

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

LONDON, January 9th, 1872.

The city of Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, is doing good service for Canada. A new Home was opened a few days ago by the Edinburgh branch of the "Canadian Homes for Homeless Children," in 7 Carlung Place, in that city. On the ground floor there is the school-room to the front, and the kitchen and matron's apartment at the back; the dormitories, lavatories, &c., are on the first and second floors. In the meantime, it is intended to admit a dozen children, but the number of the inmates can be increased to thirty, according to the funds at the disposal of the society. A matron has been appointed, and it is expected that a dozen girls will be admitted to the Home to-day. Mr. A. B. Fleming, the honorary secretary and treasurer, has been indefatigable in his efforts to promote the success of the undertaking. I understand it is in contemplation to secure premises, sufficient to accommodate from 100 to 150 girls, in the neighbourhood of Lauriston, near Edinburgh. At a further meeting held of the committee, on Saturday, the arrangements were made for the reception of children.

Mrs. Strachan, Mrs. Burns, and Mr. A. B. Fleming have been appointed to take special charge of the admission of children into the Home, and to make enquiry into the circumstances of each of the applicants. Miss Hallett, an English lady, who has had considerable experience in such work, has been appointed matron of the institution, and it is expected that a number of children will be admitted to-day. Girls between the ages of five and fourteen are eligible for admission, but the committee prefer those who are under twelve. In the institution they will receive a course of general training for a few months, and then they will be sent out, under proper guardianship, to Canada West. On reaching their destination, the girls will be placed in Homes already established, where their training will be continued until they can be transferred to suitable homes in families which may adopt them, or as domestic servants in the houses of respectable tradesmen or farmers. It is very encouraging to know that a very large percentage of the young emigrants from this country to Canada have been adopted, many of them into families of wealth and distinction.

I am very confident of the success of the Home, and the following names of patrons will be sufficient to command success:—

Right Hon. Lord Polwarth; Sir Francis Outram, Bart; Rev. W. Robertson, D.D.; Capt. Makgill, Kemback; Jas. Balfour, Esq., W.S.; Rev. T. Guthrie, D.D.; Rev. W. G. Blaikie, D.D.; D. Jenkinson, Esq.; Rev. J. MacGregor, D.D.; Rev. W. Scott-Moncrieff; Chas. Cowan, Esq.; Rev. H. Bonar, D.D.; David Harris, Esq.; Rev. J. H. Wilson; Lieut. Keith Murray, R.N.; the Hon. Lady Ruthven, Dowager Lady Grant, Lady Outram, Lady Noel Paton, Mrs. Blaikie, 9 Palmerston Road; Mrs. Balfour, Eton Terrace; Mrs. Stewart, 7 Grosvenor Street; Miss Douglas, Chester Street; Mrs. Burns, Bruntsfield Place; Mrs. Strahan, Lauder Road; Mrs. Eddington, Doune Terrace; Miss Bonar, Palmerston Road; Mrs. Constable, Kirkland Lodge; Miss Mackenzie, Moray Place; Mrs. Miller, Millerfield House; Mrs. Thomas, Trinity.

I am given to understand that if the Biglin crew will not come to the Tyne to row the Winship crew, the latter will go to America rather than lose the chance.

Sir W. G. Armstrong has left here for Egypt to carry out some extensive hydraulic works in Upper Egypt for the Viceroy.

The strike which terminated in Newcastle a few months ago, is again about to be resumed, which will completely paralyse trade.

A meeting of agricultural labourers has lately been held at Brampton Bryan, Herefordshire, with Mr. George Dixon, M.P. for Birmingham, in the chair. The following is a summary of the proceedings of this novel meeting:—

The first speaker was attired in a cleanly-washed smock-frock, and during his statement twirled in his fingers a not very modern Jim Crow hat. He said the wages in the district (part of North Hereford and South Shropshire) were 9s., 10s., or 11s. per week, and the men wanted 15s. He combated the idea that the farm labourer was better off now than 20 years ago; if wages were higher, provisions were higher also. Other speakers pointed out that out of the 10s. per week, 1s. had to go for rent, and where there was a family it took 5s. or 6s. for bread, leaving only three or four shillings for all the other necessaries of life. Flesh meat, the men declared, they seldom if ever taste, and one man said he had only had three pounds of butter in his house in 12 months. The masters, it was declared, did not, as a rule, give their men milk for their families. At present the cottages are all in the hands of the farmer, who rents them to his labourers, and when the labourer leaves his "job" he has to leave his cottage also. The men all argued strongly in favour of being allowed "a little bit of land to keep a cow." One or two of the men had grievances of another character; earning 10s. a week, and having a family to support, they had "to pay a shilling a week to the Union to support their poor old parents, which they didn't care to do if the poor old folks got the benefit of it, but they didn't. This, one man declared, "was enough to make a fellow give up altogether, and not try to pay his way no more." Another was "puzzled how he got on at all, and when he went to bed at night he often wished he should wake up in the morning in America, or somewhere where a man who liked to work hard could pay his way, and put something up for a rainy day." In default of any improvement at home, emigration seemed to be thought the natural remedy, and letters were read from emigrants who left the district a few years ago, and who are now in comparatively prosperous circumstances.

