

DIVORCE IN CANADA.

It is certainly remarkable that, whilst in England a Divorce Court has been established since 1857, no such tribunal would be tolerated in Canada. In that dependency divorce can only be obtained from the Legislature, and parliamentary procedure has been made the subject of a treatise by a Canadian barrister, Mr. Gemmill, which has just reached our hands. A greater contrast than that between England and Canada exists between Canada and the United States. In the latter divorces are easily obtained, the result being that, since 1867, 3,281,613 have been decreed in the United States as against 116 in Canada. The Canadians seem very jealous of confining the jurisdiction within existing limits. By the British North American Act of 1867 the Dominion was given complete and exclusive jurisdiction over the subjects of marriage and divorce. The Governor-General's instructions previous to 1878 directed him positively not to assent to Her Majesty's name "to any Bill for the divorce of persons joined together in holy matrimony." In accordance with these instructions, between 1867 and 1878 inclusive, eleven Divorce Bills were reserved, though they were afterwards sanctioned by the Queen in Council. These instructions were originally framed for Provinces possessing powers and privileges inferior to those granted to Canada by the Constitutional Act of 1867. These instructions, as well as the commissions of the Governors-General, were accordingly changed in 1878 in conformity with suggestions made by Mr. Blake, while Minister of Justice, in valuable State papers relating to our constitutional privileges. The reserved power of disallowance which Her Majesty in Council possesses under the law is now considered quite sufficient for all possible emergencies. Consequently all Divorce Bills are assented to, with other Bills at the close of a session of Parliament, and become law in due form—the power of disallowance not being exercised in cases where the Parliament of Canada has full jurisdiction. The clause in the former royal instructions, requiring that certain classes of Bills should be reserved for Her Majesty's approval, was omitted—as stated by the Secretary of State for the Colonies at the time—"because Her Majesty's Government thought it inadvisable that the instructions should contain anything which could be interpreted as limiting or defining the legislative powers conferred in 1867 on the Dominion Parliament."—*Law Times*.

UNROLLING A MUMMY.

A MUMMY which had occupied a place for about half a century in the museum of University College, London, was recently unrolled in the presence of several distinguished scientists. The proceeding is thus described in the *London Public Opinion*: The mummy was placed on a table on the floor of the theatre, and loosely covered with a cloth of fine linen of a faded purple colour, which had formerly constituted its outer wrapping. Before proceeding to perform the operation of unrolling the mummy, Mr. Budge made some prefatory observations on Egyptian mummies generally. He described the principal methods of preserving the human body by mummification as three in number. The first process required that the intestines should be extracted and embalmed in four pots dedicated to four gods. The body was then soaked in natron for seventy days. At the end of that time it was washed, and then carefully bandaged in hundreds of yards of linen. By the second process the intestines were simply dissolved out by means of natron, after which the body was soaked in natron and then mummified. By the third process the body was merely salted and put into a pit. Sometimes bitumen was used with other substances to fill the cavity in the body after the intestines had been removed. At the conclusion of his observations Mr. Budge proceeded to unroll the mummy, which was closely swathed in scores of yards of thick, yellowish linen of fine texture. The bands of linen varied in width from four or five inches to about a foot. Some of them were laid lengthwise along the body; others were wrapped round and round it. At the beginning of the process of unrolling there was a very perceptible sickly smell of aromatics, which, as the work went on, gave place to a more pronounced and decidedly disagreeable odour. When a great part of the linen had been removed, black stains, caused by the bitumen, became apparent, and nearer to the body the wrappings had suffered considerably from contact with this substance. Two small pieces of linen with fringes were discovered in the course of the unrolling, and these bore inscriptions, more or less impaired by the bitumen. When at last the coverings had been removed, the body was found to be of a very dark brown colour—so dark, indeed, as to be almost black. The skin where it remained was hard and shiny, the arms and hands lay lengthwise upon the abdomen, while the heart and intestines were placed beneath the knees. The features when disclosed stood out very clearly, and were those of a rather handsome person, but the sex could not be determined. Glass eyes had been placed in the head, and there was a linen plug in the ear. Mr. Budge, at the conclusion of his task, said that the mummy seemed to belong to a period about eight hundred years before Christ.

BRIDGING the Bosphorus! This is too much! But 'tis fated to be done, and very soon, by a French engineering company. The bridge will be 872 yards long, thrown lightly across the historic and picturesque channel which flows between Europe and Asia, and unites the Euxine with the Sea of Marmora. The expense will be very great, but the capital is already provided.—*Boston Journal*.

