TO THE PUBLIC.

THE proprietors of *The Weekly Mail* beg to announce that on and after the first of January the annual subscription price will be one dollar and a half.

When the publication of *The Weekly Mail* was commenced, the price was fixed at one dollar, with a view of introducing the paper to as wide a circle of readers, and in as brief a period of time, as possible. The objects sought were attained, in the increased success of *The Weekly Mail*, followed with great rapidity, until now the number of its readers is counted at fifty thousand. At the same time the proprietors assumed the burden of gratuitously supplying the subscribers to the *Weekly Telegraph*, which was about ceasing to exist, with *The Mail*, which should be at once a substitute for and an improvement upon the paper to which they had paid their subscription. The obligation thus assumed has been fully discharged, and every subscriber to the *Weekly Telegraph* has received *The Weekly Mail* up to the close of his subscription to the former.

A very large, handsome, and carefully prepared journal, such as *The Weekly Mail* is, could not be produced without incurring a heavy expenditure both in money and labour; in point of fact, the material alone absorbs nearly the whole of the subscription price. The proprietors were prepared, however, to publish *The Weekly Mail* without pecuniary profit until their engagement with the subscribers to the *Telegraph* had been fully and faithfully performed. They feel that this has been done, and that the time has come when they should seek to place the paper upon a paying basis. The annual subscription will therefore be raised as above stated, one of the first consequences of which will be a marked improvement in the paper, which even at present rates has been proved to be the most popular weekly circulated in this country.

It is hoped and believed that the friends and patrons of the paper will recognize the propriety of our present course, and will redouble their exertions to extend the circulation and strengthen the influence of *The Weekly Mail*.

TO AGENTS.

The terms to Agents and Clubs will be raised *pro rata*, in conformity with the change in price as above announced.

The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1874.

NOTICE.

Subscribers are reminded that the colored sticker on each paper sent to them, shows a figure which indicates that their subscription is paid up to date; while their subscription has been paid, serving, in fact, as a date. The current weekly number can readily be seen, taked by reference to the volume and number printed on the title page.

We are informed that a person representing himself as a travelling agent of this journal is collecting subscriptions to *The Weekly Mail*, throughout the townships of West Gwillimbury and Tecumseth. We have no travelling agent. Numerous friends have intimated their desire in organizing local clubs, and otherwise aiding in furthering the circulation of the *Weekly Mail*. Such are, of course, either well-known in the locality where they are canvassing or accredited by this office.

THE WEEKLY MAIL.

THE attention of our readers is directed to an advertisement on another page, from which will be seen the inducements held out to persons having time or inclination to form Clubs for the circulation of *The Weekly Mail*; a paper specially suited for readers at a distance from Toronto, whether residing in the country parts of Canada, in Great Britain, the United States, or other foreign countries. For observations, in comparison with the wealth of information to be gleaned from it, *The Weekly Mail* is in advance of all competitors for popular favour, while the unparalleled success which has followed it since its first publication, is a gratifying evidence of the estimation in which it is held by the thousands of the reading public. No doubt, some of the success attending the popularity with which *The Weekly Mail* obtained its immense circulation was the result of the great Grit Clubbing Association Party, having at heart the furtherance of the cause of Union and Progress, at once brought a favourable notice into the country constituencies. Members of Parliament, as well as intending candidates for Parliamentary honours, have not been slow to see that a riding was best prepared for a canvass in the interest of their Party, by the circulation of *The Weekly Mail* among the intelligent voters. Consequently, as a cheap and effective co-operator in the political education of the masses, unusual efforts have been made by influential local residents to promote the circulation of the paper in the neighbourhood of their own homes. The present crisis in the political history of Canada would indicate the necessity for the doubled energy in the same direction.

THE WRITS ISSUED.

THE startling information which we published Friday was confirmed by the appearance Saturday evening of an "extra" of the *Canada Gazette*, dissolving Parliament. The writs were issued bearing date yesterday, January 2nd, and returnable on the 21st February, except those for Gaspe, Chicoutimi and Saguenay, in the Province of Quebec, and for all the constituencies in Manitoba and British Columbia, which are to be returned on 12th March. By the way, what about Algoma? Why was it included among the latter elections?

