

even fire buckets or barrels being on hand. Kankakee has no fire department and the hospital is half a mile from the town, so that no aid reached the scene in time. To crowd together insane or helpless patients under such circumstances is surely criminal recklessness for which the responsible authorities should be held to strict account.

In order to make the JOURNAL not only more valuable to teachers but more interesting to all classes of readers we propose still further to enlarge its scope. It will henceforth appear as the SCHOOL JOURNAL AND WEEKLY REVIEW, and will contain a carefully prepared summary of the week's news all over the world. A list of special attractions in the shape of premiums to subscribers and prizes for original contributions is being prepared. Look out for the announcements. Subscriptions are, we are glad to say, coming in freely from all parts of the Dominion and the United States. The JOURNAL has the lead and means to keep it on its merits.

Events and opinions in Great Britain seem to be steadily drifting in the direction of Home Rule for Ireland. Why not? None but the most sanguine could hope that the result would be any great increase of prosperity, or even of political contentment, at least in the near future. But the concession would be theoretically just and right, and would remove the ground from under the feet of agitators at home and abroad, who now trade upon the emotional weakness of the Celt, by their perennial denunciations of the tyranny of the "hated Saxon." And if the Irish, as a people, have any capacity for political organization and social progress, local self-government would give them the best possible opportunities for developing it.

The woes of unhappy Spain are culminating from week to week. The reports from the districts visited by the earthquake are narrowing. After the earthquake came landslides and rain storms which drove the dwellers in towns in the Southern Provinces out of their homes into the fields, where they slept at night in tents or upturned waggons and carts. Late despatches say that violent snowstorms have since set in, interfering with railway traffic and interrupting the food supplies which were being forwarded to the panic stricken and starving inhabitants of the South. Sickness has broken out in many places, and the probabilities are that the terrible death-roll of the earthquake will be swelled by hundreds of the victims of cold, exposure, starvation and sickness.

Every one with a heart will be glad to hear that the American House of Representatives has at last taken measures to prevent any more Piegan Indians from starving, by appropriating \$50,000 to supply them with food. The action of the House was unanimous, and will do something to remove the reproach attaching to a great nation, which permits the natives, whose hunting grounds it has appropriated, and whom the land greed of its citizens has driven from refuge to refuge, to perish from hunger. The tardy relief will not annihilate the past

with its record of cruel neglect and horrible suffering, nor will it be in time to prevent much misery still, but if it finally reaches its destination despite the clutches of officials and agents, it will save multitudes from perishing.

The peculiar and revolting tactics of a certain class of Irish agitators have again received a horrible illustration. The butchery of Phelan, in O'Donovan Rossa's office in New York, is a fitting accompaniment to the cowardly and despicable dynamite war which is being waged against the innocent and defenceless from that office. It is alleged that the attempted assassination was in consequence of Phelan's having spoken too freely in regard to the methods of the dynamite fraternity in a recent interview with a representative of the Kansas City Journal. The sensational papers were for some days filled with the details of the crime, and the history of the various actors. If the tragedy leads to the breaking up of the den for which Rossa has so long been claiming the bad fame of a centre for directing the operations of the dynamite fiends, the event will have resulted in one good for society.

Two of the leading events of the week were addresses to large audiences by Sir John A. Macdonald and Mr. Blake. Both were delivered on the same evening. Sir John spoke to an immense audience assembled in Montreal to do honour to the "Great Chieftain," on the occasion of his seventieth birthday anniversary. Mr Blake addressed a crowded house in Shaftesbury Hall, at a meeting under the auspices of the Young Men's Liberal Club. The speeches were certainly very different in kind. Each was strikingly characteristic of its author. If our readers wish for fair and dispassionate estimates of the relative merits of the two speeches, we commend them to the columns of the *Globe* and *Mail*, each of which compared and contrasted the addresses and their authors, on the morning following. As these estimates, unfortunately, do not exactly agree, there will still be room for the exercise of private judgment.

Matters are rapidly approaching a crisis in Egypt. We may expect shortly to hear of collision between detachments of the British forces and the troops of the Mahdi. Alarmists are indulging in dark prognostications, but the most reliable news indicate that the British generals are confident. Their troops are surmounting the most formidable obstacles by river and in desert marches with the indomitable fortitude and pluck always expected of the British soldier. The dangers from the climate, want of water, and other natural sources, are no doubt very formidable; those from the enemy are very likely exaggerated. Already the question is mooted, what will be done with the Soudan after Wolseley has reached Khartoum and united his forces with those of Gordon. Will it be possible to withdraw the garrison and save the non-combatants? Will it be politic and right to do so leaving the wretched country to its fate? The probabilities on the side of a permanent British occupation are increasing. Jingo critics are attacking Gladstone for not having acted resolutely with that object in view from the first. History and impartial opinion will be more just