' sons were paid for their labor, and would but work for their living as they are obliged to work in the United States, the difference in the country would very speedily be evident. There are plenty of farmers in Nova Scotia who have a knowledge of their business, who know the best marketable commodities to be produced, who work with a will, who have no mortgages upon their farms, and who have respectable sums to their credit in the Savings Bank; and judging by these it would seem, despite the McKinley Bill, that the possession of common sense and some knowledge of farming would, with the application of labor, produce as good results as can be produced anywhere.

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