We are confident that this official confirmation of our announcement will not received with astonishment and indignation throughout the whole Dominion. It is the most disgraceful outrage that was ever perpetrated upon a free people, and will, we are sure, receive a fitting rebuke at the hands of the Canadian people.

We hope to hear that within the next few days candidates in the interest of the Liberal-Conservative Party have been selected in every constituency in Ontario, if not of the whole Dominion. Not a moment must be lost in forwarding organization and meeting, upon the ground of their own selection, the noisy brazen-of who are now using the machinery of Government to forward their own selfish interests.

AN UNEXPECTED FAVOUR.

THE new Minister of Customs has sent us a circular which we accept as a welcome Christmas box. Here it is:—

"Circular Letter.

"CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT,
"Ottawa, 26, Dec 1873.

"SIR,—I am directed to notify you that from and after the first of January next, you are to order and send free your newspaper to this office and to copy advertisements emanating from the Department.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"R. S. WIGHTMAN,
"Secretary.
"To the Proprietor of *The Mail*, Toronto, Ont."

From Sir JOHN MACDONALD'S Government this journal never received half the amount of advertising patronage which the smaller Local Grit Government has been in the habit of bestowing upon all its tuneful instruments. From the Big City Organ down to the smallest penny whistle which plays a Grit accompaniment to the music of the backwoodman's axe, all have received a bountiful supply of Government flapdoodle. Their ear passages have been kept lubricated and unobstructed owing to the sanguine expectations of Mr. MCKELLAR that, despite the results of the Geological Survey, coal for the Parliament buildings at Toronto would be dug in Petesboro' or Brockville. The peremptory order therefore "to copy advertisements emanating from the Department of Customs," has come to us as a ray of sunlight from the cold shades. Mr. BOWELL is evidently not yet wholly with the Grit Party, and, by giving publicity to the timely kindness in which he presents us with his Christmas compliments, our only fear is that we may be doing an injury to the politician in our endeavour to do justice to the man. He is evidently a good-hearted, large-souled sort of fellow, and is not prepared to carry on war a outrance, after the fashion of some Grit savages. Of course we are in his order to copy the sending of *The "Mail"* to his Department, an intention on his part not to condemned, as the petty particularity of compelling our little bill for the advertisements with the actual record in our columns. We shall therefore cease sending him the paper, and begin copying the advertisements. We only hope that there won't be so much trouble in getting the Government printing transferred to us as there was in the old regime. Many jealous Grits imagine that there is a mistake in our interpretation of the circular, we would refer them to the nearest inspector of Common Schools, or to Mr. NEWTON MCKAY, for even better authority on the construction of official documents.

1873.

THE year which has just concluded, brought with it, as it always has, great wars, has yet, like its predecessor, been one of vast import to nearly every nation on the globe. Insurrections, dynastic changes, wars with savage nations, floods, loss of life, the ravages of fire, disasters on sea and land, Governments overthrown, the Church in dire conflict with the State, divisions in some religious bodies and union between others,—surely these and other not less notable events may almost lead us to conclude that few years in modern times have contributed so large a record to history as the year of grace 1873.