Having heard the different speakers, the chairman said he could not help thinking it would not only be kind, generous, and just, but wise also, on the part of the farmers and landlords, if they were to take the condition of the men into their consideration and try to improve it. He thought they had

made out a strong case for increased wages, and for sufficient land to keep a pig and a cow. He believed the real cause of all their grievances was the fact that there were too many of them upon the ground, and he agreed with them that the great remedy was emigration. Mr. John Bright, who had been looked upon as a very dangerous Radical, but who was now looked upon by the Conservative party as a very safe man, said if the farmers and landlords of England only knew what their true interests were, they would take care that the condition of the labourer was so much improved that he would not be tempted away by the pleasant prospects held out to him in America and our colonies. In that remark he thoroughly agreed. He did not for a moment hesitate to say that the farm labourers ought to be discontented. They would not be worthy of the name of Englishmen if they were not. He thought it was a disgrace to our civilization that there should be such habitations in the country as those in which some labouring men lived. There was wealth enough in the country to provide decent and healthy cottages for all, and he wondered that any one could enjoy that wealth while he saw the condition in which some of the labouring classes were placed. In responding to a vote of thanks, Mr. Dixon promised liberal aid to a fund which it is proposed to raise to enable some of the men to emigrate.

R. E.

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 99.—HON. R. W. SCOTT, Q. C., COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS, ONT.

The recent change of Ministry in the Province of Ontario has brought several public men into more than their former prominence. Among these is R. W. Scott, whose portrait we give in the present issue. Mr. Scott is Commissioner of Crown Lands in the Blake administration, and being the only Conservative in the Government, has been the recipient of no little attention from journalists and others, since his accession to power. Apparently, however, his old political associates have fully endorsed his course; and indeed we know that from the commencement of the Confederation it has been the aim of the Conservatives to deprive as much as possible the local governments of a political character, so that the best men of both parties might be induced to work together for the management of the simply Municipal matters that pertain to the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislatures. Ontario has been exceptionally successful in this direction. The first government, composed of three Reformers and two Conservatives, was facetiously designated by the Premier a "Patent Combination." We have not heard that Mr. Blake has yet patented his "Combination," but its composition is certainly a compliment to the wisdom of the late Premier, in that it recognises the expediency of Conservatives and Reformers uniting for the administration of Provincial affairs.

The Hon. Richard William Scott is now about forty-three years of age. He was born at Prescott, where his father, W. J. Scott, Esq., M.D., practised as a physician. Having completed his education at Upper Canada College, he devoted himself to the study of the law, and was admitted at the Easter term in 1848. In 1867 he was created Queen's Counsel. In addition to the extensive law practice of the firm at Ottawa, of which he is the senior partner, Mr. Scott has given much attention to public affairs. He began, like many other of our public men, by taking a share in the administration of municipal affairs, and for some time held the position of Mayor of Ottawa. In 1857 he was elected to represent the City of Ottawa in the Legislative Assembly after a pretty keen contest. At the general election in 1861 he was returned by acclamation, but in 1863 he was defeated by a small majority, when the present member, Mr. Currier, supplanted him. Hon. Mr. Scott's career in the Legislature of the old Province has been made memorable by his piloting through the R. C. Separate School bill, under the J. S. Macdonald-Sicotte administration. It is not improbable that his opposition to that Reform Government, despite the support it had given his School bill, had much to do with precipitating political changes, for which the Provinces were hardly ready. At all events, we understand that his active opposition to some Government candidates in the neighbourhood of Ottawa, led to a most energetic movement on the part of the Ministerialists to defeat him; and they succeeded. From 1863 to 1867 Mr. Scott was out of Parliamentary life. In the latter year there was a strong desire on the part of the citizens of the Capital to bring him forward as the Conservative candidate for the House of Commons. Events, however, which are certainly not worth a place in history, prevented this, and Mr. Scott was elected by a very large majority over the late Mayor Friel to represent the city in the Local Legislature.

The policy of the late Ontario Government touching Crown lands and timber limits, made it hard for Mr. Scott to give that support to the Sandfield Macdonald Cabinet to which he had pledged himself, and, accordingly, at the last general election for the Province, he came out as an independent candidate unpledged to any party. His Parliamentary experience, however, made him well qualified for the Speakership, and Ministerialists and Oppositionists united in his election to that office when the Legislature assembled in December last. On the defeat of the late government, Mr. Scott was invited by the new Premier, Mr. Blake, to take the Commissionership of Crown Lands; and as Ottawa interests were so largely affected through the administration

of that department, and Mr. Blake and himself agreeing upon local questions generally, he resigned the Speakership and took the portfolio. The citizens of Ottawa shewed their appreciation of his course in re-electing him by acclamation.

