

Our London Letter.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Frost and snow are the two things that have made themselves most prominent the last few days, and frost and snow in London is a very different thing from frost and snow in Canada. A most uncomfortable, uncongenial, distressing visitor is Jack Frost here at his best. The people are never prepared for him; the streets are not guarded against his slippery footsteps; the means of locomotion are not adapted to his requirements. But when he comes arm-in-arm with rude boreas, and the two sweep over the shivering and crowding millions of Londoners, there is woe and chattering of teeth and suffering in a hundred sudden forms through the length and the breadth of the great metropolis. The record of the hundred and one consequences of the gale, the frost and the snow, all over the country, which have appeared in the morning papers of the week, is an amazing narrative of all the sufferings, losses of life and property in conveniences, and woe and predicaments which may be brought upon us in a few hours by an unfortunate combination of the elements. All the wheels of our metropolitan life were brought to a sudden stoppage. Within living memory the "stiff village" has assumed the aspects of winter in the Swiss mountains. The gate that drove the snow into every nook and cranny carried a flood over the low-lying southern parts of the metropolis, and with it, unspeakable misery to thousands of poor people.

The release of Mr. Dale and Mr. Enraght from prison is welcomed by nearly all persons, as it will enable both parties to review the situation calmly and dispassionately, which could scarcely be done while two clergymen were suffering imprisonment. You have already seen the address which has been sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury, signed by a large number of eminent and distinguished clergymen. The whole tone and spirit of the appeal are in the best form—kindly, earnest and tolerant, and some of the arguments are not only strong in themselves, but put in the strongest light. Nothing, for example, can upset the judicial fairness of the following passage: "For justice would seem to require that unless a rigid observance of the Rubrical Law of the Church or of recent interpretations of it be equally exacted from all the parties within her pale, it should no longer be exacted from one party alone and under circumstances which often increase the difficulty of complying with the demand." It is surprising what absurdly wrong ideas seem to prevail over this—Persecution, subject. For instance, in a leading journal, which pleads ably and earnestly for justice to Ireland, and even goes the length of attenuating the crimes laid to the charge of the Irish agitators, an article appeared to prove that "legality is no persecution." But if this theory is right, Christians have never suffered persecution. The early Christians suffered martyrdom in strict accordance with the statutes of the Roman Empire; but notwithstanding its legality it was dire persecution. What is it that the Ritualists want? Their answer is "We go to Prison not for the sake of chasubles and candles, but to assert the spirituality of the Church. Give us not secular, but spiritual tribunals to try us, and we shall bow to their decisions. This aspect of the question is worthy of respect and deserves the candid consideration of all parties. Ritualists are not the only people who object to secular legislation in spiritual affairs. But I must confess that I see another aspect to the matter. The extreme High Church party might not fare any better under a spiritual tribunal. True it is, a boy will take a flogging from his own father that he will not put up with from another; yet we know that spiritual courts can be guilty of grosser injustice than can be laid to the charge of civil judges. The fact is in no religious community will a man be allowed to follow the dictates of his private judgment. "What did the Puritans come to America for?" asked a Massachusetts teacher one day of his class. "To have liberty to worship as they liked, and to compel all others to do the same," was the philippic but far-reaching answer of a little boy.

