

AN IMPERIAL DESPATCH.

THE despatch of Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH on the LETELLIER case has been published in the English newspapers. Both of the parties to the question in Canada have gleaned some crumbs of comfort from it: while both have at the same time found in it some very unpleasant reading. It does not contain one word, however, which might not have been expected, especially after the despatch to the Australian Government which covered some of the leading principles which may be found in this. In the first place, in so far as relates to the Dominion Government, there is the utterance of the broad, plain principle, laid down for the guidance of the Governor General in these words, "that he has simply to follow the advice of his Ministers." It is added that "though the position of a Governor General would entitle his views on such a subject as that now under consideration to peculiar weight, yet Her Majesty's Government do not find anything in the circumstances which would justify him from departing in this instance from the general rule and declining to follow the decided and sustained opinion of his Ministers who are responsible for the peace and good government of the whole Dominion to the Parliament to which according to the 30th Section of the Statute the cause assigned for the removal of a Lieut.-Governor must be communicated." For our own part we were never able to see how the principles contained in this extract could ever have been called in question; and we do not now see that they involve any giving up of the prerogative of the Crown, as exercised by Colonial Governors, as contended by the *London Times*, in countries where the system of responsible Government prevails. The rule simply is that, for every act of Government except the single one of dismissing his Ministers, the Governor must be guided by their advice; and even for the act of dismissing his Ministers he must get others who will become responsible to the Parliament for that act. In the introductory words of the despatch Lord LORNE is justified in making a reference, by the advice of his Ministers; but if the question of making such reference is discussed, by the light of the judgment given, it will not appear to be one of the most exalted political wisdom. The despatch also states that Her Majesty's Government did not require to ask either Mr. LANGEVIN or Mr. ABBOTT, or Mr. JOLY any explanations as to the merits of the question submitted, as between the Dominion Ministers and Mr. LETELLIER. After this statement it delivers a judgment on purely elementary grounds. That cannot be very pleasant reading for every body. But this is not all. The despatch states distinctly that the dismissal of his Ministers by a Lieut.-Governor is an act "clearly within his functions," and further that his political opinions would not be sufficient ground for so grave a step as his removal. It states further, that it was the "spirit and intention of the British North America Act of 1867 that the tenure of the high office of Lieut.-Governor should as a rule endure for the term of years specially mentioned." And again "I have directed your attention particularly to this point because it seems to me to be important that in considering a case which may be referred to hereafter as a precedent, should be defined. The whole subject may, I am satisfied, now be once more reviewed with advantage, and I cannot but think that the interval which has elapsed, and which has from various causes been unavoidable may have been useful in affording means for a thorough comprehension of a very complicated question and allowing time for the strong feelings on both sides, which I regret to observe have been too bitterly expressed, to subside." In another part of the despatch, Lord LORNE is invited to request his Ministers to re-examine the question and the circumstances. Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH in

all this does what in the beginning of his despatch he said Her Majesty's Government would not do; that is he has discussed the merits of the question at issue. The despatch therefore, to this extent, condemns its writer. And it is in short and in reality a snub all round; first, of the Governor General; second, of the Dominion Ministers; third, of the pretensions set up by Mr. LETELLIER and his friends as to the rules by which the question, after it had arisen, ought to be decided; and fourth, to every body for being too heated and bitter, and, in fact, manifesting in this matter, absence of that "moderation and practical sagacity," which Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH told the Australians were necessary, and in fact elementary for carrying on the system of responsible Government.

OFFICERS OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATION OF PROTESTANT TEACHERS, QUEBEC.

REV. PRINCIPAL MACVICAR, LL.D.

