

of the citadel and the whole broad interior. The presence of the vice-regal party and so many other visitors of distinction made an impression which, perhaps, could have been gained by no imaginary reproduction of the vanished forms of our changeable past.

It was not on the rinks alone—the Crystal, and Prince of Wales, as well as the Victoria—that the effect of fancy costume was added to the exhilaration of healthy exercise and delight in the display and witnessing of rare skill. At the opening of the Montreal toboggan slide, the costumes were one of the chief attractions, set off, as they were, by the natural charms of the scene, and setting off the no less real charms of the wearers. Some of the fair adventurers evidently felt not a little trepidation, though most of them assumed perfect confidence, always well founded in the skill and care of their guides. Every night of the Carnival, when other attractions did not prove stronger, all the slides were occupied by joyous throngs. The hearts of the Lansdowne Club were more than once made glad by the visit to their slide of Lord Lansdowne, who did honour to the club by wearing its handsome white uniform. On Thursday night Lady Lansdowne accompanied him, and the whole scene was one of extraordinary brilliancy and interest.

Of the curling bonspiel, which opened on Tuesday and continued all through the week, it need only be said that, among those who love to "mark the lea with mirth and glee in cauld, cauld frosty weather," there was quite as much enthusiasm as centred around any other entertainment of the Carnival. To numbers of Americans the trotting races were the cream of all the sports, and the Driving Park gave ample opportunity for the study of some national characteristics. The McGill, Victoria, and Ottawa hockey teams are well trained, and their play attracted quite a number of interested spectators, the Governor-General honouring them by his appearance at the rink on Friday morning.

In Carnival week, the proper hospitable frame of mind has been cultivated by preparation and looking forward to its most amiable point, and all citizens vied with each other in providing for the comfort and happiness of the guests. Not only has this culmination of good feeling produced its best fruits during the week now near its close, but the committee took excellent care that if any exceptional disposition were displayed to take selfish advantage of the incomers, it should be promptly discouraged. On the whole, it may be said that seldom, if ever before, was an appeal made to the kindly nature of Montreal with such altogether satisfactory results. Many a friendship, too, has grown out of this week's *reunion* that will last while life lasts. Montreal has new ties with many a distant city which may be fraught with good for us and them. When in after days they or we look on any of the excellent illustrations of the Carnival, we can fill in vacancies with remembered forms, or substitute for features in the scene those whose smiles so much entranced its pleasures for us.

Montreal, Feb. 9.

J. R.

OTTAWA NOTES.

THE great guns of the political parties have opened fire and the action has become general all over the political field. There have already been three motions of want of confidence, and the way is being prepared for a fourth; private bills are pouring in, the Government's proposed legislation has caused great and general excitement; lobbyists are hard at work, deputations are coming forward in shoals, demanding redress of all sorts of grievances, and the rumour-makers are more than busy. The politicians and their assistants and the hangers-on of the session are rapidly assuming the look of men who sustain a constant effort with some difficulty, a look which is characteristic of the busy part of the session, and the Parliament buildings seem to grow worse as to ventilation, and more shabby as to appearance, just as is always the case during the legislative season.

The debate on the Canadian Pacific Railway resolutions occupies the greater share of the attention of the House, and from Monday will no doubt monopolize it, as the Government has decided the question shall be discussed from day to day until decided. There can be no doubt that if the proposed loan is to do the Canadian Pacific Railway Company any good, it must be given soon. Meantime the air is full of rumours about opposition to be raised to the measure and about proposed amendments to it. It is only fair that the Company should give as well as ask, and Mr. Blake pointed out in a speech which must rank as one of the very ablest of his life, that now was a good time to try to compel them to give up their monopoly and to enter upon an engagement to complete the work by 1886, to enable them to do which is the great reason urged for granting this loan.