Ireland still engrosses much attention both in Parliament and out of it. Paramount in importance is the putting down of terrorism, intimidation, and "Boycotting," the establishment of law and order, the restitution of the power of recovering rents and just debts from those who have the power of paying, and extending protection to those who are still disposed to meet their obligations. The man is disposed to keep his money in his pocket when in the event of his paying rent there is the risk of serious personal injury or destruction of his property. Paying of rent in the South and West is therefore very irregular or altogether suspended; many ladies and others deriving their sole support from landed estates are reduced to sad straits. In many localities the poor crops of 1879 greatly reduced the tenant's capacity to pay, and, notwithstanding the better returns of last year, agitation withholds rents. Many tenants are now three years behind, and on some rent rolls instances of five years arrears occur, and even where the tenant is known to have the ability to pay up a part, at least, of his indebtedness, the landlord is practically powerless to recover. The debates this week have been singularly dull, although Irishmen have taken the chief part in them, for the present Irishmen in the House of Commons possess none of the eloquence of the Plunketts, Curran and O'Connells, whose shadows still linger about the Speaker's chair. Now and then you may hear a true Irish bull, like Mitchell Henry's, talking about "reaping turnips with sabres," or like that of Mr. Syman about trampling upon Ireland with one hand, while you are doing something else, equally remarkable, with the other; or like that of Mr. Gray's, that three-fourths of the stories about Irish outrages were gross exaggerations, and one-half without any foundation at all. But this is all. The Home Rulers are, as Parliamentary debaters, a dull lot. You seldom hear a gleam of wit; all their eloquence is in their notes, which they hold in their hands or fumble for in their pockets. "Eudymion" has proved very dull reading, and is by no means a popular novel. It is something extraordinary the number of copies that have been returned to the libraries with the leave-out in the second and third volumes. I do not know how long Lord Beaconsfield calculates upon living,—he is seventy six this year,—but he is furnishing his new house in Curzon Street in a way which seems to imply that he intends to rival all the public men of our time in what Brougham called the tricks of longevity. The furniture is all artistic—much of it is marvellously artistic; it is all costly, and it is intended to be so complete and gorgeous that it will rival the dreams—the Oriental dreams—of Lord Beaconsfield's youth. Receptions, banquets, entertainments of all kinds, are to make the house historical, and Lord Beaconsfield's idea is, I hear, to make the Tory Party a party distinguished by fashion and splendour no less than policy. This was Lord Palmerston's idea with the Liberals, and we know the result in his case. He ruled the House of Commons in the drawing-room of Cambridge House. But Cambridge House was graced by a lady, and Lord Beaconsfield possesses everything in Curzon Street but a hostess with the tact and social skill to rally around him all the social, literary, and political influences that rule the world.

SOME heavy returns of gold are recorded in some of the New Zealand gold fields. One company at Reefton near Greymouth, got 950 oz. gold from 780 tons of stone; and another yielded 322 oz. from 140 tons stone.

WHEN a board of eminent physicians and chemists announced the discovery that by combining some well known valuable remedies, the most wonderful medicine was produced, which would cure such a wide range of diseases that most all other remedies could be dispensed with, many were sceptical; but proof of its merits by actual trial has dispelled all doubt, and to-day the discoverers of that great medicine, Hop Bitters, are honored and blessed by all as benefactors.

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The Week.

HOME NEWS.

A Victoria, British Columbia despatch says that official returns place the yield of the gold mines for 1880 at \$1,012,827.

Ottawa, Feb. 11.—It has not yet been decided by the Government whether camps of military instruction will be established this year or not.

The roof of the Canadian Pacific railroad shed at Winnipeg fell its entire length of over 200 feet on Wednesday week from the weight of snow. No one was injured.

Ottawa, Feb. 11.—The cost of the printing service of Parliament for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1880, was \$50,276.53, being a decrease of \$11,216.86 compared with the previous year.

Work has been suspended on the first 100 miles of the Canadian Pacific railroad, and most of the men have returned to Montreal. It is believed that the suspension will be temporary.

The new Temperance paper, the Watchman, gives promise of being a much more useful publication than its predecessor proved itself to be. It is neatly printed, and we wish it success.

New Glasgow, Feb. 12.—The Secretary of the Blue Nose Curling Club has received a telegram from Colonel De Winton, announcing that the Blue Nose Curling Club is one of the two successful competitors for His Excellency the Governor-General's prize, for the Dominion curling clubs, and requesting that the rinks from the club be in Ottawa about the 25th inst., to play against the Scotland Curling Club of Toronto, on the Vice-Regal Curling Rink.

NEWS FROM ABROAD.

London, Feb. 12.—The Baroness Bartlett Couits and William L. Ashmead Bartlett, were married this morning at Christ Church, Piccadilly.

James Anthony Froude announces that Mr. Carlyle left many valuable papers, MSS. etc., and that they will be published apart from the biography of Mr. Carlyle.

London, Feb. 12.—The news says it is rumored that there is a plot to blow up Windsor Castle. Precautions have been taken and the Queen has delayed her return from Osborne.

London, Feb. 14.—A despatch from Durban says General Colley is isolated at Mount Prospect, and that the Boers surrounded his camp. Gen. Sir Evelyn Wood has arrived.

