

The hideous rejoicings of the Chicago socialists over the dynamite plots in London indicate the possibility of others than Irish Nationalists being the perpetrators. It is well known that thousands of members of Continental secret societies make that city their home and a base of operations. Why they should turn round now and endeavor to destroy life and property there is not very clear, except on the view that the socialists of a certain type seem to think it a matter of conscience and duty to make war on organized society. The teachings of Herr Most, Louise Michel, Prince Krapotkine, and others who are manifestly free from mere sordid motives, constitute an interesting phase in the history of human thought. It will pass away sooner or later, but none the sooner for being misunderstood. The obvious antidote is to instil into all who are capable of influencing others sound views of the great organization which we call society, the duty of the individual to control and restrain himself within such limits as are justly imposed on his freedom by law, the necessity of using none but peaceful means to secure the redress of grievances, and an ever-present respect for the rights of other people. Next to the conservative influence of the gospel in protecting society comes the conservative influence of sound political science, and yet in this country at all events there is no provision made for teaching it. England has been comparatively free from the operations of such plotters as the German socialists, and the Russian nihilists, largely because the working classes have been influenced by the spirit of such men as Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, J. E. Cairnes, and Henry Fawcett, men who appealed to the reason, not the passions, of their fellow-countrymen. Had the working classes of Germany and France been as much influenced by the writings of their great economists, the world would have been less troubled by the plots of anarchists.

The Legislature of Georgia has done a sensible act. Finding from a limited experience that women made accurate and intelligent clerks it has ordered that they be employed as, what we would call, sessional writers. The testimony of those who are in a position to know, is just what one might have expected—that copies made by women are on the average at once more neat and more accurate than those made by men. When it is added that the pay has not been cut down, the universal verdict will be that the Legislature of Georgia must be an exceptionally enlightened body.

ONLOOKER.

## General News.

### CANADIAN.

Drummond County, Que., has been gazetted to vote on the Scott Act on the 5th of March.

The Ontario Branch of the Dominion Alliance has appointed Rev. B. B. Keefer, their General Agent.

Judge Gowan, of Barrie, has been appointed to one of the vacant sensorships for Ontario.

The Scott Act will come into force in the counties of Norfolk, Bruce and Huron, at the expiring of the present liquor licenses.

Edward Powers, aged 19 years, a switchman in the Grand Trunk yards, Windsor, was run over by a pony engine at 4 o'clock, Saturday morning, and instantly killed.

At Toronto, on Saturday evening, a young man named John C. Lawless, a bookkeeper, committed suicide by shooting himself. Lawless had been out of employment for some time. For some months past he had been in a very despondent state.

A little girl named Cook, the adopted child of J. Simpson Hetherington, of Omagh, Ont., while getting on a sleigh going from school, fell and received such injuries that she died before medical assistance could be procured.

Thomas Jefferson Hynes, who lived near Port Britain, came into Port Hope, and before night left for home in an intoxicated condition, but never reached there. On Sunday afternoon he was found dead in the fields near his sister's home. He leaves a wife and one child in destitute circumstances.

Isabel, a nine year old daughter of David Machie, who is employed to work the semaphores at the west end of the Grand Trunk Railway freight yards here, while on her way home from school, and while crossing the tracks in the yard, was struck by some cars that were being shunted, and crushed to death, living only a few minutes after being extricated from under the cars.

An Indian woman who reached Sylvester, B.C., in a famished condition, reported the killing of five Indian men and one woman by Takowa

Indians, who took two women and two children into captivity. These murders were in retaliation for the Indian killed by them last year.

A drunken wretch, named Hantin, who lives near Lime Lake, township of Hungerford, Hastings County, two of whose daughters were ill with scarlet fever, sold his last cow a few days ago to procure food, but spent the money in a tavern and went home drunk. About midnight he quarrelled with his wife and took up a heavy chair for the purpose of killing her. The oldest of the sick girls sprang out of bed and threw open the door, thus allowing her mother and sister to escape. The brute then struck the girl with the chair. The blow proved fatal a few hours later. The mother who reached a neighbour's house in her nightclothes, also died from the effects of the exposure, and both were buried on the same day.

### UNITED STATES.

San Francisco was visited on Monday morning by a sharp but harmless earthquake shock.

At Woonsocket, R.I., Thomas and Freddie Fitzpatrick broke through the ice, on the 26th inst., and were drowned.

A drunkard serving a sentence in a Massachusetts gaol has inherited a fortune of 68,000.

A memorial asking President-elect Cleveland to exclude intoxicating beverages from the White House, has been adopted by the United States National Temperance Society.

While a party of Illinois people, en route to Texas, were fording the Ouachita river on Sunday last, they were washed away, and three women and two children drowned.

The aggregate yields of the corn, wheat, and oat crops of the United States for last year are the largest ever recorded, being respectively 1,795,000,000, 513,000,000, and 583,000,000 bushels.

A terrible tragedy was enacted at Newport, Ky., on Sunday last. Mrs. Carrie L. Winslow choked her son, seven years old, to death, beat her ten-year old daughter so severely with a baseball club, that it is believed her injuries are fatal, and then cut her own throat with a razor, producing speedy death.

A despatch from Livingstone, Ky., states that there has been a good deal of trouble in that county between whiskey dealers and officials. The sheriff went to arrest James and Henry Burton, brothers, charged with aiding Gaff, said to be engaged in illegal whiskey traffic, to escape from officers who had him under arrest last night. The Burtons barricaded their saloon, and with friends on the inside defied the arresting officers. A posse of fifteen men summoned them, and the Burtons surrendered. While on the way to jail James Burton tried to escape and was killed by the posse. Burton's friends, ten in number, then attacked the posse, and firing became general and continued for two hours. Several men are reported killed and wounded, among them Judge Bullock, wounded in the arm.

### BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

A police expedition has been despatched to Kilmur and Glendale, Isle of Skye, Scotland, where the crofters are reported to be in rebellion against the sheriff.

In the senatorial elections on the 25th, in Paris, the Republicans returned 67 candidates—a gain of 22.

A treaty of commerce has been concluded between Germany and the Transvaal Republic.

Turkey has notified Italy if she attempts to occupy Tripoli, she will be opposed by a Turkish army of 20,000 men.

The snowfall on the Italian Alps is the heaviest within the memory of man. Terrible accounts arrive from the villages destroyed. As far as known 300 lives have been lost. The troops display much heroism in effecting rescues.

Latest Arab papers state the Mehdi is short of provisions, and has been forced to send a portion of his army back to Kordofan. They report he has 12,000 troops at Omdurman.

An attempt to assassinate the President of Chili by means of an infernal machine, was made at Valparaiso, on Saturday.

Gen. de l'Isle has notified the Government that all preparations for concerted action among the different bodies of French troops in Tonquin, have been completed. An order for a general movement towards the occupation of the entire country is believed to be imminent.

The discontent in Australia is growing, and if England does not take action in restraining German annexation, it is feared that Australia will declare for independence.

On Saturday afternoon last a most destructive dynamite explosion took place in the Imperial Parliament House and Government Offices, London, England. Two explosions occurred, one following the other in about three minutes. The first took place in the Crypt of Westminster Hall, and the second in the strangers' gallery in the House of Commons. The "London Tower" building was crowded with visitors at the time. Immediately