

and Ireland presenting peculiar difficulties which render a delay necessary.

The latest social sensation is the announcement that H. M. Stanley is soon to be married to Miss Tennant of London. Though the secret has only just come out, the betrothal dates back to the eve of his departure on his last expedition. It appears that during all this time Stanley succeeded in keeping up a constant and not infrequent correspondence with the lady of his choice. These letters it is said, were written with a generous candor of detail, reciting his hopes and fears as well as his actual experiences. In more formal letters sent to various officials and societies he would scarcely give free vent to himself, but in this particular correspondence he wrote about his immediate surroundings from month to month, the difficulties which beset him, the diseases as well as the enemies which threatened his success, and a thousand and one incidents of tragic or pathetic import such as he would only communicate to one who had a right to know everything. The New York Herald suggests that "by eliminating all reference to their intimate and confidential relations to each other, these letters would make a volume full of vivid scenes and containing information of priceless value." There can be no question that the volume would realize an immense sale. Whether or not Mr. Stanley will heed the suggestion of his old friend, time alone will tell.

The inhumanity of Russian officials is fast becoming a byword. The outrages that have come to light in recent times have shocked the sensibility of civilized nations, and aroused their just indignation. Now it appears that the same spirit which actuates the officers possesses the subordinates as well. An instance of brutal cruelty occurred the other day when Tomsk, the capital of Western Siberia, was reduced to ashes. The place was visited simultaneously by a conflagration and a cyclone, the result of the combined disasters being the destruction of three-quarters of the buildings, which were of wood, and the loss of hundreds of lives. Among other buildings destroyed was the Cathedral whose walls in falling crushed an adjacent hospital, burying the inmates, who were subsequently roasted alive. On being appealed to for help the garrison heartlessly refused to render the least assistance in saving lives and property, on the plea that they had enough to do to protect the barracks and other Government buildings. They also added that they had no time to assist "worthless exiles." It is difficult to imagine such appalling insensibility to the suffering of others. However it may be accounted for, the act is beyond gainsaying, and respect Russia is not separated from the barbarism which is the life of no man's value than the Gospel of the Kingdom.

Tupper, who can hardly be supposed to consider the matter absolutely without prejudice, are making demands that justice cannot approve, but from the known views of the Secretary of State it is easier to believe that the stay of proceedings is owing to some unrighteous demand on the part of Mr. Blaine. It is a pity that some means could not be devised of changing that gentleman's spectacles or placing him in a different relation to the question. He might then be able to see things in a different light.

One would think that the little kingdom of Dahomey in Western Africa, which boasts the unique feature of an army of Amazons, and with which the French have for several months been carrying on an active warfare, would soon be satisfied of the unequal character of the contest. A despatch from Senegal States that two of the Dahomian forts have just been captured. The forces of the Dahomians at the battle of Ouosebougou, which took place April 25th numbered fifteen hundred. All of them were killed. The French loss was fifteen killed and seventy-two wounded. This may well be called a slaughter and not a battle. To justify such wholesale destruction of an enemy there must be some exceedingly strong reason. No plea of conquest or colonization will be sufficient. That the victors can show good cause for what they have done we can only wait and see.

The opponents of the Sunday newspaper are making their influence felt. Last week the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle announced that "in deference to public sentiment" it will discontinue its Sunday edition after July 6. In its issue of the 18th inst. the New York Sun devotes nearly a column of valuable editorial space to answering the questions: a. Is a Christian justified in taking the Lord's day to study scientific and political subjects and to amuse himself in reading jokes, gossip, and fashion notes? b. Will he get any help from the Sunday papers to explain the Word of God to a Sunday school class, or to profit under the preaching from the pulpit? c. Would you advise a Christian to read the Sunday papers if he wishes to attain to a high standard of holiness or usefulness in the Church? As might be expected the Sun does not witness against itself, but seeks to defend the Sunday newspaper in general, and the Sunday paper in particular. Its estimate of the high character of this metropolitan or cosmopolitan luminary may be inferred from the closing paragraph of its article of defence. "Do we advise a Christian to read the Sunday paper," it asks, "if he wishes to attain to a high standard of holiness and usefulness in the Church? Most certainly we do advise him, unless, as we have said, he thinks that religion compels him to abstain from worldly interests on every day of the week, and profess according to his principles, not so believe and act. he this incomparable journal. ... his mind needs food. ... into intellectual torpor very in. It is the chief of religious