JEWS IN EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

It is remarkable that Emin Pasha should be a Jew by birth, and one of his rescuers, Vita Hassan, a Jew by profession. But the presence of these Jews in equatorial Africa does not stand alone. It has been the lot of Israel from the earliest ages to be on the wing. From the time of Abraham downwards the migratory instinct has been dominant in the race. Mesopotamia, Canaan, Egypt, Canaan once more, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, Canaan a third time, and then the world at large—such are the successive stages of Israel's national migrations. The Jews have indeed ever been "tribe of the wandering foot." The racial characteristic has asserted itself, of course, in the individual life. In an age when movement from one country to another was a rare and hazardous proceeding—in the twelfth century, to wit—Benjamin of Tudela and Petachia of Ratisbon travelled through a great part of Europe, Asia, and Africa, and were thereby able to make considerable additions to the world's knowledge. The second Benjamin and Halevy, who explored the Felashas, may also be mentioned in this connection. And this suggests the remark that the existence of Jews in out-of-the-way corners of the globe—the Felashas and Beni-Israel and the Cochim Jews, for example—has only been made possible by the migratory tendency of the race. The four young men who kept last Yom Kippur in so queer, yet so touching a fashion in the wilds of South Africa are among the latest illustrations of the tendency. No doubt the wandering instinct has been strengthened by persecution. The Jew has been incessantly under orders to "move on." Now that peace and quietness are his in greater measure he still retains his predilection for travel. He goes forth of his own accord, seeking "fresh woods and pastures new," and thereby laying the foundation of his own fortunes and extending the boundaries of the civilized world.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

THE EXPERIENCE OF NEW ENGLAND.

IN New England we have fought upon that issue always with increasing success. What could we show as to the effect of high tariff taxation upon her industries? That, under a policy which discouraged foreign trade and taxed the building material of ships, her foreign shipping was dead and shipbuilding becoming a lost art; that, under a policy which taxed excessively the food, clothing, and shelter of her people, and her farming implements, agriculture was declining, her farms being deserted, the farming towns depopulated, and new ill-omened offices created—Commissioners of Abandoned Farms; that her glass industry, which had given employment to generations of her sons, was dead; that her iron industry was dying, strangled to death by law, or, in the words of the last Republican Governor of Massachusetts, killed by tariff taxes on coal and iron that had led to a "degradation" of labour in New England; that her great woollen industry, founded and thriving under a low tariff, was struggling and declining under a high tariff and the burden of taxed wool. Then, by contrast, we could point to her other great industries—cotton, silk, paper, leather, boots and shoes—and show that, with their principle raw materials free, they were prosperous and growing, and sending their products into the markets of the world. The people of New England, by their eyesight and their sufferings, are being converted to tariff reform. It was famine in Ireland that finally wiped out the taxes on the food of her people; it is distress in our industries that will wipe out the taxes on the food that feeds them. New England will not long consent that the blessing God intended for her industries in her seacoast and in her harbours shall be defeated by a law as injurious and unjust to her as a British port bill.—*W. E. Russell, at the Tariff Reform Dinner*.

THE INFLUENZA.

A SINGULAR characteristic of the present epidemic of influenza is its delay in visiting the British Isles. It seems to have been rampant in Paris and in Germany for some time before it crossed the Channel, and victims are claimed for Boston even before the existence of the disease in England was acknowledged. This naturally raises the question whether it is a disease really brought from a distance. Is it anything more than the general prevalence of catarrhal affections, of colds and coughs, which the time of year, and the remarkably unsettled weather we have lately experienced, make readily explicable without any foreign importation? Indeed, is influenza, after all, anything more than a severe form of the fashionable complaint of the season? To answer the last question first, and so to put it by, there can be little doubt that influenza is a distinct specific affection, and not a mere modification of the common cold. The symptoms, the history of the disease, and its distribution, all justify us in treating it as a distinct and specific disease, which when it is prevalent will rarely be mistaken, though with regard to isolated and sporadic cases, difficulties of diagnosis may arise. About its nature, or its affinities with other diseases, it is unnecessary to speculate. It will be sufficient to inquire what its recorded history in the past justifies us in expecting as to its behaviour in the future.

TASMANIA is not yet ripe for protection, but it appears to be very near it. A motion in favour of the adoption of a protective policy was only negated by the House on November 15 by the Speaker's casting vote. It is understood that protection will be the main question at the next general election in the Colony.

THE WAITOMO CAVES, NEW ZEALAND.