Canada, during the year, has been the theatre of events, political in their character, which have not only absorbed the attention of her own sons, but have drawn upon her the eyes of the world. When the year opened the Ministers of the Crown were pursuing endeavouring—in order to carry out that great project which Parliament had authorised, which was to unite the distant Provinces of the Dominion by an iron band—to form about an amalgamation between the two Companies which had received from the last Parliament Acts of incorporation for the purpose of constructing the Pacific Railroad. In this they failed through the difference of opinion between them, and they had then no recourse but to fall back on the power given to them by Parliament of incorporating a distinct Company by letters patent. Directors were selected from all the Provinces and formed into a Board to which the charter was given, under certain restrictions, which effectually guarded against the admission of American control into the Company. Several of the Municipal Councils of Ontario, and subsequently the Manitoba Legislature testified their gratification at the successful inauguration of the Company by formally congratulating the Government. The Press, however, persisted in the assertion that Americans possessed an influence in the Board through the President, Sir HUGH ALLAN, and with the connivance of the Government, who were afterwards accused of having sold the charter to Sir HUGH for money with which to carry the elections. The statement having reference to the Americans was disproved by the terms of the charter itself, and the charge of corruption was denied by the several parties who were accused. The Opposition, elated with the mistaken idea that their Party had secured a majority at the general elections in the previous autumn, continued to prophesy that, on the meeting of Parliament, the Government would be ejected from power, and even ventured to compare the retirement from the Cabinet of Senator CHAPAIS and Sir ALEXANDER TECHE to the desertion of rats from a sinking ship. The prediction, however, was gotten up for political purposes on private grounds, and they continued in Parliament to give the Government the benefit of their valuable assistance and hearty support.

Some changes in the personnel of the Administration became necessary before Parliament met. The Hon. S. L. TILLEY succeeded Sir F. HINCKS in the Ministry of Finance, the Portfolio of Minister of Customs, and Mr. JOHN O'CONNOR succeeded him in the Inland Revenue Department. The latter gentleman was appointed to the position of Receiver-General, vacated by M. CHAPAIS, and the Presidency of the Council, of which Mr. O'CONNOR had been the incumbent, remained unfilled. The Speakership of the Senate, which had become vacant by the resignation of M. CAUCHON, was filled by the appointment of M. P. J. O. CHAUVEAU, who had previously occupied the position of Premier of the Province of Quebec.

The new Parliament met in March when, after the re-election of Mr. JAMES COCKBURN to the important office of Speaker of the Commons, the Governor-General delivered the speech from the throne, in which reference was made to the grant of the Pacific Railway Charter, the progress made in enlarging the canals, and the results of the encouragement given to immigration. Several measures of considerable importance were promised. On the following day, the Opposition, who had absented themselves from Mr. DEWDNEY to lead them, attempted a trial of the Government strength in connection with the disputed election for Petesboro', but the House sustained the Administration by a majority of 16, though a large number of Government Ministerials were absent. The Opposition, notwithstanding the boasts which had been made by the leaders of their Party in the columns of its organs prior to the meeting of Parliament, did not venture to make strength on the Address, and minor questions occupied the attention of Parliament until the beginning of April, when the Opposition brought forward his memorable resolutions on the subject of the Pacific Railway. A Committee of Investigation and Enquiry was created as one of non-confidence in the Ministry, and two days' notice allowed for the production of a large number of politicians from all parts of the country to listen to the animated discussion which followed. The debate was of great disappointment, and to the surprise, probably, even of the leading members on both sides of the House, the decision was then taken without a single speech having been made, and the newly-elected House of Commons unanimously committed the Government by giving it the magnificent majority of 31 in a House of 183 members. A Bill was introduced by Sir JOHN MACDONALD—having proved that he possessed the confidence of Parliament, but hesitating to take for a full investigation to take place into the charges made by the Opposition—himself moved for a Commission of Enquiry, which was afterwards selected by the House. It was generally considered essential that the witnesses should be examined accordingly the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. JOHN HILLYARD CAMERON, introduced a Bill empowering the Committee to administer oaths to witnesses when so instructed by the House. Sir JOHN MACDONALD was of the opinion that the measure was *ultra vires*, but offered no opposition to the Bill after consideration, it finally passed both Houses, and received the assent of his Excellency. The Commission was given to the Committee, together with power to act when the House, though technically in Session, was not actually sitting. It was not considered desirable to proceed with the enquiry during the absence of Sir JOHN and Sir GEORGE CARTIER, Sir HUGH ALLAN, and Mr. ABBOTT, three of the most important witnesses, and on their return therefore, a short leave of the House to adjourn until the 2nd of July, when it was expected that those gentlemen would have returned. The members on the left of the Speaker opposed the adjournment, but it was carried by the ordinary majority as that which sustained the Government on the first vote taken on the question, and the Committee adjourned accordingly. In moving for the appointment of the Commission, the First Minister had promised that, if it required powers which Parliament could not give, a Royal Commission should issue to its members clothing them with the necessary authority. In order not to interfere with their responsibility to Parliament, ordering them to report to both Houses as well as to his Excellency. When it was announced just prior to the meeting of the Committee in July that the Commission issued under the Oaths Bill, her legal advisers having confirmed the opinion of the Minister of Justice that the measure was *ultra vires*, and that the Committee was consequently unable to carry out the instruction of the House to take the evidence under oath, Sir JOHN MACDONALD renewed his offer of a Commission, but Messrs. BLAKE and DORION, the two Opposition members of the Committee, rejected the offer, and it was resolved to further adjourn until the 13th August, to which day Parliament had in the meantime been adjourned, and to ask for further instructions from the House.

