

Now that annexation has been repudiated by both parties in Canada let us hope that in denouncing the Government or the opposition it will not be found expedient to discount the advantages of our own country. We have a great country, full of unequalled natural resources, and we Canadians should show as much enterprise in the development of these resources as would the Americans if the country were theirs. Let every true Canadian now work for home and country, and not depend on foreign brain, muscle and capital to develop this great Canada of ours.

There is one lesson to be drawn from the late elections which no one can well afford to overlook, and that is be it limited or unrestricted, the people of this country are in favor of reciprocity with the United States. Sir John A. Macdonald has the ball at his foot, and should he bring about a fair measure of reciprocity with our southern neighbors he will be worthy of the undivided support of his fellow countrymen. The question is not one of party but rather one of country, and the statesmen who recognize this fact will be wise in their generation.

The Kaiser's invitation to Britain to join the Triple Alliance is the direct outcome of the attitude of France towards Germany at the present time. The bait held out is that Germany will co-operate in resisting French aggression on British interests in Egypt and repel any Russian encroachments on British supremacy in Asia, Britain in return to aid the Alliance with her navy, at least, in the event of war. Lord Salisbury and Count Hatzfeldt, the German Ambassador in London, have had several consultations, and it is understood that if the matter rested with the Prime Minister it would be speedily settled in favor of Germany. The Cabinet is, however, apprehensive of a storm in the Commons should such an alliance be entered into, the Liberals being strongly opposed to it and keeping a sharp lookout upon the Government.

France and Germany are snarling quite savagely at each other over the Empress Frederick's Paris sojourn. Emperor William talks war, and is looking to increasing and strengthening the German navy. On the other hand the Empress herself appears to have seen Paris through rose-colored glasses, and has expressed herself as highly gratified by the attention shown her there. These two views of the situation are hard to reconcile, and when we read that Queen Victoria is so pleased at the politeness shown her daughter in Paris that she will stay there herself for a day or two, the matter becomes more complicated still. Either the Empress was treated as an Empress should be, or she was not. Why do Germany and Britain take such different views? With regard to the navy, it was pointed out by the Secretary of the Admiralty before the Reichstag committee on naval estimates that it was imperative that Germany should have a first-class navy or none. He also alarmed the committee by showing the possibility of a joint attack by France and Russia upon Germany. It is also believed that a method of locking up the Russian navy in the Baltic Sea, while Britain held the French navy in check in the Mediterranean, was discussed. This, if correct, points to a very friendly feeling between Germany and Britain.

The London baccarat scandal is a matter of no little importance. The social standing of the ladies and gentlemen concerned in it, as well as the fact that Sir William Gordon Cumming, Bart., the man accused of cheating, is a Lieut.-Colonel in the Scots Guards, is calculated to arouse a deep interest in the case. A few weeks ago, when this affair was first rumored, we published an article on the great extent to which gambling is carried on among the aristocracy, as shown by London *Truth*, and the facts brought to light by the case under discussion amply bear out all that was then said. This officer and gentleman, Sir William Gordon Cumming, was accused of cheating by five persons at the house of Mrs. Arthur Wilson, at Tranby Croft last autumn, the lady herself being one of the accusers. Among the party present were H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, General Owen Williams, Lord Coventry and others. The hostess, not willing to create a scandal, after consulting with her husband, turned the evidence over to General Owen Williams and Lord Coventry, who drew up a memorandum arranging to keep the affair secret and binding Sir William Gordon Cumming never to play cards again as long as he lived. The Prince of Wales, it is said, was fully informed of the arrangement, which he regarded as the only possible solution of the affair. This arrangement must have fallen through, since the matter has leaked out, and Sir William has entered an action for slander against Mrs. Arthur Wilson, Mr. Stanley Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Lycett Green, and Mr. Berkeley Levett. The case will not be heard until after the long vacation, but it will be interesting when it comes. Sir Charles Russell has been retained for the defendants, and it is said that Mr. C. F. Gill will represent the plaintiff. The question of gambling is one upon which opinions differ, but as to cheating there can be but one way of looking at it—it is disgraceful. It is to be hoped that Sir Gordon Cumming will be able to clear himself of the charge, otherwise he will be considered a disgrace to the service in which he holds the Queen's commission and will be ostracised. Some English papers are busy comparing this with the Parnell scandal, and are analysing the "Club Conscience." The *Fortnightly Review* says: "It has been probably one of the most demoralizing outbursts ever witnessed in this country; for, while professing to aim at exhibiting vice as hateful, it has only succeeded in exhibiting what calls itself virtue as ridiculous." A regimental enquiry was stopped by legal proceedings, which seems a pity, for it is probable that it would have proved the most expeditious manner of settling whether Sir William Gordon Cumming is guilty or not. At any rate he is free to refer the case to arbitrators who would discuss it in open court and dispose of it speedily, if he chooses, but it is probable that it will follow the course now mapped out.