London, Feb. 13.—The War Office has decided to send a regiment of Hussars, 160 artillery, 700 infantry and 100 men, with a considerable number of extra officers, to supply the places of those killed by the Boers.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 12.—Advices from Bam to the 8th inst. state that, having left detachment at Askabad and Geok Tepe, General Shoboleff, with his staff and the bulk of the army, was returning to Bam, which he expected to reach on Saturday.

New York, Feb. 12.—The tank of the Standard Oil Co., at Bergen Point, containing 9,000 barrels of naphtha, exploded this morning, shaking the buildings and breaking the glass in a radius of ten miles. The fire is still burning and, it is feared, will communicate to other large tanks.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 12.—There is no material change in the condition of the water in the overflowed districts. Ten thousand persons were supplied with food yesterday by the relief committee. There was heavy rain yesterday morning with a strong wind.

London, Feb. 14.—An immense mass meeting of Radicals and Irishmen was held at Hyde Park yesterday. Six platforms were occupied and the crowd surged around each of them to listen to remarks of the speakers. Resolutions were passed condemning the coercion bill in any form and Michael Davitt's arrest and action of the Speaker in the House of Commons.

Durban, Feb. 12.—It is reported that a large party of Free State Boers are encamped in Natal territory at a point commanding the road between Ladysmith and Newcastle. Latest accounts from the Orange Free State indicate that the older Boers oppose the breach of neutrality but the younger ones are hostile. Large numbers of Boers have been drawn from the besieged garrison to meet General Colley.

London, Feb. 14.—Large crowds of people assembled on the banks of the Thames to witness the Hanlan Laycock race despite the wretched weather. A rain storm prevailed, and the water of the Thames looked dirty and muddy. The tide was moderate. Both contestants looked in excellent condition, and every way fit to row. The race was well contested throughout. Hanlan took the lead at the start; at Hammersmith Bridge he was three lengths ahead, and won the race easily. Laycock rowed pluckily, but was outpaced.

London, Feb. 12.—A story is current that the Government has intercepted Land League correspondence, and opened many of its letters. It is also freely asserted that schemes fraught with the greatest danger to the peace of the country have been discovered. A most important document is said to have been found on Michael Davitt just before he was arrested, which, it is now asserted, led to his commitment to Portland prison. This document, according to rumor, criminate some of the most prominent agitators and politicians. It is said that Parnell exhibited his sense of its importance by remaining in Paris.

BOOK NOTICES, &c.

W. K. Crawford, King Street, St. John, N. B., has sent us Harper's Magazine for March 1881, which contains the following interesting matter, with the usual amount of admirable illustrations. A striking feature of the Number is its variety:—Bedford Park. Moacwe D. G. way, with eight illustrations; The University of Leiden—W. T. Hewitt, with ten illustrations; The Arran Island J. L. cloud, with ten illustrations; Possibilities of Horticulture—S. B. Parsons, with nine illustrations; A Glimpse of an Old Dutch Town, with sixteen illustrations; Richard Henry Stoddard. A Poem—Henry Ripley Dorr; The Grave-digger—Robert Herrick, with full-page illustration by Abbey; A Nation in a Nut-shell—Geo. P. Latrop, with three illustrations; Anne, A Novel—Constance Fenimore Woolson, with three illustrations by Reinhart; The French Republic—George Merrill; Heads Off! A Story; A Talk on Dress—Maria B. Oakey; A Help-met for Him. A Story—W. M. Baker; The Family Life of the Turks—Henry O. Dwight; A Lydianean. A Novel—Thomas Hardy, with an illustration by Du Maurier.

Editor's Boy Chair: A Plea for the Past—Washington Etquette. American C. Heges—The Late Dr. Chapin—George E. H. Editor's Literary Record: Scull man's Hiss—Blackie's Life of Livingstone.—Meyer's Wordsworth.—Tenyson's Ballads and Other Poems.—Caldage's Verses.—God's All Round the Year—Wallace's Island Life.—Bird's Unbroken Tracks in Japan.—Recent Novels. Editor's Historical Record: Political Intelligence.—Dieters.—Orinway. Editor's Drawer: Anecdote of J. C. Beckingridge.—Another of Mr. Travers.—An emphatic Witness.—Judicial Humors.—Waving the Question (Doubtful).—Artemus Ward's Monument.—Quaker Remorse.—A Gallant Judge.—Good Things from Mr. Lassie's First Book.—An Epistle from Dr. O. W. Holmes.—The Mormon Sabbath.—A Bush at the Der'y, but not exciting (Illustration).—A Permanent Situation wanted.—Ye man of the Stage (Illustration).—The Marchion's Request.—Salem and Lynn.—It's a long Lane that takes Plenty of Turning (Illustration).

