

The Evening Mercury

MONDAY EVE'S JAN. 3, 1867.

What the Recent Victory Means

There can be no doubt that to-day Sir John Macdonald is more deeply charged over the signal Reform victory in Ontario than ever his lieutenant, Mr. Meredith. The latter had not such a large stake in the issue as his Chief in Ottawa. Mr. Meredith was, of course, fighting to gain the ascendancy in the Legislature, and the position of Premier in the Province, but the Premier at Ottawa was fighting for much more than this. He was in a sense fighting for the continuance of his power in the Dominion, for he was shrewd enough to know that had the Conservatives carried the day in Ontario, it meant a new lease of power for them in Ottawa. It was with the full consciousness of this that led him and his colleagues to take such a prominent part in the contest. He was who planned the campaign, who suggested or acquiesced in the crisis raised by the *Mail* and the other Tory papers, who layed out in the "Jamaica" from place to place, encouraging his followers and supplying the needful for the purpose of turning Mr. Mowat out. Sir John, by the prominent part he took in it made the contest his own, so he well knew that if he gained Ontario for Mr. Meredith he would have much easier victory for himself, not only in this Province but in the other Provinces of the Dominion. Mr. Macdonald's bitter defeat has dashed all these hopes to the ground, and there is nothing now but a gloomy outlook for Sir John's Government when he goes to the country. On the other hand the outlook for the Reformers is most cheering. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are in the hands of the Liberals. In Prince Edward Island the Government is still Conservative, but the Legislative Council there has a majority of Liberals. The moribund Government in Quebec is merely holding office by delaying the meeting of the Legislature, while it will inevitably fall to pieces. The Norgay Ministry is Manitoba barely escaped defeat, and may be turned out at any moment by the change of two or three votes. There is, therefore, no cheering outlook as far as hope for Sir John on either side, while the prospect was never better for the overthrow of his Government whenever he may choose to go to the country.

On the other hand there is much to cheer and encourage Reformers in continuing their work during the year just opened. They have been successful beyond their highest expectations in the recent elections. They can to-day point with pride to the Mowat Government, which has held the reins of power for fourteen years with a firm and judicious hand, and which because of its wise and economical administration of affairs has again received the emphatic endorsement of the people and a new lease of power. In the recent contest they had much to fight against. An unwholesome warfare was begun by the *Mail* and persistently waged by it and the lesser Tory organs in the hope that the Protestant cry would be caught up by the people, and made to do duty in defeating the Government. The rights of the Catholic minority, the privileges of Separate Schools, the alleged mutilation of the Bible, the so-called French domination and aggression—in fact all the feelings of religious jealousy and bigotry were dragged into the contest as the great, yet the paramount issues—while the administration of the Government was made a mere matter of secondary importance. There is no doubt that all this was done, if not at the instigation, at least with the consent and approval of Sir John Macdonald and Mr. Meredith. Their avowal of the race and religious cry was so mild and equivocal that it does not free them in the least from the responsibility, for if they had chosen they could easily have called off their "Mail dog" and all the other smaller cans which helped at the *Mail's* heels. Having thus forced the fighting on these issues in Ontario Sir John Macdonald must abide the consequences, and he will find his cost when the Dominion elections are brought on that they will become the active agents in securing his overthrow. If he is reckless and desperate enough to play with fire of this description he cannot complain if he gets burned himself. He has never been scrupulous in regard to means so long as he could attain the end in view, but in this instance he has made the one great mistake in his life by arousing such feelings as will react on himself, and in all likelihood mark the close of his public life by defeat and disaster.

Foreign Items.

David Duncan, M. P. for the Exchange Division of Liverpool, is dead.

Mr. Parnell resumed work on Thursday, being engaged for several hours in the London office of the National party.

Five persons were killed and a number severely wounded on Tuesday last in a fire, in Lithon, which destroyed a large block of buildings.

Alejandro, Bolivia, have been to have Francisco.

The removal of the snow which fell in the late storm has revealed an appalling loss of life. Many travellers were overtaken by the storm in Bacony, thirty in Thuringia, and forty in Southern Germany. It is estimated that the total loss of life is 2000.

Mr. Gladstone, replying to a letter criticizing John Bright's action on the Irish question, says: "There is only one reason why I remain silent, and that is my sympathy with that distinguished man, and the kind and loyal aid he so often gives me. I do not mean, if I can add to your information, that the word that could possibly give him pain."

The Cologne *Gazette* advocates the founding of a large settlement of Germans in South America, and the separation of that colony from England, and its annexation to Germany. Such a movement, say the *Gazette*, is necessary to counteract the tendency of Austria to become possessed of the whole South Sea.

The Magazines.

Hawley's Magazine offers before us a generous portion of the attractions announced for the present month.

The first article in the first half of the year is Dr. Edward J. Reed's important paper on European navies of the Continent. This publication is due to the author's researches promises to be one of the chief features of the Magazine for the present year.

Dr. Warner's interesting paper on New Orleans, with twenty-one illustrations.

The Canadian novel, "Naraka," by Captain O'Meara, begins with remarkable vigor.

The war correspondent, Frank D. Miller, describes and illustrates "A Summer Campaign with the Cossacks," from his personal experience.

Blackwood's "Springhaven," is a book with a double interest of over fifty pages.

E. P. Rose's "Home Annals" articles are continuing with further tradition, in brief.

A clever Georgia story of Dukeborough life before the War entitled "Red and Black" is by R. H. Johnson, is ingeniously illustrated by E. W. Kemble.

"The Eagle's Nest," Editor's Drawer," are also good.

The Century.—The January number is especially good. Respecting the life of Lincoln, the comprehensive series to Lincoln in Springfield; the first clash with Douglas; the Log Cabin and Hard Times Campaign; Lincoln's speeches of Kennebunk; the Shields duel; the campaign of 1844; and Lincoln's devotion to the South.

A sketch entitled "Fables in Stone," is contributed by Professor W. M. Slifer.

Following his paper on the Food Question, Mr. Atkinson contributes another on "The Relative Strength and Weakness of Nations."

On the cover of "Consets and Meteors," in the "New Astronomy" series Professor S. P. Langley, the astronomer, gathers up the most recent account of the Comets and Fending and the New York Fenders."

The second of Mr. W. C. Brownell's critical pieces, "French Sculptures," is represented by beautifully engraved wood-cuts, three of full page size.

Mr. Henry James presents his impressions of Coquelin, the French actor of the Comédie-Française.

"Fending and the New York Fenders,"

by Henry Eckford, relates to a sport which now has a marked growth in New

England.

The fiction comprises the opening chapters of Mr. Cable's new *Admirable Crichton*.

Cards and to the above there are yet to be mentioned the papers in the War Series, dealing comprehensively with the battles of Bull Run, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg fight—the Third Day.

The poetry, "Topics of the Times," &c., are as usual very good and interesting.

Lines Composed on Leaving Scotland while sailing down the Clyde.

The following lines were composed by John Donald Duff, brother of Mr. John Duff, of Erasmia, after paying a visit to his native land last summer. It will be remembered that Mr. Duff, who was born in 1808, died recently by all who knew him.

John Donald Duff was attacked with typhoid fever, and after a short illness passed away.

The *Canada Free Press* published this poem in a recent number.

"An old man's deathbed,"—Donald's father was a native of Badenoch, Invernesshire.

He was a eminent for his gifts of goodness, and a man of great worth and character.

He was a workman and a poet.

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