

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Montreal is poor—so poor that an appeal has had to be made from every parish pulpit on his behalf for funds. I am glad to hear that a cheerful response has been given; for the Bishop is in no way to blame for the poverty of his exchequer. His predecessor in office was good and easy-going, and entrusted his affairs to those who were subsequently found to be dishonest. He was cheated and robbed, and left an empty purse and many obligations to his successor. But the strange part of it is that while the Bishop is compelled to make public appeals for assistance, the Sulpicians are sending over some \$40,000 per year to their order in Paris. This is surely an anomaly, and hardly looks like that unity of thought and action which we have been taught obtains in the Roman Catholic Church. I should have thought that the Bishop had a prior claim upon the Sulpicians of Montreal to that of the Seminary in Paris.

Our loyalty is evidently about to be put to a severe test. Sir Stafford Northcote in his Budget Speech informed the much-amused House that he expected to recover some substantial amount of the £6,160,000 deficit, incurred by South African war, from the colonies. He told his laughing audience that "to a certain extent the colonies have acknowledged their liability (cheers) and no doubt it is right and proper that the colonies should bear a fair proportion of the war expenses." That seems reasonable enough. It is quite true that we had nothing whatever to do with the peculiar conduct of Sir Bartle Frere, or the appointment of Lord Chelmsford, and we have not seen Cetewayo or any of his numerous family; but we have acknowledged our liability, and when the bill is presented to our High Commissioner in London, of course he will draw upon the Canadian Government for its "fair proportion of the war expenses." I for one will heartily vote for that, and shall expect to see the *Globe* supporting it *con amore*.

I see that not only is the Grand Trunk Railway having increased traffic receipts over the corresponding period last year, but that there is an increase of the net revenue in the month of January of £9,893 sterling. The increase in the last week's traffic receipts was \$62,895, and in the thirteen weeks of this half-year \$320,486. If the thirteen weeks to come in the half-year give \$40,000 a week increase, it will be sufficient to pay the first and a portion, if not the whole, of the second preference dividends, which I believe has never been done before. This speaks well for the management. Six years ago the receipts were as large as they are now, rates were higher, half the work secured as much money; but the economies which have been instituted have resulted in large savings, which will give dividends to the proprietors.

The cricketers of Canada have been ill advised about this matter of sending a team over to England. The lacrosse men did well to go; they interested the English people, and showed the game to great advantage; but Canadian batsmen and bowlers will not have a chance in England.

Poor Parnell! It must have cost him a great effort to possess his soul in patience when the very men for whom he had been wrestling with ruthless tyrants in the hot arena of the British House of Parliament—and then had carried the case across the Atlantic to make an appeal to the great American people in the matter of making better the Irish land laws and Mr. Parnell's personal position—submitting to unasked-for advice, and cruel exposures, and torch-light processions, and all sorts of strange company; when the men for whom he so nobly sacrificed himself, basely tore his trousers and besmeared his face with a rotten egg. When Parnell left this continent he must have carried with him the conviction that he had not understood the art of agitating for Ireland in America; and when he went home from the meeting of free and independent electors to get his trousers mended, he must have felt sure that his fellow-countrymen are not quite ready for Home Rule.

Great Britain is once more stirred from end to end by the battle of the politicians. Personal abuse, mis-representation, the resurrection of dead scandals, social influence, political power, and every other

thing that can be of use are freely laid under contribution. Which party will win? is a question no one can answer as yet. The Liberals are not well organized, as usual; they have not yet formally declared Mr. Gladstone to be their chief man in name as well as in reality, and they have not yet put forth an intelligible policy; but they have this enormous advantage—there are plenty of weak points in their enemy's armour. What, after all, have the Conservatives to show as the result of their spirited foreign policy? £10,000,000 have been spent in foreign "enterprise"; taxation has increased; revenue has diminished, and the future is yet more heavily mortgaged. England engaged to defend Turkey against Russia, but Turkey has been dismembered notwithstanding, and now the Turks hate England more than they do Russia. Territory has been annexed in Africa at the cost of much blood and five millions of money, and is worth less than nothing. The Indian frontier was protected by a nation of warrior patriots who were secure in their mountain fastnesses, but the war forced upon them has turned those Afghans into England's bitterest foes. Our soldiers have carried butchery and fire through the land, but the country is not conquered; and when it is, the question will be what to do with it. The war has been a blunder. British ascendancy in Europe has not yet asserted itself in any practical manner, in spite of the great Earl's pretty proclamation of "peace with honour."

Mr. Gladstone is leading the attack with great energy, and, apparently, with great success. Every week the prospects of his party brighten, and it seems as if he is going to turn the tables upon his opponents and compel fortune to act as it did at the last general elections. Then, when the dissolution of Parliament was announced, the Liberals were fairly jubilant, for they expected to go back with an increased majority. Gradually it dawned upon them that the country had somewhat changed its mind, and they decided that they would be able to command a bare working majority. Then it appeared as if the parties would be about evenly balanced, and the cry was raised that the work of Parliament would be brought to a standstill; and then, the Liberals were beaten out of all shape. I should not be surprised to see that process repeated. When Parliament was dissolved the Tories were triumphant, but every week since they have reduced the number of their majority; now it looks as if parties are almost evenly balanced. If the Liberals are sent back with a big majority it will show that fortune is fairly dividing her favours.

The Earl of Beaconsfield poses before the English public as a Jingo, pure and simple. He declares still that he is the man whose mission it is to put down Home Rule in particular, and the whole world in general—that the momentous hour has come when they must decide whether England shall be everything or nothing in the Councils of Europe. The English masses are excitable, enthusiastic, and patriotic, and it may be that the Earl knows his public and will be able to play his game awhile longer. We shall know soon.

The French rulers are dealing with the Jesuits and other unauthorized congregations in a rough and ready manner, but the opposition to their schemes is likely to prove troublesome. *Le Journal Official* says:—

"The decrees are explicit in language, and leave no loophole of escape for the societies in question. The clerical organizations threaten a legal resistance against the enforcement of the decrees. The regular clergy, formerly opposed to the Jesuits, take sides with them now, because it is said this conflict offers the last chance to the Roman Catholic Church to resist with any degree of success the supremacy of the State. The revival of the enforcement of the old and almost forgotten laws against the Jesuits does not receive the unanimous approval of the thoughtful people. Some are inclined to designate the spirit that prompts the decrees as contrary to the true principles of republicanism, and as antagonistic to the ideas of an enlightened and progressive age. They maintain that such repressive decrees evidence inherent weakness in the structure of the Republican Government, which is supposed to be founded upon broad and liberal principles, and would be better adapted for nations governed by an autocracy or the institutions of a by-gone and an intolerant age."