Though the "Pacific Scandal," as it was termed, engrossed so large a portion of the attention of Parliament, there were several other matters which transpired during the session which deserve to be noticed here. Chief among these was the extension of the Confederation by the admission of the Colony of Prince Edward Island as a Province of the Dominion. In the month of February, Messrs. HAYZHORNE and LAIRD, two members of the Island Government, arrived at Ottawa, and consulted with his Excellency's advisers on the subject of the admission of the Colony into the Union. The result was that, on their return, the Government dissolved the Legislature and appealed to the country on the question of Confederation. Although the members returned were opposed to the Government on local issues and replaced it with a new Administration, of which Mr. POPE was the Premier, they endorsed its policy on the federal question, and sent delegates to Ottawa to arrange the terms of Union. In this they were successful, and before the close of the session the Dominion Government was enabled to introduce and pass a measure providing for the admission of Prince Edward Island as a Province of the Dominion of Canada. The delegates, on their return home, were received with every demonstration of joy, the necessary Act was unanimously passed by the Local Legislature, the Island Government was congratulated by Her Majesty's Ministers, and the new Province was heartily welcomed by her sister States from Nova Scotia to Vancouver's Island.

Mr. TILLEY, the new Finance Minister, was enabled to state a prosperous condition in his financial statement. After a graceful tribute to the great ability of his predecessor, the Minister could be viewed the financial progress of the country since Confederation, announced that the Government did not think it necessary to impose additional taxes, and showed that the construction of the Pacific Railway and the completion of the Canal system would cause such an influx of emigration that our resources would probably for years to come enable the Government to meet the growing expenses of the country without imposing severe burdens on the people.

The Opposition devoted most of their time to hunting up scandals, which always proved insurmountable to far as the Government was concerned. The inquiry in reference to section 5 of the International Railway only proved that the Administration was conducting that great undertaking in a most efficient and economical manner, and the evidence adduced in regard to the irregularities at Levis camp showed that the advisers of his Excellency were not responsible for the delay of justice which had taken place. Mr. BLAKE's endeavour to repeat the sensation created by the disclosure of the Washington Treaty was not countenanced by the House, and Mr. MILLS' attempt to make a party question of the Senate received its customary quietus in the thin House to which the mover, gentlemen, was addressing, according to custom, to address his wearisome platitudes.

Sir JOHN MACDONALD introduced an Election Bill and a measure providing for the trial of controverted elections by judges, but in consequence of the pressure of other business only the latter passed into law, the existing election law being continued for another year. The office of Secretary of State for the Provinces was abolished, and a new department established under the title of the Ministry of the Interior, to which the management of all the Crown and Indian lands was transferred. The prohibitory liquor question was referred to a special committee, but no direct action issued, and the same course was taken with the important subject of protection to manufacturing interests. The committee on Banking and Patent Acts, establishing standard weights and measures, providing for the inspection of staple articles of produce, amending the Militia Act, continuing the Insolvent Act, and providing for the better protection of the foreshores and rivers. The Ministry were able to reduce the subsidy paid to the Allan line for the ocean mail service, and obtained the assent of Parliament to a new Extradition Bill, though his Excellency's assent to the last measure was withheld for the consideration of the Home Government. The MARTIN DORION Bill passed the Commons for the first time, and passed both Houses. The Governor-General's assent to it was, however, withheld, and the Separate School Law question once more came up on a motion by Mr. CORTHAY expressing regret at the action of the Imperial Parliament. Sir JOHN MACDONALD, in a masterly speech, explained the constitutional difficulties, but by the aid of the Opposition with the Roman Catholic members, the motion was carried. Before acting on it, however, Her Majesty deemed it advisable to apply to her Majesty's Ministers for instructions.

