

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE business of the next English parliamentary session is already plainly defined and will consist chiefly of a new franchise bill, and of the reform of county government. The Government's proposed programme has been met by a spirited attack of Lord Salisbury in one of the Reviews, and the preliminary skirmishing gives promise of fierce fighting when the forces meet at Westminster.

PERHAPS the stormiest action will take place over the evacuation of Egypt, which is now being carried on with great rapidity in order to have the great bulk of the British army of occupation out of the country before the meeting of Parliament. *Apropos* of the withdrawal, an Italian correspondent possessed of more than ordinary machiavelian acuteness, puts the following construction on the policy:—"Shall I tell you why you are going to withdraw your troops? It is clear enough, your generals want promotion in the peerage, more honours and crosses; and your statement—well, they want a decent pretext for returning and annexing Egypt for good."

No sensible government would leave the ground open before it was certain that the purpose of the expedition had been fully accomplished. Proper authority must be re-established; the confidence of the mass of the people must be gained; and the country must be protected from the rapacious preying of foreign vultures of capital. In times of war and revolution drastic measures must often be employed, and this is equally the case when pressing Reforms must be accomplished. The English Government can cut the gordian knot at once by authorizing the Khedive by one stroke of the pen to substitute the State for the private individual, taking over the exorbitant interest debts which oppress the fellaheen, and paying but a low rate of interest on the whole. This would give Egypt a chance to start afresh.

It was only a week or two ago since two serious explosions took place in England and many victims were suffocated in the dark coal pits. And now the Monkfield Colliery at Accrington, Lancashire, adds another to the ghastly list. One hundred and ten miners were in the pit at the time of the explosion, the majority were suffocated to death, and the others seriously injured.

It is reported that the London detectives have discovered that the recent dynamite explosions were due to New York fenians. It is certainly time that England and America came to some agreement concerning these abominable fiendish societies. It is not a matter of pure politics or patriotism, but a question of protecting harmless citizens from a diabolic agency.

At the closing of the Fisheries Exhibition the Prince of Wales was glad to notice that this peaceful emulation of nations diverted men's minds from international rivalries by which men suffer rather than gain. He hoped that a colonial exhibition would be held in the same building in the year 1886. The proposal is a capital one.

ENGLISH papers criticise freely the acceptance by Lady Dufferin of the Grand Cordon set in brilliants. The reasons given are that the Ottoman Court is as bankrupt as any Court can be, while it retains the power of robbing and swindling all dependent on it, and that anyone who ac-

cepts jewellery from the Sultan is a receiver of stolen goods.

THE Colonists at the Antipodes are not at all satisfied with Lord Derby's communications on the annexation of New Guinea. A new company was started called the "New Guinea Exploration and Colonization Company," with a very pronounced prospectus which has drawn the following emphatic notice from Lord Derby: "If any attempts are made to carry out the projects described in the prospectus, Her Majesty's Government would be under the necessity of instructing the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, and the officer commanding Her Majesty's naval forces in the station to interfere for the protection of the native inhabitants of the Island." That looks very much like some sort of annexation.

At the Crofter's Commission recently held in Glasgow, Mr. James Graham, agent for the Canadian Government in Scotland, stated that many crofters had been sent from Scotland to the North-West of Canada by Lady Cathcart, who advanced £100 to each family. It was suggested that the Government should follow Lady Cathcart's example and assist the Crofters to emigrate and settle in Canada.

AFTER struggling with each other for about four years, killing both the lives of the people and the trade of the countries, peace has been declared by Chili and Peru. Chili comes out second best, but both countries are evidently sadder and wiser after the fight.

A terrible tale comes from St. Petersburg, of cruelties towards the Nihilist prisoners. The Emperor lately received a letter written with the blood of the writer complaining of the heart-rending cruelties of the gaolers. Another letter complains that the prisoner Fetschajeff has been left in permanent darkness in one of the casemates of the fortress of St. Petersburg.

FRANCE, not content with pushing her way in other countries now comes to Anticosti, and peaceably buys up a thousand miles of Canadian coast line. The sale is about to be affected by Chevalier Senecal, but it is likely that the Government may step in and have something to say in the matter. English and French Flags are not very pleasant companions on the Newfoundland coast, and they may prove to be still more troublesome nearer home.

THE French soldiers who fall into the hands of the Black Flags are likely to receive but little consideration. Black Flags are strongly addicted to warfare cannibalism. They believe that eating the flesh of ferocious men makes them brave, and by eating their enemies they hope to attain their valour.

COPENHAGEN starts a novel plan for suppressing saloons. By recent legislation, if a man is found drunk the cost of driving him home must be defrayed by the person who sold him the liquors. Hackmen, of course, are overjoyed at such legislation.

A novel institution has been introduced in Holland by a special society formed for the establishment of hotels for ladies. The apartments are comfortably, not luxuriantly furnished, and even the smallest room, which is let at a very low rate, is distinguished by model cleanliness. The society has no aim beside that of providing a home for girls and women travelling in Holland; commer-

cial advantages are not taken into consideration, and no profits are derived from the enterprise.

THE Luther celebration was very enthusiastic in Germany. In Berlin over 80,000 children paraded the streets, headed by bands of music, and conducted to various places of worship to honour the memory of the Great Reformer. One of the strangest vagaries of the demonstration was the placing of a bust of Luther on the altars of the chapels and surrounded it with vases of flowers. This seems dangerously like setting up of idols.

A suggestion well worthy of consideration has been put forward and ought to be adopted by the manager of public libraries. It is, that in connection with each important library, there should be a course of popular lectures on the choice of books and on the most effective methods of pursuing a course of study. Such a course would be of incalculable good in every town of the Dominion.

CETEWAYO is once more a prisoner in the central gaol at Maritzburg. Unable to conquer hostile bands, or to thwart the influences exerted against him, distrustful and depressed, the Sable King surrendered to the Resident Commissioner. What will be done with him now?

ON the 18th of November a scheme will be put into operation whereby a standard time will be maintained in large tracts of this Continent. Everyone knows the trouble and inconvenience of the different standards of time along the line of travel. The new system will remedy this inconvenience. It divides the continent into five sections. The first is to be east of the 60th meridian line, the second is between the 75th and 60th meridian lines, and lies east of the Detroit and St. Clair rivers; the time will be known as Central time, and will be one hour slower than that beyond the 60th line. The third will be between the 90th and 75th lines, with the time one hour slower than the second division. The fourth will be known as the mountain division, lying between 105th and 90th lines, and one hour slower. The fifth will be called the Pacific division, lying between the 120th and 105th lines, and is one hour slower.

FROM recent statistics we find that the number of newspapers and magazines published in the United States and Dominion of Canada has reached the enormous figure of 13,273, or an increase of 1,115 over the number of last year. Although the population of the United States is only twelve times larger than that of Canada, the Americans publish nearly twenty times more newspapers and periodicals than Canadians. The total in the United States is 12,607 and in the Dominion 666.

It seems to be abundantly demonstrated that settlers in the North-West will soon obtain a cheap supply of fuel; and thus enjoy a decided advantage over settlers in Dakota and Minnesota. Calgary reports the discovery of a rich seam, and a wealthy company has been organized to work the mine.

It was feared by many that the 6th of November in Montreal when several thousand notes fell due would find very many unable to meet them, but fortunately it has not proved so. A Montreal despatch says that notes were generally well met at the banks on that day, and reports show that the branches of the banks have also a good showing to make.