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# The Evening Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, JANUARY 18, 1888.

All Letters for publication, and Letters containing any communications should be addressed to W. J. HERDER, Proprietor and Publisher, Gregory's Lane. St. John's, Newfoundland, or to A. A. PARSONS.

# AFFAIRS IN THE OLD COUNTRY

News Per S. S. "Assyrian." OUR latest advises from Britain, per S.S.

Assyrian, on Monday, are to the 5th instant, and as follows:-

The belief is revived that we are on the eve of a reconstruction of the Cabinet. A positive statement shelving Lord John Manners has appeared one of many, but looking at the noble lord, whose health is row excellent, he offers a prompt refutation of the story. The Standard appears to have got it into its head that Mr. Arthur Balfour is to be removed from the Irish office. Sometime ago men discussed the possibility of Mr. Smith being obliged, for physical consideration, to relinquish the leadership of the House of Commons, and it seemed to be agreed that Mr. Balfour must succeed him. But Mr. Smith's friends say there will be no change in this direction, while the friends of the Government generally are so well pleased with the Chief Secretary that Mr. Balfour's removal would be regarded as equivalent to an act of administrative suicide on Lord Salisbury's part. The Standard appears to have thought no harm would result from a word of warning of the kind, but its portentious utterances have been taken up at the clubs. It must be confessed that this dreary hiatus causes rumours of every kind to be exceptionally welcome where political conversation just now drifts feebly and sluggishly; but the probabilities are that the Ministry will meet Parliament in February in regard to its main departments precisely as it stands to-day. The thinning out of Lord Cross, Lord Stanley of Preston, and Lord John Manners would create vacancies it is true, but it is not easy to perceive at the moment what advantage would be gained

People have given up talking about Lord Hartington's entrance into the Cabinet or the possibility of bringing in Mr. Finlay, and broadening the coalition still further by means of Sir Henry James. Lord Salisbury is personally adverse to changes which are not actually called for by the drift of circumstances, the voice of his own following, or the demands of the Liberal Unionists for a substantial share in the pleasures and rewards of the Government. So far as the Liberal Unionist leaders are concerned the situation need undergo no alteration whatever, and so far as party pressure urges it the Cabinet may meet Parliament unchanged. It cannot be said that in this respect the Conservative party has changed. It is true that for a while before the prorogation there did exist in the ranks of the party much dissatisfaction with Mr. Henry Matthews, but time and political justice fought for the Home Secretary, so that he has now the pleasure of feeling that he has outlived the thoughtless frenzy of the summer. If Lord Salisbury really has in his pocket a sketch of a reconstructed Ministry, he will not, I am assured, be found to provide for any heroic evictions or sensational importations.

by their removal.

Mr. Michael Davitt's letter on Mr. O'Connor Power's ostracism is certainly in favour of making friends with the Mammon of unrighteousness. Mr. Davitt was attacked by United Ireland for having suggested that Irishmen in England should abstain from the "political blackguardism" of breaking up Mr. O'Connor Power's meeting. In his present letter Mr. Davitt denounces United Ireland, and holds that as Mr. O'Connor Power deserted to a party which is now playing the Home Rule game there should be what he calls "bounds to punitive suffering." This punitive suffering would condemn the repentant patriot to penalty of an "everlasting atonement," and Mr. Davitt contends that he knows his countrymen better than does the writer in United Ireland. The quarrel is a petty one for such allies, and especially over such a subject, but I am afraid, for Mr. O'Connor Power's sake, that Mr. M. Davitt's championship will not win him Mr. Parnell's pardon.

his visit to Mentone, more, I hear, than usual. He is on his way home now, and is announced | injury he has sustained.

to take the pulpit at the Tabernacle on Sunday

Last season's earthquake has not been forgotten by visitors to the Riviera, and the consequence seems fatal to the season, which should have been in full swing for several weeks. Nervous people appear to have temporarily given Cannes, Nice, and other towns overlying the earthquake current a wide berth There is consequently tribulation throughout the Alpes Maritimes. The English managers and proprietors of local hotels are writing home in despair, and the few English visitors who have had the courage to rise above the prevailing scare and home despondent accounts of the lack of gaiety, and the absence of the higher priests and priestesses of English fashion. If this should not turn out for the benefit of Madeira, verily it would be an earthquake that did no one good. At home Brighton is enjoying a period of exceptional prosperity, the town is crowded, and coroneted coaches pass one continuously on the King's Road. It is very bad weather indeed that makes Brighton insufferable, and, as a rule, a south-west gale, by bringing up a tremendous sea makes the beach a thing of beauty, and positively enjoyable variation to the current of

The Prince of Wales, at any rate, is not deterred by the calamity in which he played the part of Stoic from visiting the Riviera. His Royal Highness goes to Cannes before January

Mr. Henry Matthews, whose health is again source of profit to paragraphists, is not ill in the conventional sense of the word. Th Home Secretary is in the grip of an cld foe Inmbago, to wit, but with this exception he i

Truth, opposing the project to signalise the silver wedding of the Princess of Wales by a presentation of jewellery, says :- " Her Royal Highness possesses trinkets enough to stock a large shop." Mr. Labouchere, who has himself had a glut of presentations in the shape of children's toys, evidently writes upon the dull edge of sated appetite. In his opinion the authors of the Royal proposal are "silly, servile geese."

According to the same authority, Mr. Frith, the artist, was a candidate for the new post of keeper of the Royal Academy. The office is worth £800 per annum, and Mr. Frith's failure to obtain it is embittered by the fact that his circumstances are somewhat straightened.

### Exploration in the Alaska Regions.

CANADIAN journals state that Dr. Dawson, Assistant Director of the Geological Survey, who headed the party sent by the Dominion Government to explore the country adjacent to the Alaska boundary, has returned to Victoria. Two of the party will winter in the district, however, and prepare the way for the establishment of the international boundary The expedition has collected much geological geographical, and general information about the country, which is far from being the Arctic region it is sometimes represented to be. The point from which Dr. Dawson turned back was at the junction of the Lewis and Pelly rivers, about 1,000 miles north of Victoria. The flora in this locality differed little from that on the banks of the Fraser. A stretch of open, grassy country exists along the stream's tributary to the Yukon. No areas of tundra, or frozen swamps, such as are to be met with in the interior of Alaska, were discovered by the expedition. Dr. Dawson's conclusion is that the whole country, from Cassiar to the vicinity of Forty-one Mile Creek, on the Yukon riverwhich is near the eastern boundary of Alaska -yields more or less gold in placer deposits. This would constitute a gold-bearing region fully 500 miles in length, and of indefinite

### PEELER'S AFFECTIONS BLIGHTED.

I have just heard particulars of a curious and remarkable breach of promise case, in connection with which proceedings have already begun, says a London letter to The Dublin Freeman's Journal. The plaintiff is a constable in the mounted force of the royal Irish constabulary, and the defendant is the daughter of a high colonial official. How or where they met I am not in a position to say but the gallant peeler seems to have made a complete conquest of the young lady's heart, and they were to have been married not very long ago. Some meddlesome relation, however, interfered, and the young affections of the confiding constable were suddenly blighted by the in-Mr. Spurgeon has derived much benefit from | telligence that all was off between them. He now wants material compensation for the

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Choice FRESH Pork,

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