IN a report to the Surveyor-General of New Zealand, Mr. Thomas Humphries gives an interesting description of a visit which he and a small party made in June last to the Waitomo caves, King County, in the North Island of New Zealand. The Waitomo River, a tributary of the Waipa, which passes through these caves, lies about eighty-five miles south of Auckland in a direct line, though it is about twenty miles further by rail and road. The caves are about ten miles from Otorohanga railway station. The country around is undulating. A quarter of a mile before the caves are reached, the Waitomo, of about twenty feet in width, is seen emerging from the side of a hill, under which it has meandered through limestone caverns of various sizes for about twenty chains. A light canoe can be taken along the river through the caves to within a few chains of its egress, where further progress is barred by the roof coming down to the water.

At the entrance to the cavern the stream is eight feet deep. The natives have never had the courage to enter. The entrance to the cave, thirty feet wide and twenty feet high, is in the face of a cliff. It is beautifully arched, with numerous moss and lichen-covered stalactites. In a canoe the visitor is taken in, ninety feet from the entrance, and landed on a silt-covered beach. By the aid of candles, for all is now dark, he finds himself among ponderous stalactites, three to six feet thick, reaching from the roof, twenty feet high, to within a foot of the ground. Everywhere, all over the extensive and intricate caverns, are seen stalactites and stalagmites of immense size, in vast numbers, with marvellous beauty of form and colour. At one place the dark vault was studded with thousands of glow-worms, giving the vault the appearance of a starlit sky.

Passing down the left bank of the stream for one hundred and forty feet, over a large deposit left by floods, the party crossed it by means of a foot-bridge. From the entrance to the bridge the cavern averages fifty feet broad, and from twenty to thirty feet high. After crossing the bridge, a sharp turn to the right is made up a steep incline for a distance of seventy feet, to the foot of a ten-foot ladder, which leads to a narrow passage four feet wide and fifteen feet high, the entrance to the "Grand Cavern." Here is the bottom of the "well," a narrow shaft running up to another series of caves over the lower ones, where it is again met with in the gallery above. The well is four feet across, perfectly true, as if made by human hands, and its sides beautifully marked with horizontal streaks, formed of laminated limestone. In the Grand Cavern is an immense mound of material evidently fallen from the roof. Beyond the Grand Cavern the roof rises and forms two domes, one fifty feet high. High up, forty feet, is the entrance to another cavern. Beyond the dome there is a sudden fall, the roof lowering so much that the visitor has to stoop. The length of the Grand Cavern, at the end of which the stream is again met with, is two hundred and fifty feet. It varies in width from fifteen to forty feet, and from twenty to fifty feet in height. Up to this point the colour is a dull brown and a light yellow; but in the upper galleries, thirty feet above, there are alabaster and Parian-marble-like scenes of unsurpassed loveliness. Twenty feet above the Grand Gallery is the "Organ Gallery," so-called from the appearance of the great stalagmitic mass one hundred and fifty feet from its entrance, rising tier upon tier, like the front of an organ with marble pipes. From the Grand Gallery the Main Gallery above is reached by a twenty-five-foot ladder, and sixty feet along it the "well" is reached. Here it is twelve feet in diameter, with smooth sides of hard limestone, and the sound of moving water below. This is forty-five feet above where it was first seen. Fifty feet along from the upper well is a "fairy grotto," and through an archway thirty feet in length the "Banquet Chamber" is reached, where the surveyor and his friends found a hot dinner had been provided by the natives who own the caves. At the end of this chamber is the White Terrace, a stalagmitic mass rising in a series of terraces. From this the upper entrance to the caves is reached, high in a wooded cliff, sixty feet above and directly over the lower entrance. Mr. Humphries describes in glowing terms other galleries and caves, but this may suffice to show, that, notwithstanding the destruction of the Rotomahana Terraces, New Zealand has still plenty of wonders.—*Science*.

THE EIGHT-HOUR MOVEMENT.

To the opponents of the eight-hour system, of course, the time has not come. To such it never comes. Like Pope's definition of the state of man's blessedness, it "never is, but always is to be." Sad fact as it is, the opponents of all reforms in labour, such as shortening the hours from sixteen to fourteen, to eleven, and then to ten; as limiting child labour; as providing means of safety and health for employees; as doing away with the "pluck me" store system—the opponents of all these reforms have been the employers of labour. It is a sad fact, but that is history. Postponement of this subject can not be forever, nor can the coming of the reform be forever delayed. So it were better, perhaps, to face it now. Let it be in a spirit of kindness, in a spirit of earnestness. It is a thing that belongs to humanity's advance. It is part of civilization.—*Indianapolis News*.

THE rabbit pest appears to be on the increase in New Zealand. The skins obtained in 1887 numbered 8,000,000; in 1888, 12,125,000; while the ingathering for 1889 promises to largely exceed that for the previous year.