With this declaration in view consult the Sunday bill of fare. Take as a sample a few headings in the order in which they occur, and found on the first page of a recent Sunday issue. "Latest news from Europe—Prince Henry of Battenberg sulks on a yacht and doesn't write to his wife, Albert Victor offends an Indian Prince, the Czar's weakness for champagne, Editor Parko's heavy sentence, No street parade in honor of Stanley, Sister Rose going to live among the Hawaiian lopers, Miss Hillbrandt's charge, Hit not Mr. Schepp only, Killed by poison in her kid gloves, Ingersoll and Dougherty, Miss Kiernan's funeral, Death of a beautiful girl, Brethren in a fight, Hit him with her umbrella, etc. Now, though it be granted that there is nothing positively immoral in the columns of the Sunday Sun the fact must be patent to all who have carefully studied man's spiritual nature and its requirements, that the provision made for this part of his being is of the most meager character. In the matter of foreign and domestic intelligence, of sporting news, society happenings, the paper makes ample provision; but for the education of the conscience, the purification of the affections, the strengthening of the purpose to follow whatsoever things are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and of good report, the supply is ridiculously small for a journal which claims to be "the chief of religious papers." No doubt this Sunday paper performs a mission in the world, but it would be a pity if it should make the cardinal blunder of supposing that it is serving in any appreciable degree to feed and nourish the spiritual nature of men and to inspire them to loftier endeavors or to lead them to more earnestly strive after that perfect character which finds its ideal fullness and beauty in the despised Prophet of Nazareth.

The approaching visit of their Royal Highnesses, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, about the first of June is not arousing that expectation and enthusiasm it would, no doubt, were the arrangements such as to permit of some public demonstration on the occasion. Only for a few hours can they remain over. This seems a pity, particularly as not to form the acquaintance of Toronto is to remain ignorant of the first city of the Dominion, the claim of Montreal notwithstanding. The Mail, like a dutiful son, who always rises up before the gray hairs, lanent especially for the sake of our city fathers. It says "that the few hours they will spend in this city will not even give them time to make the acquaintance of all our citizens." More regrettable because there are so many things touching which the city fathers could entertain the royal travellers. The Esplanade, the Esplanade, and the Esplanade are all things which something might be said. There is a growing feeling, however, that coming to see the city might not be so interesting in our purely local affairs, and that instead of the well-known scenes proving a real entertainment, they would carry away recollections most unprofitable. Perhaps, seeing that the "fathers" are absolutely proof against temptation, it is well that it is as it is.

Governments, is taking advantage of the delay and is quietly urging on her colonial schemes to the great disadvantage of her friendly rival. Mr. Stanley feels extremely sore, may even be said to be disgusted with the dilatoriness of his Government. Speaking at a banquet tendered him the other evening by the London Chamber of Commerce, he pointed out that although so much has been done by English travellers to open the dark regions of Africa yet England failed to take advantage of their discoveries. Then in a bantering manner he spoke of the great interest the Germans had manifested in the flora and fauna of Africa, whilst on the part of England there was an indifference as to what actually was occurring. He complained bitterly of the action of the Government in seeking to restrain the true friends of the Empire from carrying out their African railway project. "A number of his friends," he said, "had come together to try and do something in regions which they had said should be the English part or a portion of the British possessions some time. They had raised a capital of half a million, but what was the consequence? Instead of being permitted to make a road which, without deviating to the right or to the left, should go straight to the promised land, they were compelled to squander some thousands of pounds in fighting the Government. If it were merely a question of rivalry between the English and German company he should not mind but when the Government backed up the German company it was not a fair fight, and that capital which would have made the railway right up to Victoria Nyanza would be wasted, instead of people, in two years' time, being able to take tickets to Victoria Nyanza. For the money there would be nothing to show except a bushel of treaties; but to the Germans there was nobody to say even "boo." He could speak very forcibly, but he was restrained. If the fairest portion of Africa were to be given up to others and only the sterile lands be left, he would be one of the first to advise the British company to retire. "It is just possible that Stanley has allowed his feelings to unduly color his speech; though on the other hand it may be supposed that no one so fully understands the situation as he does. It is to be hoped that in this hour when such powerful inducements exist England will remember her traditions and rear her rightful part in furthering the work of civilization in this important quarter of the globe.

The election in Nova Scotia which took place in the 21st inst., has not resulted in any great change in the political situation. While the personnel of the new Legislature will be slightly altered, the strength of the respective parties remains about the same, the government having carried twenty eight seats out of the thirty eight. No distinctive political issue seems to have been before the people. The old cry of 86, Secession from Confederation and Reciprocity with the United States, having been practically abandoned, and the Equal Rights movement not extended so far east, the contest was conducted along the old party lines. The most notable feature of the day was the defeat of the opposition leader, Dr. McKay. The Globe extracts encouragement for its party out of this Liberal victory, while the Mail claims that the result is not a triumph of principle but of hoodle. Speaking of the government it says "Their main success was their large expenditure on roads and bridges, and their liberal treatment of local railways and of the coast steamers and ferries, to all of which they had given generous subsidies. In short, as

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