No. 100.—HON. PETER GOW, PROVINCIAL SECRETARY, ONT.

Mr. Gow has had but a brief parliamentary career, having been first elected to the Legislative Assembly at the general election of 1867, when he distanced the Conservative candidate by about seventy votes. His business talents soon gave him a good position in the Committees, and hence he has been promoted in the ranks of his party to a position which can hardly be said to have been earned by experience. He is a leather merchant and carries on an extensive business in the thriving town of Guelph in the County of Wellington, the South Riding of which he represents in the Assembly. Mr. Gow is a native of Scotland and is now in his 54th year. He holds the office of Provincial Secretary in Mr. Blake's administration.

OUR ART ILLUSTRATIONS.

We publish this week two splendid specimens of art engraving, which cannot fail to meet with the approval of all connoisseurs. The first of these, Pharaoh's Horses, is a magnificent study in animal life. The artist, it is hardly necessary to say, is the celebrated animal painter Herring, whose productions are as well known and as highly prized as those of his distinguished confrère Sir Edward Landseer. The double page illustration of Angels is, like that produced last week, after a painting by Correggio in the old church of St. John the Evangelist at Parma.

THE BARK WORKS ON CHRISTIE'S LAKE.

A company for the purpose of manufacturing tannin some time ago erected extensive "Bark Works" on the edge of Christie's Lake, in the township of Bathurst, near the town of Perth, Co. Lanark, Ont.; but, unfortunately for the immediate success of the enterprise, a fire occurred on the 11th of November last and completely consumed the whole premises, with the machinery, tools, &c., causing a loss of about \$25,000, only \$6,000 of which was covered by insurance. Though the building and its contents were entirely destroyed, a large quantity of hemlock bark, about twenty thousand dollars' worth, which was stored in the neighbourhood, was fortunately saved. This bark had been purchased from the farmers throughout the surrounding country, who found in the establishment of the works a new source of income. The company owning the works is chartered as the "Cooke Extract Company," and the works were under the management of Mr. J. Cooke, who is a severe loser by their destruction. Our illustration is from a photograph by Blackburn, of Perth.

THE FALLING IN OF THE DRILL SHED ROOF, MONTREAL.

On another page will be found illustrations of the Drill Shed as it appeared after the accident which occurred on the night of the 23rd ult. The *Gazette* of the 24th gives the following account of the falling in of the roof:

About ten minutes to nine o'clock last night the wide roof of the Drill Shed came with a crash to the ground. Five minutes previous to the time mentioned, a man was descending St. Gabriel Street hill into Craig Street. When opposite the Champ de Mars, he heard a sharp report, similar to that of a large revolver, quickly followed by another. He stopped for a couple of minutes and heard another sharp report. Unable to account for the unusual sound, he went on his way, but had not proceeded many yards when a succession of still sharper reports arrested his progress, and looking towards the Drill Shed, he saw the great expanse of roofing slowly crumble and disappear with a crash from his gaze into the interior of the building. He immediately ran to find a policeman, but meanwhile other passers-by had noticed the occurrence, and the intelligence was rapidly circulated. Crowds of persons hurried to the spot, and shivered and gazed on the front walls and turrets of the building as they stood shining in the bright moonlight. A posse of police from the Central Station quickly arrived on the ground, and took charge of the building, and the rapidly increasing number of spectators were ordered off to a respectable distance from the front and rear walls, which showed decided symptoms of finding their level. The roof of the building, with the exception of a small portion at the north-east end, and another resting on the Vitre Street end of the west wing, had fallen in. Fortunately, the wings of the structure, in which are situated the armories of the different volunteer regiments, have escaped injury, and no damage has been done to the immense number of rifles, accoutrements, and other Government property stowed in them. In the interior of the building is to be seen nothing but one wide expanse of broken timber, twisted iron, and masses of snow and ice.

According to usual custom, the band of the Prince of Wales Rifle Regiment had assembled on their regular practice night in their band-room, on the west side of the building, at eight o'clock, and were playing with might and main the martial tune of the "British Grenadiers," when they were disturbed by several loud reports, accompanied by the *entrée* of numerous stones into the room through the window. Under the impression that they were attacked by a mob of rowdies, they continued playing the tune louder and louder, until another volley of stones, accompanied by the appearance of a man at the window, so aroused their ire that, with one accord, they dropped their instruments and ran out to meet the supposed attacking party, but only to find the calm moonlight shining peacefully on an unshapen mass of ruins, where was once the hard trodden floor of the Drill Shed.

Comprehending the situation at a glance, the men remained quietly in the body of the shed until the rear door was broken open by some persons outside, and so they made their escape. Of course the sounds first heard by them were the same as heard by the person descending St. Gabriel Street, and the