

some of the Roman Catholics in the East have announced their intention to join the Greek Church, rather than submit to the yoke attempted to be laid on them by the Pope and his advisers.

In Canada the refusal to bury the body of a printer named Guibord, who was a member of the Canadian Institute, a literary society placed under the ban by the Bishop, has excited great interest and has led to proceedings which have not yet terminated, the last step taken being the recusation of certain of the Judges on the ground of their being Roman Catholics, and as such disqualified from sitting on the trials of cases in which questions affecting the claims of the Church of Rome are concerned. The petition was rejected, but it was intimated that an appeal would be taken to the Privy Council. Obscure as may have been the individual, the case has not been without effect in exciting a spirit of enquiry and the fact of a Roman Catholic, who died a member of a Free Mason Lodge, and who was at first refused but subsequently granted ecclesiastical burial, has not tended to remove the feeling of unrest. Such are some of the indications that the dogma which was to remove all doubts and establish the Papacy on stronger ground than ever, has unsettled the minds of the Roman Catholic world, and may lead to consequences which cannot now be foreseen or even anticipated.

The state of affairs in the North West Territories at the beginning of the year, led to gloomy forebodings. The rebellion which had broken out, so far from being allayed as time wore on, only seemed to become more embittered, and the murder of a Canadian named Scott, by Riel and his confederates, increased to a fever heat the excitement that prevailed, especially in Ontario, in which Province the acquisition of the North West had for years been regarded as necessary for the prosperity of the country. The complicity of the priesthood in the rebellion had, too, an unfortunate effect, raising in the minds of the French Canadians a feeling of sympathy for the murderers of Scott, and threatening at one time to produce disturbances of the most serious kind. The passage of the Manitoba bill, but still more the successful expedition under the command of Colonel Wolseley, and the flight of the leading rebels, two of whom have since died by violence in the United States, led to a better state of affairs, and there is every prospect, under judicious management, of these vast terri-

torries being in a few years covered with prosperous settlements, in which it is to be hoped our Church will before long establish and maintain Gospel ordinances.

Overtures have been received from British Columbia for admission into the Dominion. It is understood that the negotiations to this effect have been so far satisfactory that at the approaching session of Parliament at Ottawa, a bill for the admission of that Province will be laid before the House. The labours of Mr. Somerville have been attended with good effect in that distant settlement, and his presence in Canada, and the addresses he delivered during the meeting of Synod, excited a warm feeling of interest in the missionary cause in that region, an interest which, it is to be hoped, will not be without result.

In the Ottawa, and in the Saguenay districts there have been most destructive fires, attended with loss of life and great distress; liberal aid was extended to the sufferers in both parts of the country, but, in the Ottawa district especially, the savings of a life time had been destroyed. There is a loud and urgent call from thence for ministerial labour, but unfortunately the men are not to be got. Much good has been effected in the lumber shanties by the mission which has been in operation for the last three years, and great credit is due to those who contributed by their earnest labours to have the Gospel carried among those who had been completely left to themselves.

This year has been marked by dreadful shipwrecks and the loss of valuable lives, among whom were many Canadians, and not a few relations and dear friends of residents in Canada. But we have been kept by God's mercy free from pestilence, plague, famine and war; the attempt of some wretched marauders to invade Canada under pretence of striking a blow for the freedom of Ireland, having been defeated by the first shot fired, and being but an ill conceived and ill executed attempt to obtain plunder under the name of patriotism.

It was in contemplation to hold a meeting in New York, of representatives of the Evangelical branches of the Christian Church from all parts of the world. The design, apparently, was to assemble such a body as would be an antidote to the so-called Œcumenical Council at Rome. The state of affairs on the continent of Europe prevented the realization of the project,