The Rev. Principal MacVicar, LL.D., was born near Campbellton, Argyleshire, Scotland. He came to this country when four years of age with his parents, who settled near Chatham, Ont. His literary education was received in Toronto Academy and Toronto University, and his theological training in Knox College, Toronto. In 1859 he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Toronto Presbytery of the Canada Presbyterian Church, and was immediately settled as pastor of Knox Church, Guelph. He was not to remain long in a sphere so comparatively obscure. Eminent professional talent is speedily discovered and demanded for the centres of population—the best sphere for utilizing rare gifts. Accordingly, Free Church, Coté street, Montreal, called Mr. MacVicar as the successor of Dr. Fraser, now of London, England. He accepted the call, and for over eight years discharged the responsible duties of this important pastorate with marked ability and success. During this period the congregation reached the highest point it has ever attained, both in numbers and efficiency—the membership having nearly doubled. Here, too, his eminent abilities as a teacher enabled him to draw together and hold with unflagging interest one of the largest Bible classes ever taught in this Dominion. The pastoral tie was severed by the Synod which, in 1868, appointed him Professor of Divinity in Montreal Presbyterian College. This institution was then in its feeblest beginnings, with no endowment, no books, no building, and only five or six students. Now it has a handsome building, a valuable library, a partial endowment and an efficient staff of Professors and Lecturers; while its last report to the General Assembly shows a larger roll of theological students than any other college in the church. Nor has this work monopolized his time and talents. For six of these eleven years he has had charge, as Moderator of Session, of Coté Street Church, and to him the congregation mainly owe it that they were carried unitedly through protracted vacancies in the pastorate, and the building of their present magnificent edifice. He has ever taken the deepest interest in the work of French Evangelization, and has organized a department in the college for training French students. Many thus prepared are now pastors of French congregations, and a large class is now in training. He has also served about twelve years on the Protestant Board of School Commissioners, and was Chairman when this year he retired. His services in this connection have been invaluable to the cause of education in this city—a fact frankly and repeatedly acknowledged by his fellow-citizens and the public press. It was, therefore, a graceful recognition of long and efficient service when, on the 17th of last month, he was unanimously elected President of the Provincial Teachers' Association. His published lectures and addresses on various questions educational and theological entitle him to be ranked with the most vigorous thinkers of the age; and the two arithmetics which he has recently prepared have already taken their places as standard text books, and have received the highest commendations from educators and the press. He is a Fellow of McGill College, and in 1870 received the highest honour in its gift—the degree of LL.D. *honoris causa*. He has been a member of every General Assembly of his Church, where he exerts a powerful influence in guiding her councils and moulding her decisions in all important matters of doctrine and practice. He was appointed by the General Assembly a member of the first General Presbyterian Council which met at Edinburgh in 1877, and also of the one to meet at Philadelphia in 1880. He received an urgent call to South Church, Brooklyn, at a salary of \$7,000 per annum. This he declined, and we trust that in the future, as in the past, his ardent patriotism, his devotion to his Church, and his deep interest in the educational institutions of Canada, will prove more than a match for these tempting offers. For it is still true, as remarked by the *Witness* on the anticipated removal referred to, that "he is a man of far-reaching influence as an educator, whose labours in connection with the Public School Board have been of

great value to the country * * * and a man we can ill afford to spare."

PROF. M'GREGOR.

Professor James McGregor, M.A., was born at Dundee, Scotland, but came to Canada while yet a boy. He taught school a few years in Canada West, and, in 1857, at the establishment of the McGill Normal School, came hither to take charge of the Boys' Department. In 1864 he graduated at McGill with first-rank honours in Classics. In 1870 he was appointed to his present position in the Normal School as Professor of Mathematics and Instructor in Classics. As to the Teachers' Association, he succeeded Dr. Dawson as President of the Local Association, occupying that position from 1865 to 1879, and he has been Treasurer of the Provincial Association since it began.

PROF. F. W. HICKS.

Professor Frank W. Hicks, M.A., is also a native of the old country, born at Wisbeach, in Cambridgeshire. He graduated at McGill in the same class as Professor McGregor, and has been engaged in teaching ever since. His present position is that of Assistant-Professor of History and English Literature in the McGill Normal School. He has been Secretary of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers since the Sixth Annual Convention in 1869.