On the second day of the session having lasted nearly twelve weeks, Parliament adjourned till the 15th of August. The adjournment was made on the order to enable the Pacific Railway Committee, which would have expired by prorogation, to sit, but it was subsequently announced that the August meeting would be a strictly formal one, and that nothing would take place before Parliament met to accept the presentation of the Committee's report.

During the recess, Mr. T. N. GIBBS was placed at the head of the Department of Inland Revenue, his colleague went to the Post Office Department, vacated by Senator CAMPBELL on his becoming Minister of Inland Revenue, and Mr. HUGH MCDONALD was appointed Minister of Militia.

Just after the adjournment of the Committee in July, the Opposition newspapers published a letter from Mr. ALEXANDER MCKENZIE, which was concerned with the Americans who failed in their endeavour to obtain an interest in the Pacific Railway Company, together with some communications which had been written by Sir HUGH ALLAN to the Canadian and British Americans whom he represented, before the Government company was formed. This correspondence created a considerable sensation, which was intensified when a second epistle from Mr. MCMULLEN appeared, accusing the Premier of bribery and corruption. The dishonour in which the Ministry was thus involved was aggravated by the publication of a letter from Sir HUGH ALLAN, and by what purported to be copies of certain telegrams from Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD to Mr. ABBOTT, acting for Sir HUGH ALLAN. These documents, without any explanation, and in the absence of other letters from Sir HUGH ALLAN to the same parties, seemed to give a colour to the charges against the Government, and the Opposition papers made use of the *ex parte* statements which had been published to conclude that the Governor-General should not prorogue Parliament up the 15th August, as it was his intention to do, but should allow the House of Commons to discuss and decide the question. In the meantime, however, positive denials on behalf of several of MCMULLEN's statements were published by Sir HUGH ALLAN and other parties implicated, and Sir FRANCIS HINCKS and the Ministers also published contradictions of the charges of corruption made against the Premier, whose history was given to the world by *The Mail* on the 20th August. The Reform press continued to threaten the Governor-General with the direst consequences if he ventured to act in accordance to their wishes, but his Excellency, in a speech delivered in Halifax, declared that the attempt to intimidate had not the effect the castigation bestowed upon their idols by the unsophisticated natives of Mumbo Jumbo. Petitions against the prorogation were widely circulated, but they obtained few signatures. Towards the end of July, it was announced that his Excellency would issue a Commission to certain judges to try the matters complained of, and this statement caused to send the Reform press perfectly wild. They attacked her Majesty's Representative in the broadest manner, clamoured for his recall, and did not hesitate to insinuate a threat that the Minister of Justice had, in despair, put an end to his life. All these attacks and slanders did not, however, deter his Excellency from the performance of his duty. On the 13th of August the Parliament met, and on the motion of Mr. BLAKE adjourned till the following day without reporting to Parliament. When the Speaker took the Chair in the Commons, Mr. MACKENZIE attempted to make a speech, but was interrupted by the arrival of Black Rod, who summoned the Commons to his Excellency's presence. Those who witnessed the scene will never forget what followed. His Excellency's messenger was hooted, the Speaker was insulted, and the leaders of the Opposition, who, by calling their followers together on an occasion when it was known that the proceedings would be merely *pro forma*, had hoped to catch the Government asleep and carry a resolution of want of confidence, created a disturbance in the popular Chamber which has never been equalled in the history of British Constitutional Government. The loyal and law-abiding members who happened to be present followed the Speaker to the Senate Chamber, where Parliament was formally prorogued.