Sir Richard Cartwright has signaled his re-entrance into Parliament by a strong indictment of the Finance Minister for his action in advancing \$300,000 to what he calls the "scandalously mismanaged" Exchange Bank. Whether Sir Leonard did or did not give the money because the Exchange Bank people were political friends cannot be decided in a quarrel of the partisans about it, but the event proved him grossly in the wrong. The Finance Minister's only defence was gone, and therefore he could only make a confused rambling speech and trust to his followers to help him out. But on the other hand the attacking party was in a strong position. His manner of speech gave strong corroborative evidence to the truth of another odd rumour that has been current. When Sir Richard was last in

the House his rising to speak on any question was the signal for groans, cat-calls and derisive cheers from the other side. He seemed to enjoy the fight, however, and was apparently never in better humor with himself than when shouting away at the highest pitch of his rasping voice, trying to make himself heard above the discordant sounds from the other side, and abusing his adversaries in good, sound English. It is said, however, that when he came here this session, his friends gave him a hint that he was doing their cause no good by exasperating the enemy, and begged him to be a little less peppery. If his speech of yesterday was not the result of some such conversation as that, it is hard to surmise what was the matter with him. He had the Finance Minister on the hip, and knew it; yet he spoke calmly (for him), and even when the Government side sought to fire him, gave out only a hasty spark of angry retort and straightway was cold again. The fact was probably that he was trying to roar gently, so as not to try the sensitive nerves of his friends; and the verdict must be that as a gentle roarer he is not a success.

The demand of Quebec for better terms has been made. Mr. Ouimet, member for Laval, made a speech last night to show that all considerations of fair-play and good policy were in favour of granting an additional subsidy to Quebec. Many of his arguments were such as would apply to the other Provinces as well, but he applied them to Quebec alone, leaving it for others to make what further use of them they wished. He did his best to secure the sympathy and co-operation of the Opposition by saying that the subsidies now paid to the Provinces were so small that the Provinces were left more dependent than they should be upon the central authority, and that this state of affairs led toward legislative union. The Opposition did not bite, however, and after a few other French members had spoken the motion for papers, under cover of which this speech was made, was carried, without either amendment or dissent. This is not the best of the matter. The position of Quebec is so desperate that nothing but more money or pinching economy will save the Province. The alternative is a terrible one for Quebec politicians, and, however loudly the people call for it, it is hardly likely the politicians will enter upon that course.

Once again we are threatened with a revival of the miserable question of Orange incorporation. The subject in itself is a fair one for debate, and neither those who support nor those who oppose the measure need be ashamed to present their views upon it. But, it has become so palpably a mere ghost-trick for each party to scare the other with, that the solid sense of the people should rebel against it. If the Orangemen want incorporation, let them come forward like men and demand it. If the question is in their opinion of sufficient importance to warrant it, let them make it a question at the polls; but to have the thing drag along as it has done for years past and then to expect to arouse sympathy by means of it, is an insult to the intelligence of the public. This session, for instance, the petition for the bill was not put in until late, and then so quietly that very few knew that it had been put in at all. To-day was the last day for receiving public bills, and it is only to-day that the Orange leaders appeared in Ottawa to urge its passing. An extension of time for presenting private bills has been granted and the Orange Bill is once more not brought forward, but awaits some further arrangements before being put before the house. It was a good trick once, but it is played out and ought to be put to one side with the Pacific Scandal, the Neebing Hotel and other ancient properties of the political theatre.

Dinner parties, afternoon parties, tobogganing parties and only one ball. This is the record of the social season so far, and the people who are always ready to be invited out and the people who think they have done their share of entertaining begin to wonder how long this state of affairs is to continue.

ED. RUTHVEN.

NEW BRUNSWICK LETTER.

WE have just been witnessing one of those political somersaults here that would create astonishment elsewhere. With us, however, such things are matters of course, as the personal and pecuniary elements are stronger than the political in our electoral contests. Mr. Pickard carried the county of York, in the last general election, by a majority of 917, and the Reform papers sent up a shout about "the triumph of Liberal principles," "the downfall of Toryism," and much more to the same effect. Those who were familiar with public matters in New Brunswick knew that this talk was all rubbish, and that half the voters knew little and cared less about Liberalism or Toryism in the abstract or the concrete. Mr. Pickard's big majority proved Mr. Pickard's great popularity in his county, and it proved nothing else. Mr. Pickard died, and his political friends seemed to think they only needed to decide among themselves who should be his