NORDHEIMER'S HALL.

Mr. De Zouche has secured Professor R. A. Proctor, the eminent English astronomer and scientist, to deliver a course of three lectures next month; the subjects we believe will be—"Other Worlds and Other Suns," "The Birth and Growth of Worlds," "The Life and Death of Worlds," said to be his three best, if best there be amongst the interesting lectures of this celebrated student and expounder of the celestial mysteries, as well as of the harmonious beauties which the universe presents. He is a man of remarkable fluency of language, speaking without notes, and bringing to bear on his subjects the most apt and ample array of facts and theories needed in the presentation of his theme. The lectures will be brilliantly illustrated with stereopticon views, of which Professor Proctor has nearly six hundred.

Although the expense is heavy, the management have wisely—we think—decided on prices to suit the times—namely, \$1.50 for the course of three lectures with reserved seat, or 50c. for each.

EMMA ABBOT OPERA COMPANY.

It is proposed to commence the sale of seats at Mr. De Zouche's on the 1st November, to open with "Faust," then give operas in the following order: "Mignon," "Chimes of Normandy," "Paul and Virginia," "Trovatore," "Romeo and Juliet," "Martha," and "Bohemian Girl"—eight operas in all.

Already many orders for tickets have been sent in, but the sale will regularly open on the 1st November. Excursion trains are to be run from adjacent towns, with coupon giving admission to the opera.

FOOT NOTES.

FIRE AT ST. JEAN BAPTISTE VILLAGE.—About 3.30 on the morning of the 23rd ult., a fire broke out in St. Jean Baptiste Village, in the suburbs of this city, and before it was brought into subjection seven houses were consumed. The water supply was deficient, and had a high wind prevailed the damage would have been more serious. It is estimated that not less than 45 families are rendered homeless, and in many cases entirely destitute, by the fire. The entire value of property destroyed is estimated at between \$25,000 and \$30,000. The tract devastated covers slightly over two acres.

MARRIAGE.—What should be sought, and what is sought, as a rule, in a husband or a wife, where arbitrary conventional customs and considerations of rank, wealth, and position are not allowed to interfere, is not a counterpart, but a complement—something to supply a lack—the other self, which shall round out one's being, and form a perfect symmetrical whole. As in music it is not contiguous notes which combine to form chords, but those separated from each other, as a first and a third, or a third and a fifth; so we produce domestic harmony by associating graduated differences.

BANTER.—Jesting should have its limits, even at home. Among brothers and sisters a little harmless banter is perfectly admissible, and even perhaps desirable; but a family whose members are always snapping at each other in the style at present approved as clever, both in fiction and reality, can scarcely be upheld as a model of courtesy at home. Both among brothers and sisters, and husbands and wives, a great deal of talk which begins in chaff ends in rudeness. In society, conventional politeness sets certain limits to repartees, but at home there are no such barriers. In private life, when the more refined weapons of conversational dispute fail, the combatants are apt to resort to personal abuse. Wit is a dangerous weapon, and must be used with caution.

TRAINING.—Bacon says that, "wherever it is possible, knowledge should be insinuated into the mind of another in the manner in which it was first discovered." If this principle were fairly carried out, it would work great changes

in our methods of teaching. It is not for oneself, it is not even for others, for society at large, that children should be taught self-control. These profit indirectly by such education, but the children themselves reap the direct benefits; for he that has been taught to regulate his desires and actions is infinitely more happy than he who, ungoverned and ungovernable, chafes always against bounds which he must find somewhere. It is possible to train a child that has been taught nothing; it is impossible to train a child who has been badly taught. Thus a wild horse from the prairies is more easily brought into perfect training than the domestic animal whose mouth has been spoiled and his gait ruined by unskilful horsemanship.