A few days afterwards a Royal Commission was issued to Mr. Justice DAY, Mr. Justice POLETTE, and Judge GOWAN, three able jurists, authorizing them to try the question at issue, to examine the witnesses under oath, and to report to the Governor-General and to Parliament.

The Commissioners speedily assembled, and on the 4th September commenced to examine witnesses. On the same day a private letter from Sir JOHN MACDONALD to the Hon. J. E. POPE was published in the Montreal *Herald*, having been stolen from the Post Office, and inserted in that paper with the connivance of Messrs. DORION, HOLTON, and YOUNG, the three leading members of the Quebec Opposition.

Mr. HUNTINGTON, Mr. MCMULLEN, and others, refused to appear before the Commission, but highly important evidence was nevertheless adduced, and the accusers of the Government claimed that the depositions of Sir JOHN MACDONALD and Sir HUGH ALLAN had proved their case. The charge against the Government, however, was materially changed from this time. The accusation of being in league with the Americans and the allegation that the Government had "sold the charter" to Sir HUGH ALLAN were dropped, and the only charge now made was that the Government had spent money, subscribed by Sir HUGH ALLAN and others, in the elections of 1872, and thus "debauched the electors." The Commission was suspended on the 23rd October, and a full House was present when his Excellency delivered the speech from the throne. The address in reply was met by an amendment moved by Mr. MACKENZIE which gave rise to a debate of two days' duration. The galleries were crowded with spectators, seats on the floor were allotted to distinguished visitors from England and the civilized world awaited the verdict of the Canadian Parliament. In the meantime, however, the English press, in articles based on telegrams sent by a notorious partisan, on the personal representation of Mr. BLAKE, had visited England, and on Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH's magazine articles, had condemned Sir JOHN MACDONALD in terms which too late they resented on receipt of the full evidence. On the other hand, the Earl of KIMBERLEY, Colonial Secretary of her Majesty's Government, had expressed the approval by the Queen's Ministers of the course pursued by the Earl of DUFFERIN, and had in that way disposed of the great Opposition cry that the Constitution had been violated by the prorogation of the 15th of August. It had also been announced that Sir HUGH ALLAN and other Directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, having been unable, in the meantime, to obtain the capital required in the English market by the garbled telegrams already mentioned, to raise the money required to place the railway where they had gone for that purpose, had resigned the Charter into the hands of the Government. The debate in the House of Commons was one to be remembered. Speculation was rife during the twilight that the session lasted, as to how the vote would result, and what would be the majority, but all difficulties were solved on the 5th November by Sir JOHN MACDONALD announcing the resignation of the Ministry. Mr. MACKENZIE was immediately sent for, a new Government was formed, and Parliament was formally prorogued on the 7th of November.

It is generally believed that if the vote had been taken at an earlier stage of the debate the Macdonald Government would have been sustained.

To other matters which have transpired in Canada during the year, we can afford only a passing mention. The new Government has not yet announced its policy, and it has shelved Pacific Scandal, and appeals to the country before again meeting the people's representatives. A new Party composed of certain young gentlemen in Toronto, made its appearance in the fall; but the policy put forward was too nearly allied to Independence to find favour with loyal Canadians, and the maiden speech of the President was the funeral oration of the Party.

The session of the Ontario Legislature opened in January, and lasted far into March. The new Premier, Mr. MOWAT, showed his inability to grapple with great questions, but, after unpardonable bungling, his Government brought in the long-promised measure dealing with the Municipal Loan Fund. The Municipal Bill was consolidated and amended, bills affecting the working classes, but not satisfying them, became law, a measure providing for education passed after much discussion, the Agricultural Farm was removed from Mimico to Guelph, the Licensing Act was consolidated, and bills incorporating the Orange Society were passed, notwithstanding the numerous petitions offered to them by nearly all the members of the Government, but the assent of the Lieut-Governor was withheld.

