

ly been opened to Roman Catholics. A petition in favour of the enfranchisement of women has been presented to Parliament, and among the signatures are those of Professor Masson, Mr. and Mrs. Grote, Dean Alford and Mrs. Alford, and other distinguished persons. Great men are often very whimsical. Anything whatever that would diminish the domesticity of the female character would add nothing to female influence or female attraction. There are plenty of voters in the world for all the good they do. A venerable Highlander, Duncan Macneil, President of the Court of Session, has been at the age of 74 raised to the peerage, under the title of Lord Colensay.

On the continent of Europe it is said that France plots for a Confederation against Germany of Holland, Belgium and France. The German Confederation is being solidified. The Paris exhibition building is said to be not yet ready. A violent agitation is springing up in Italy against the Bishops who side with the Pope against the national movement, and are disposed to force the inferior clergy in the same direction. Garibaldi is said to be agitating against the Priests. Now that England is becoming more comfortable for the Pope, it seems that he becomes very uncomfortable in his ancient seat. It is indeed strange to see Italy becoming un-Romanist and Protestant England Romanised by men who are not popish enough to live in Rome, but too popish to be in England. The Eastern question is again attracting attention, as it is becoming daily more apparent that Turkey is in a state of political dissolution.

The Southern States of America are definitely under martial law, the country being divided into military districts under experienced generals. The tariff is placed at higher rates than before, and the passions of the people have prevailed over the intelligence of the few in inflicting an outrage upon the liberal tendencies of our time. Selfishness says: "America for the Americans." The true view says: "the world for man." The *Times* ridicules the thing by saying, that it will soon pay an American to cross the Atlantic for a suit of clothes!

Confederation has passed the British Parliament. On an early day and at a particular hour we shall become a new nation. If the transformation is not felt after an electric or transposing fashion, it will be known gradually in a new political framework and new political duties. The more favorable terms secured for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in the London scheme give umbrage to Geo. Brown and party in U. Canada, who, while friendly to Confederation, threaten opposition to said improvements in the new Parliament. The measure has been concurred in by a two-thirds vote in our local Legislatures. Probably the measure is neither so good as its friends represent nor so bad as its opponents imagine. There are three possible conditions in which

we might be, (for we shall not entertain the idea of *annexation*) namely, Confederation under one Legislature for B.N. America and provincial separation as before. As the last mentioned it was always considered *transitional* and *temporary*. It was a state in which, without union, our interests on general B. American questions were overruled by those of Canada. Thus the reciprocity resolution was passed in the Canadian interest and grudgingly submitted to by our Legislature. Of the other two schemes, its friends say in Confederation, (1) that Lower Canada would in no condition submit to a *Legislative* union and (2) that Confederation is only a *Legislative* union in disguise, the functions of the local Legislatures being so insignificant, that they will soon die of having nothing to do. If all parties would only see that union of some kind was necessary, and, that, while differing as to its political shape, and as to the proper time for consummating it, now or subsequently, they might acquiesce so far as to make out and improve it with friendly art. Any attempt to make political issues now rest on the *destruction* of the union must be extremely deadly to public welfare, and soon make these countries not fit to live in. If both parties seek its improvement, possible benefit will result from past diversity of views; but if one seeks its destruction and the other, considering it perfect, will listen to no honest objection, then between them born our new political babe, begotten amid various associations and born with few cheering voices of welcome, will develop into a hideous monster, devouring our children and culling the aid of some future Hercules to smite it to the ground.

SIR RODERICK MURCUISON still hoped for news of Dr. Livingston's death may be incorrect, but subsequent advices prove it to be true. His death will be a serious loss to religious science, of which he has been a bright ornament. Dr. Lee has again been called to account by the Presbytery of Edinburgh for using a *manuscript* liturgy. The dispute is a very insignificant one. Had it been in John Knox's time and for a hundred years after the reformation, the whole Presbytery would have been using a *printed* one. The Reformation settlement legalised the Confession of Faith, but not the Catechism or Directory. It prescribed a form of doctrine but not of worship. However the worship as *existing* received sanction. What *that* was forms the legal question between the parties. As to the *general* question, the most moderate principle would be, that, if any congregation in the Presbyterian Church wants the *partial* use of a liturgy, they have a right to it, both by reason and scripture, provided they do not insist on others using one and do not forbid some free prayers, which must ever be required for the utterances of the varied wants of human nature and the varied feelings of the human heart. Dr. Cunningham has expressed