THE DUTY OF HUSBANDS.—The first duty of husbands is to sympathize with their wives in all their cares and labours. Men are apt to forget, in the perplexities and annoyances of business, that home cares are also annoying, and try the patience and strength of their wives. They come home expecting sympathy and attention, but are too apt to have none to give. A single kindly word or look, that tells his thought of her and her troubles, would lift the weight of care from her heart. Secondly—Husbands should make confidants of their wives, consulting them on their plans and prospects, and especially on their troubles and embarrassments. A woman's intuition is often better than all his wisdom and shrewdness; and all her ready sympathy and interest is a powerful aid to his efforts for their mutual welfare. Thirdly—Men should show their love for their wives in constant attention, in their manner of treating them, and in the thousand and one trifling offices of affection which may be hardly noticeable, but which make all the difference between a life of sad and undefined longing, and cheery, happy existence. Above all, men should beware of treating their wives with rudeness and incivility, as if they were the only persons not entitled to their consideration and respect. They should think of their sensitive feelings, and their need of sympathy, and never let the fire of love go out, or cease to show that the flame is burning with unabated fervour.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

MAX MARETZEK has failed.

GERSTER gets \$500 a night this season.

THE Cincinnati *Commercial* calls Mary Anderson "at once the pearl, the pride and the puzzle of the American stage."

THE *Mirror* is authority for the statement that the stage in America employs over 6,000 persons in different classes and qualifications.

CLARA SCHUMANN celebrated her sixtieth birthday on the 13th of September. She suffers so severely from rheumatism that she has been compelled to decline an invitation to London to perform her husband's works.

VICTOR HUGO is going to deprive the Parisians of the pleasure of hearing Verdi's opera of "Rigoletto." He has sent word to the manager of the Theatre Lyrique, who was about to produce the opera, that he does not allow the musical adaptation of his drama to be played in France.

MR. HENRY IRVING is not coming to this country next spring, but his visit, though postponed, will not be abandoned. It is stated that his failure to come is attributed to Mr. Edwin Booth's disinclination to cross the Atlantic at that time to fill an engagement at the Lyceum during Mr. Irving's absence.

ADELAIDE STANHOPE, an actress in the California Theatre, is said to be a granddaughter of the Earl of Harrington. She is by ancestry and intermarriage related to half the British peerage. Her quality of excellence as leading lady is not, however, ancestral, though her grandfather married the famous Miss Foote.

SADLER'S WELLS, an old London theatre, famous first as being a theatre with real water supplied from the adjacent New River, next as a theatre in which Grimaldi, the famous clown, was thoroughly at home, then as the retreat of the legitimate under the Pacific management, has now been rebuilt, and is in charge of Kate Bateman, (Mrs. Crowe.)

LITERARY.

MR. TENNYSON, with his eldest son, is about to make a tour in Italy.

A NEW edition of Jean Ingelow's poem in two volumes, with new poems added, is in press for issue this month in London.

JOHN MORLEY's long-promised "Life of Cobden" will be ready soon after Christmas. It will make two octavo volumes.

LORD BUTE has just completed and is about to publish the first translation into English of the Roman Breviary of the Catholic Church.

MISS MATHERS's story of "Coming thro' the Rye" has been translated into Hungarian by Camille Zichy, under the title of *Jon a rozon ot*.

THE Russian Historical Society is about to edit a dictionary of national celebrities. A number of writers of distinction will, it is stated, assist in the work.

THE Museum of the Louvre has just been enriched by a splendid collection of Greek, Arabic, and Persian papyri, valued at \$9,000, and acquired for \$300, from the Baldouins.

THE second volume of the third series of the late George Henry Lewes' *Problems of Life and Mind* is announced as in preparation by Messrs. Trilmer. The two "problems" discussed are "Mind as a Function of the Organism," and "The Sphere of Sense and Logic of Feeling."

It is the intention of the trustees of the British Museum to use the electric light in the reading room during the winter months, in order to extend the hours for readers, and to illumine the room in foggy weather. The system will be tried of a few lamps hung high above the door level, and a diffusion of the light by reflectors.