

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the Office, or through Agents, will find receipt in next paper.

Mr. Gladstone has modified his Home Rule measure for Ireland, so as to admit of Irish members sitting in the British House of Commons. With further modifications the principle of the bill will be endorsed by a majority of the members of Parliament, and then Parliament will be adjourned.

Europe is on the *qui vive*. The Czar of Russia has under arms a very large force, and it is whispered that the threatened advance on Constantinople will soon be made. If this prove true, the war cloud will spread over Europe.

Germany is strengthening the fortifications in Alsace and Lorraine, and increasing the garrisons. Bismarck evidently fears that France will sooner or later endeavor to wipe from her escutcheon the blot of 1870, and is making preparations accordingly.

Under the republican constitution of France liberty is denied to the members of families previously occupying the throne. The French Chamber of Deputies propose to expel from France all princes of the blood; but as if this were not enough, it has resolved to confiscate their estates. This is liberty wrong side out.

A new Extradition Treaty between Great Britain and the United States will, it is said, be shortly considered by Parliament and Congress. The new treaty makes special provision for the arrest, upon British soil, of defaulting American bank agents. Debarred from the northern camping ground these wholesale robbers will have to seek a retreat in some more favored spot, or quit the business.

The list of Canadian Knights has recently been augmented by the addition of the name of Mr. Donald Smith, now Sir Donald Smith, K. C. M. G. The distinction is presumably well merited, but to most of our readers, Sir Donald is comparatively an unknown man.

Halifax is again to have a street railway, but this time the tracks are to be laid so as not to interfere with ordinary wheeled vehicles. Street cars are a great convenience in modern cities, and Halifax took a step backwards when she did away with them.

Canon Brock, acting President of King's College, recently delivered a most interesting lecture in Windsor, in which he dealt with the origin, style and application of 200 well-known proverbs. Canon Brock is a reader and a thinker. We should like to hear him in Halifax during the next lecture season.

The financial condition of the United States Government appears to be satisfactory. The total net gain in Federal revenue for the fiscal year is \$7,000,000. The total decrease in Federal expenditure is \$16,000,000; total net gain to the Treasury, \$23,000,000.

The *Evening Journal*, of Ottawa, heartily endorses Sir William Dawson's proposal to the Royal Society, to establish a National Museum. With his customary perspicuity, Sir William sees that the work of the Royal Society will be more effective and lasting, if a repository of the results of the scientists can be provided, as a standing proof that Canadians are doing something in the way of scientific discovery. A Museum which would be more representative of every branch of natural history than the Geological Museum can possibly be, a Museum which would be to Canada what those of England and the United States are to those countries. There is no reason why Canada should not possess such an institution, and Ottawa is the place for it. The undertaking may seem great, but that should be one surety for its final accomplishment. To those who look into the future of Canada with hopeful enthusiasm, no idea which tends to its advancement should be rejected as impracticable, just as no limit should be placed upon the expectations of greatness which Canada may yet realize.

Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt will include Canada in her long-extended transatlantic tour. On the conclusion of her brief season in London she will proceed to Liverpool, and embark there for Rio Janeiro. There she will remain six weeks, and after visiting several South American cities, will proceed to the United States, and thence to the Dominion.—*Globe*.

Germany is said to be fitting out a vessel with samples and sample rooms, to be dispatched on a tour around the world, carrying specimens of all the leading products and wares of that country. Entorprising drummers to represent the various lines will accompany the expedition, to take orders and solicit steady custom.—*Industrial Journal*.

Halifax people are hard to please. They asked for lower prices at the Academy of Music, and Manager Clarke made arrangements with Day's International Theatre company to play a season of three weeks at reduced prices. The attendance has been so small that the company will close its season here on Saturday evening. Let our people turn out this and to-morrow evenings, and show the company that it is appreciated.

Mr. F. Forbes, son of Dr. Forbes of Liverpool, who recently returned from Regina, N. W. T., reports the crops in that section of the Dominion, as well advanced. Farmers who formerly complained of shortage in the wheat crop now fear that the yield will be so great that they will not be able to sell to advantage.

The schools of mackerel on the banks off the coast are enormous, and the catches being made are most satisfactory.

A Hunt's County subscriber, residing in Douglas, expresses his satisfaction with the manner in which THE CRITIC is conducted. Another subscriber in the same county, while approving of the tone of THE CRITIC, strongly recommends us to obtain contributions upon agricultural matters, stating that by so doing, the paper would become more than ever popular. THE CRITIC had hoped to obtain such articles from the members of the Grange, but as these have not been forthcoming, arrangements are being made with prominent agriculturists to supply this demand.

