The Dominion Illustrated.

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4th JULY, 1891.



Sir William Gordon-Cumming.

The stern and almost vindictive steps taken by the Imperial authorities in the punishment of SIR WILLIAM GORDON-CUMMING will evoke much popular sympathy for that nobleman. They are unusually harsh and severe when applied to a man who has in past years served his country faithfully and well, and who, if guilty of the offence last charged against him, cannot be considered as anything worse than a victim to kleptomania. Had he been a man whose record was in any way questionable, or who had not to his credit the reputation of unusual courage and unusual devotion to duty and to the military service of the Empire, the curt intimation "that his name " had been removed from the list of officers of the "army, Her Majesty having no further need of his "services," might not have occasioned any criticism ; but in his case the record of previous service might surely have mitigated the pitiless rigour of his official sentence into a permission to resign his commission, In everything but the letter such a resignation would have been tantamount to a dismissal, while to the unlucky subject of the dictum much pain would have been spared. But the Government have evidently determined to do their utmost to shower disgrace on the unfortunate baronet, and in addition to the markedly cruel manner of dismissal from the army have removed him from the list of deputy lieutenants of the County of Elgin, heaping on the humiliation with no measured hand, and totally ignoring his previous unsullied reputation, his high social position, and, above all, his faithful services to the Sovereign. The lesson to SIR WILLIAM has been a terrible one, the punishment extreme to a degree; the only events with which he can console himself being his manly and courageous demeanor in court, his marriage to a noble-minded and devoted lady, and the cheering welcome given to him and his bride by the municipal authorities and citizens of his Scottish home, who, regardless of opinion as to his guilt, evidently consider him and his still worthy of respect and honour.

Radical Ethics of Morality.

In no instance has the inconsistency of the English Radicals come out more prominently than in recent events. The delinquencies of GORDON-

CUMMING received a good deal of attention in their hands; but the pursuit of that gentleman was absorbed in following the higher game of a Prince; and at him many of them barked their loudest bark. Led on-we regret to say-by ministers of the gospel, they have persistently attacked the unlucky principals in that memorable card party; and yet, at the very moment when all the abuse and carping criticism was at its height, we find a larger and influential section of their party actually nominating to a seat in Parliament a man found guilty but a short time ago of a far greater offence against public morals and public decency. Not only so, but he has also been presented with an address from the Liberals of Chelsea, bearing nearly 10,000 signatures, congratulating him on his candidature and probable return to public life. Unlike SIR WILLIAM GORDON-CUMMING, who with all his faults was a good soldier and brilliantly served his country, the most prominent feature of SIR CHARLES DILKE'S connection with the State has been his critical attacks on its constitution and system of government. It is a curious phase of certain minds that the lesser offences should receive from them every degree of opprobrium, while the greater and more revolting should be practically condoned, and its chief actor receives honour and adulation at their hands.

A Close Season in Behring Sea.

The enforcement of the recent convention between the British and the United States Governments prohibiting sealing in the Behring Sea this season, will undoubtedly lead to serious inconvenience and financial loss throughout British Columbia. But it will be evident to any one looking carefully into the matter, that the trouble will be but a temporary one, and that the future interests of the industry will be vastly benefitted by the definite understanding that will ensue between the two Powers concerned. There is no reason to doubt that the spring of 1892 will see the conclusion of the dispute, and matters so arranged that the Canadian sealers can pursue their lawful work without hindrance from any one. It is almost unnecessary to point out that for whatever loss our Victoria and Vancouver friends suffer they may directly thank the United States Government in general, or MR. BLAINE in particular, in asserting his extraordinary claim to jurisdiction in an open sea. True, LORD SALISBURY might have ignored their claims, and protected our vessels from any interference; but while this would have been the more patriotic policy, and would probably have stopped any meddling on the part of the American warships, there would always be the risk of some skipper with more valour that zeal attacking one of our vessels, and thereby acquiring a drubbing from one of the Queen's ships. War might ensue and a vast expenditure of life and money take place. LORD SALISBURY'S policy of arbitration is probably the wisest-certainly the most pacific-that could be adopted. The fact of British Columbia being the province that will suffer most by this year's prohibition is, of course, due to its position ; had the trouble been with the fisheries on the Nova Scotian or New Brunswick coasts, and a similar cessation ordered, they would have had to bear the loss. Liability to occasional interference or stoppage of ocean supplies-be they seals or fish-is a necessary adjunct of Maritime States. In this case the decision will probably be a final one, and will forever settle the question.

Note Extension of Time in PRIZE COMPETITION.

Literary Competition.

The Publishers of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED offer the sum of \$130 in four prizes for short stories from Canadian writers

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On the following conditions:

Ist-All stories must be delivered at the office of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED not later than 1st August next. 2nd-Each story to contain not less than 5,000 words,

and not to exceed 8,000 words. 3rd-All MS. sent in for this competition to become the property of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED.

4th-Each story must contain a motto on top of first page, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope, inside of which is stated the name and address of the writer. The outside of envelope to bear motto used on story.

5th-MS. to be written in ink, and on one side of paper only

6th-Stories on Canadian subjects are preferred. THE SABISTON LITHO. & PUB. CO.,

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The Dominion **Illustrated** Prize Competition, 1891. **QUESTIONS**.

SIXTH SERIES.

- 31.-What artist is mentioned who studied portrait painting in Spain ?
- 32.-Quote a criticism on American State Secretaries.
- 33.-Where is mention made of insects with strong jaws and healthy appetites ?
- 34.—On what page is mentioned a lecture by Rev. Dean Carmichael, of Montreal?
- **35.**—Who commanded a regiment raised in Canada in 1796?
- 36.—Quote a reference to the Lord Bishop of Niagara.

NOTE.--All the material necessary for correctly answering the above questions can be found in Nos. 131 to 156 of the "Dominion Illustrated," being the weekly issues for January, February, March, April, May and June.