A worthy successor to Mr. HOWLAND in the office of Lieut.-Governor has been appointed, in the person of Mr. JOHN CRAWFORD. Mr. R. W. SCOTT has retired from the Government to occupy a place in the Dominion Senate, and has been succeeded by Mr. C. F. FRASER; several elections have been necessitated by the retirement and death of members of the Assembly, but the political complexion of the House will not be materially altered at the commencement of the approaching Session.

In Quebec, Judge CARON has succeeded Sir N. F. BELLEAU as his Excellency's representative, and M. OUINET has taken M. CHAUVEAU's place as Premier of the Government. Mr. TILLEY has defeated Mr. WILMOT as Lieut.-Governor of New Brunswick; and in Nova Scotia the death of Mr. HOWE just after his appointment in place of Sir HASTINGS DOYLE, who returned to England in the summer, left a vacancy which is now ably filled by Mr. ADAMS G. ARCHIBALD, the late Lieut-Governor of Manitoba.

In British Columbia the Government of Mr. MCCREIGHT has been ousted, and that of Mr. DE COSMOS now advises the Lieutenant-Governor of that distant Province.

The visit of the Governor-General to the Maritime Provinces was received with enthusiasm at the seaboard, and the birth of a daughter to his Excellency was the cause of much rejoicing throughout the Dominion.

Mr. JOSEPH ARCH visited us during the autumn with the view of judging for himself of the benefits offered by Canada to the agricultural labourers of England, and to report to the constituents. His opinion was so favourable that we may expect a large influx of this valuable class during the next spring.

Progress has been made in public works designed to benefit the inhabitants of the country. The engineers appointed to survey the new route for the Welland Canal have made their report, and the work will probably be proceeded with in the spring. The first stake of the Pacific Railway has been driven in British Columbia, but how far the change of Government at Ottawa may affect the prosecution of this great undertaking it is as yet impossible to divine. The International Bridge uniting Canada to the United States, which Mr. BARNUM opened with great rejoicing, and several inland railways have reached a completion.

Commercial matters have been of frequent occurrence, and pestilence threatened at one time to justify the alarm which its approach caused in the country awakened. Crimes have unhappily been numerous.

The fire fiend has been abroad, and has committed more than average destruction. Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec, Sorel, Chicoutimi, Belleville, Port Hope, Ottawa, and other towns have suffered severely. In Quebec the Court House filled all the engrossed records of Deeds, and the foot of the cathedral, and the St. James' Hotel. The long railway bridge at Point Levis was destroyed, boiler explosions with fatal results, have occurred at London and Norwich. The epidemic fever which visited Nova Scotia caught fire in May, and continued to burn for months. There have been a number of railway accidents in Ontario comparatively few lives were lost by this means.

Ecclesiastical matters deserve a brief notice. Mr. DUMOULIN, who had been elected by the Provincial Synod of the Church of England to the missionary bishopric of Algoma, after long consideration declined to accept the office, and the Rev. Mr. FAUQUIER was subsequently elected and consecrated in his stead. Steps have been taken to erect a new Diocese out of the present See of Toronto, and progress has been made towards raising an endowment fund for the purpose. Canon FARRAR was consecrated with great ceremony in Montreal, and the Archbishop of Toronto has gone to Rome to obtain the preconization to a new Bishop for the Diocese of Hamilton.

Among other religious bodies the question of union has occupied the most prominent place. Dr. PUNSHON remained in Canada long enough to see consummated the union, not only of the several Methodist conferences of British North America, but also of the Methodist New Connexion with its parent body, and then returned to England, accompanied by the good wishes of all to whom he had ministered. The Canada Presbyterian Church, and the body connected with the Church of Scotland, adopted at their general assemblies resolutions agreeing to a Union, but several prominent members of both bodies have strongly protested against the proposed measure, and it is probable that, if carried out, it may result in another schism.