There are about twenty Japanese women studying in different places in the United States, preparing themselves for various stations in their own land.

Canada has lost one of her poets in the person of Professor H. I. Jones, who died at Kingston on the 4th inst. Professor Jones was teacher of English literature in the Royal Military College and was a brilliant scholar. He frequently contributed to the *Week* and other high class periodicals. The cause of his death was Bright's disease, by which he was attacked about two years ago, and notwithstanding all the efforts made to improve his health he finally succumbed to the disease.

Amid all the gloom that enshrouds Europe it is quite a relief to read the account of the Queen's "drawing room," held at Buckingham palace on the 4th inst. There, all was light and brilliancy. The court is out of mourning, every member of the Royal Family in England made it a point to be present, and the attendance was unusually large and distinguished, probably on account of the presence of the Empress Frederick, of Germany. The public along the line of approach was enthusiastic and cheered for the Prince and Princess of Wales and others who are popular with the masses. The *debutantes* presented outnumbered those at any drawing-room since the Jubilee drawing-room, and the dresses are described as unusually beautiful. The *debutantes* were, of course, attired in white silks or satins, but the matrons and chaperons wore colors, of which yellow seemed to be the favorite. Many of the older ladies took advantage of the Queen's gracious permission and appeared in high bodices. It was a courtly scene, when at three o'clock the Queen, amid much ceremony and in deferential silence, followed by the Prince and Princess of Wales and other members of the Royal Family, was ushered into the large drawing-room of the palace. The greatest good humor was observed by both guests and spectators, and the drawing-room is considered the most brilliant given in many years. The fact that it was held in Lent has scandalized a good many people.

France is in high dudgeon over the latest move in Egyptian affairs. The Khedive has insisted upon the acceptance by his ministers of reforms in the administration of the law in Egypt as suggested by Sir Evelyn Baring. Mr. Justice Scott has accordingly been appointed Judicial Adviser to the Government of Tewfik Pasha and president of a newly constituted Committee of Three, who are to exercise a general supervision over the native tribunals. Signor Moriondo, a distinguished Italian lawyer, and the native Egyptian Procurator General are to be his associates. Mr. Scott is to enjoy the right of attending the Council of Ministers whenever questions affecting his department are under discussion, but he will not himself take part in the ministerial decisions. He will only enjoy a consultative voice in the deliberations of the Khedive's advisers within the domain of law and justice. These judicial reforms have irritated France considerably, and she is again asking when the British occupation of Egypt is to cease. This jealousy is quite unreasonably, for Britain has not forced her views upon the Khedive, neither has she strengthened her army nor made any move that would indicate a grasping disposition, and the appointment of an Italian on this committee is but fair, since the Italian population of Egypt is 18,665 as against 15,716 French. The men of this committee are considered to be eminently well fitted for the post, being familiar with Egyptian life and affairs and able to influence the Egyptian Cabinet in the right direction. The complaints of France are solely because the much needed reform was suggested by England, and is being carried out by an Englishman, an Egyptian and an Italian, while the officials of France are ignored.

The game of war or *kriegsspiel*, although not new, has lately come into prominence in England and many other European countries, where its use in the army is now much encouraged by the authorities. Most people know very little of its *modus operandi*, and have but a poor knowledge of the many qualities required to make a good player. Its chief aim is to give those in command of troops a good theoretical idea of military tactics. It must not be thought, however, that its use is confined to the soldiery alone, for we hear of clergymen and others who have won laurels in this mimic battle. The game represents an ideal combat, and the manoeuvres would, therefore, have to be much modified in actual warfare. It is principles, however, not details, that it inculcates. The apparatus consists of large maps, colored blocks representing troops, scales for measuring distances traversed, and dice for deciding points of chance. Two players represent hostile commanders, and under their orders are one or more officers who direct the cavalry and various other divisions of the army. Actual orders are issued and time allowed for an "orderly" to reach his destination. Each officer moves his troops on a map screened from those of the other players and containing only his own men with such of the other combatants as would actually be in sight at the time. He is, therefore, often ignorant of the position of the main body from which he is detached. The weather, wind and condition of ground are taken into account and usually supposed to be the same as those of the day of playing. All movements are made as nearly as possible like those of actual warfare, and to show how minute some of the details are, we may mention that should a fence stand in the way of an "orderly" the die must be thrown to decide whether he fall and so detain or stop the orders. An umpire, who has the forces of all the players before him on a separate map, decides the innumerable perplexing questions which require his ruling, and also gives the commanders such information of the enemy's position as might be obtained through scouts. Where troops meet, *ceteris paribus*, the die determines which side wins the skirmish. On the whole the game is extremely interesting, and its introduction into Canada would tend much to increase the efficiency of our volunteer officers. It brought into our military colleges we think it would be of great benefit.