Our Baddeck correspondent writes—"The presence at the Bras d'Or House of two or three gentlemen with their families, reminds us that the season for tourists has returned to Baddeck. The fishing season is close at hand, as some of the more enthusiastic disciples of Isaac Walton can testify, a number of them having cast their lines in the deep, dark pools, and come home with some fine fish (stories). The *Marion* has resumed her trips to the Lakes, and is, we believe, to do night work, as of yore. This 'night work' is one of Baddeck's many trials."

The United States Government has appropriated \$15,000,000 to the improvement of rivers and harbors along the sea board. The Inland States Representatives opposed the grant, but acquiesced upon receiving a large appropriation for bridging the Mississippi and its tributaries.

At present writing there are strong indications that after the second reading of the Home Rule bill, a dissolution of the British House of Commons will take place. Chamberlain's speech against Gladstone's Irish measure provoked ironical laughter from the Parnellites, but there can be no doubt that the defection of the Radical leader, as well as that of Lord Harcourt, has resulted in a break in the Liberal party.

The prorogation of Parliament has taken place without any intimation that the Dominion elections would take place this year. The rumor that Sir Charles Tupper will re-enter public life in Canada, is believed by many Conservatives to be correct. Whatever may be said to the contrary, the presence of Sir Charles, as Premier or member of the Dominion Cabinet, would be advantageous to Nova Scotia, and there is probably not a county in Nova Scotia, which would not willingly return Sir Charles as its representative.

The Nova Scotia Government has been reorganized. Attorney General White has taken the office of registrar for Halifax, and is succeeded by W. Longley. Isidore LeBlanc, now a member of the Cabinet without office, has decided not to appeal to the electors of his county, and will take a seat in the Legislative Council. Speaker MacGilvary will enter the Cabinet without office, and a similar position is assigned to Daniel McNeil of Inverness, who has yet to be elected for the first time.

Samples of a new textile product are being introduced in the New York and Boston markets, the manufacture of which bids fair to develop into quite an industry. American ingenuity and ingenuity united have produced thread made from the blossoms of the common milkweed, which has the consistency and tenacity of imported flax or linen thread, and is produced at a much less cost. The fibre is long, easily carded, and may be readily adapted to spinning upon an ordinary flax-spinner. It has the smoothness and lustre of silk, rendering it valuable for sewing-machines. The weed is common throughout this country, but grows profusely at the south. The material costs nothing for cultivation, and the gathering is as cheaply done as that of cotton.—*Industrial Journal*.

There is something worth considering in Senator Fair's proposition to banish the Apaches to the Island of Santa Catalina. There are abundant resources there for their self-support, plenty of fish, and a splendid marine view. The twenty-five miles of salt water between them and the mainland is too long a swim, and they would just have nothing to do but stay and grow up with the country.

A Swedish engineer who has been exploring the site of the Temple of Jerusalem and the surroundings locally, is strong in the conviction that the ark of the first Temple is buried in the valley of Hinnom.

England spent \$15,000,000 less for liquors last year than the year before.

An iron box, containing \$150,000 in gold coin, has been dug up on the farm of John Stump, near Havre de Grace, Md., where it was buried to keep it from being looted by the British, in 1812.

The following are the dates of the introduction of railways in the various countries from 1825 to 1860:—England, September 27, 1825; Austria, September 30, 1828; France, October 1, 1828; United States, December 28, 1829; Belgium, May 3, 1835; Germany, December 7, 1835; Island of Cuba, in the year 1837; Russia, April 4, 1838; Italy, September, 1839; Switzerland, July 15; 1844; Jamaica, November 21, 1845; Spain, October 24, 1848; Canada, May, 1850; Mexico, in the year 1850; Peru, in the year 1850; Sweden in the year 1851; Chili, January, 1852; East India, April 18, 1853; Norway, July, 1853; Portugal, in the year 1854; Brazil, April 30, 1853; Victoria, September 14, 1854; Columbia, January 2, 1855; New South Wales, September 25, 1855; Egypt, January, 1856; Middle Australia, April 21, 1856; Natal, June 26, 1860; Turkey, October 4, 1860.

A Zuni Princess, whose name is Wawa, is the guest of Mrs. Storey in Washington this winter. Her hostess has taken her about with a good deal of interest, and the dark-faced maiden has received much attention, though she can speak very little English.