A GOOD ACCOUNT.

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Rev. J. Cunningham, Burgeo, Newfoundland; Edward Athwell, Harvey Place, St. John's, do.; Rev. B. Smith, Trinity East, do.; Rev. S. Hill Winsor, Berlin, do.; Rev. F. F. Phelps, St. John's, do.; Rev. Geo. H. Bishop, Hermitage Bay, do.; Fretell Collier, The Forest, St. John's, do.; Rev. H. Dunfield, Trinity West, do.; Miss Woods, Moncton, N. B.; R. L. Smith, St. John, do.; John Voight, Sydney, C. B.; James Voight, do.; Mrs. York Barrington, Sydney Mines, do.; Rev. G. Metzler, do.; Miss Westover, French Village, St. Margarets Bay, N. S.; Leo H. Davidson, Q. C. Montreal, Que.; Mrs. Fickett, Arichat, C. B.; C. W. Covert, Paradise, Ant. Co., N. S.; J. M. Salzman, do.; Joseph Carman, Emmerson, Montserrat; Rev. J. N. Jones, Brackton, Mass.; U. S. A.; Miss J. R. Batesman, Fredericton, N. B.; Mrs. Wm. Leverman, Halifax, N. S.; Joseph Gutz, Seal-ville, East H. J. do.; (2); Al. W. B. Riverdale, C. B. do.; Rev. Chas. Bancroft, Kewilton, Que.; Isaac K. Kelly, New Ross, Lunenburg Co., N. S.; Jas. H. Seaborn, do.; Joseph Corham, Senr., do.; Isaac P. Morse, do.; Edward Presl, Halifax, do.; Capt. Milner, do.; Andrew Corbin, Dartmouth, do.; James Simmonds, do.; Edward Burchell, do.; Mrs. Philip Crighton, do.; Capt. McKenzie, do.; C. Aylwin Crighton, do.; Geo. A. Pyke, do.; Miss Stewart, do.; Wm. Keating, do.; Mrs. Donald Fraser, do.; Miss M. A. Dobson, do.; O. Pryor, Halifax, do.; Jno. W. DeWolf, do.; Aubrey Smith, do.; (2); Jno. Lawell, do.; Rev. J. B. Umacke, do.; (2); Mrs. Finlay, do.; Thos. Mitchell, do.; Mrs. Pratt, do.; D. Robertson, do.; E. Marshall, do.; D. Billy, do.; Mrs. W. S. Salt, do.; Hon. M. I. Wilkins, do.; (2); J. Fricker, do.; J. B. Handley, do.; Mrs. Edward Pines, do.; Hon. Judge DesBares, do.; Nopman Clarke, do.; Mrs. Wallace, do.; H. St. G. Twining, do.; Mrs. H. H. Grant, do.; G. O. Davidson, do.; J. H. Fifth, do.; R. Cabot, do.; Com. Genl. Murray, do.; J. P. M. H. do.; L. W. DesBares, do.; Thos. Goudge, do.; W. E. Brine, do.; Chas. Pickford, do.; Jno. Farquharson, do.; E. D. Tucker, do.; B. G. Gray, do.; Hon. Judge Weatherbe, do.; Mrs. Wainwright, do.; Mrs. J. G. Trider, do.; Mrs. J. A. Boney, do.; Mrs. Wolfe, Oxford Mills, Ontario; Wm. McCloughan, do.; Joseph Todd, do.; C. W. Jones, do.; Wm. Johnston, do.; Jno. R. Wallace, Halifax, N. S.; Lewis Parker, do.; Robt. Stather, do.; Dr. G. J. Shreve, Lincoln Centre, Maine, U. S. A.; Miss Folland, Port Hill, P. E. I.; Wm. Newcomb, do.; Rev. Alfred Osborne, Charlottetown, P. E. I.; Mrs. R. W. Fitzgerald, do.; Mrs. M. Yne, do.; F. Brock, Fort Howe Road St. John, N. B.; Mrs. M. E. Bent, Amherst, N. S.

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