In England the GLADSTONE Government has continued to lose ground, and the Conservative reaction has become an established fact. Supporters of Mr. DISRAELI have been returned from the most Liberal boroughs, and it is almost certain that the General Election, which must soon take place, will place the Conservatives in power with a good majority to support them.

A war has broken out with the Ashantees, whose claims to the suzerainty of the colony of the Cape Coast have long been pressed with disagreeable results to the settlers. Sir GARNET WOLSELEY, so favourably remembered in Canada in connection with the Red River insurrection, has been sent out at the head of an expedition, and we find from the papers his savage warriors. The worst foes the British troops have to contend against are pestilence and famine, and the former has already numbered its victims among the gallant soldiery. With the aid of native allies, however, the Ashantees have been beaten on several occasions, though the English army has been compelled to wait for reinforcements before pursuing them into their own territory.

The expedition of Sir BARTLE FRERE to Zanzibar has happily resulted in the conclusion of treaties with the British and other native princes, providing means for the more effectual suppression of the slave trade. A similar mission of Sir SAMUEL BAKER to Egypt has been equally fortunate.

A marriage has been arranged between the Czarewitch and Princess MARY, daughter of the Czar of Russia, but in the days Royal intermarriages have but little weight against political movements, and it is impossible to suppose that the union of Prince ALFRED and the Grand Duchess will prevent the Muscovite from pushing on towards our Indian frontier, or the British Government from checking his unconstitutional aims.

The award of the Geneva arbitrators has been paid, and the Alabama difficulty has been settled. How far the terms which were adopted *ex post facto* for the guidance of the arbitrators, and for the future settlement of International disputes, will be adhered to, time will show.

The Home Rule movement has continued to make progress in Ireland, and certain indications have been visible that the Government would be content to concede some portion, at all events, of the claims of the discontented Hibernians.

Religious matters have attracted considerable attention during the year, and the state of the Established Church has been very freely discussed. The celebrated petition of the 483 clergymen for the official recognition of auricular confession drew forth a counter petition from the Church Association, signed by more than 60,000 persons, while the Bishops were called upon to express their opinion on the question at issue, and it was debated in the House of Lords.

The Spanish Republic has passed its first phase in the spring, when the "Claimant" was put upon his trial at bar for perjury. For some months after the trial was characterized by a wearisome sameness, the witnesses on the one side being as certain that the Claimant was not the son of Don CARLOS as those on the other were positive that he was the lost Roman. At last, however, fresh life was infused into the proceedings by the appearance of a man calling himself JAAN LUYS, who swore to the fact which had previously no evidence to support it but the Claimant's own story, that he was saved in the Carlist camp, which Luys declared he was the steward. The prosecution, however, have since been enabled to prove that "LUYS" is a ticket-of-leave man, who at the time when he alleged he was in the Carlist camp, was in fact an inmate of an English convict prison.

Great forgeries on the Bank of England created considerable sensation at the time, but the criminals, having been secured in the United States, Cuba, and England, are now exploiting their crime in a life-long imprisonment.

Railway accidents have occurred with so alarming frequency, and have resulted in too many cases in the loss of life. In a mine explosion in Staffordshire, fifty miners perished, and twenty-five more were killed in a colliery explosion near Wigan. The Alexandra Palace in the north of London, which was intended to be the rival of the Sydenham institution, was burnt to the ground, a fire in Dublin resulted in the loss of 200,000, and a similar mill near Manchester was destroyed, with a total loss of about £500,000.

The one other principal events of the year must be briefly summarized. Captain SHERARD OSBORNE has proceeded on another expedition to discover the Arctic ocean; Dr. LIVINGSTONE has been reported in good health, but still remaining far from home, the Great Eastern has successfully laid another Atlantic cable, which has been joined to the shore at again won the University boat race, and Doncaster won the Derby; BARBATUS, the "Centaur" of the Cuban and Spanish Carlists while carrying the congratulations of English "Republicans" to the British Government. The Ten Years' War in Cuba, which has cost Spain so much treasure and so many lives, has not been successfully laid another Atlantic cable, and the Spanish Government has