BUSINESS NOTICE.

We wish to secure good CLUB AGENTS at every Post Office in Canada. Will our friends be kind enough to send in or on the names and addresses of any they think would be suited for this work—by so doing they will add greatly When in Toronto we would be pleased to see you at our office, and receive any suggestions or information you may have to impart.

The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, DEC. 14, 1877.

THE LAURIER GLORIFICATION.

WHAT is it all about—this ecstatic display by the Grit Party over M. LAURIER's return for Quebec East? A stranger might be excused for supposing that a wonderful victory had been achieved by the Government of which M. LAURIER is a member. There can be no good objection taken to any reasonable compliment paid to M. LAURIER because that he remains an entity of the House of Commons, and is a member of the Cabinet. But the string of denunciations which have followed one another in hot haste for over a week have been turned into occasions for glorifying the Government and vehemently declaring to the people of the Dominion that a splendid victory has been achieved.

Let us look at the matter with a little particularity. Wherein does this great victory consist? For a starting point we have to go back to the exit of M. CAUCHON from the Government. This opened Quebec Centre. But not to a Ministerialist. A little search up and down the constituency satisfied the Ministry that it would be useless for them to run a man pledged to support them. In their straits they thought it wise to accept an independent candidate who has considerable sympathy with the Opposition. M. MALOUIN will be faithful to the pledge made to his constituents. Were he a Conservative, his return would mean the loss to the Government of two on a division. Having regard for his position, we take his return to the House of Commons as a loss of one vote only on a division. After Quebec Centre came Drummond and Arthabaska. M. LAURIER went back to his county with all the prestige which attaches to a new Minister, and was rejected by a most significant change in the political complexion of the constituency. The gaining of Drummond and Arthabaska to the Opposition means a change of two votes in the House of Commons. Thus far, then, we count a gain of three on a division. We now come to Quebec East, chosen for M. LAURIER to came in the General Election of 1874 M. THIBAUDEAU had been elected by acclamation, and that as a previously contested election the Ronge candidate triumphed over his Bleu opponent by a majority of 680. The acclamation in one case, and the majority of 680 in the other reduced to 315, do not indicate much progress in Quebec East in the direction either of Liberal Catholicism or Catholic Liberalism. Possessing unusual personal popularity, M. LAURIER going to Quebec East as a Minister, roughly, considering the constituency record, to have been returned by a majority of a thousand at least.

Apart from the actual numerical gain to the Opposition, we must remember that the Quebec East election from the Premier a slight measure of Protection as regards our shipping and shipbuilding interests, and also the partial amnesty granted to O'DONOUGH, against which they and their friends had on three several occasions vociferously declaimed and voted in the House of Commons.

There is not in this record much ground for Ministerial glorification. It is naturally pleasing to M. LAURIER's friends to have him back in Parliament—for ourselves we never desired to see him out of it—but when, with the borrowed aid of fireworks and calcium lights, he was the case in Ottawa, an attempt is made to drag a demonstrative crowd together and to show that the Government have had a triumph, it is time to point to facts. M. CAUCHON's withdrawal from the Cabinet brought with it a series of disasters, which are shorn of their extremely damaging character only by the circumstance that M. LAURIER has saved his neck in a thorough-paced Rouge constituency. There is in the whole series of events all-sufficient proof of the extreme weakness of the Government. The reaction showed itself in Quebec East by a large reduction of the Grit majority; it showed itself in Quebec Centre by the election of a Conservative-Independent in the place of a member of the Government; it showed itself in Drummond and Arthabaska by a complete reversal of the political character of the constituency and the defeat of a Minister. Thus the reaction raises circle after circle, and, apply justifies the *Journal de St. Hyacinthe*, a Ministerial paper, in going to the extent of saying; "Much" as we rejoice at M. LAURIER's success, we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that our Party is in a bad strait "when it actually rejoices, not over a "victory won from the enemy, but at being able to hold its own. This is "certainly not a sign that it is hopeful "of success at the coming general election."

VERY INDECENT.

A PUBLIC School Inspector sends us a circular (published in another column) which will serve to show the means taken to bolster up certain members of the Central Committee, Mr. CROOKS' Advisory Council. We publish only a portion of our correspondent's letter. The remainder of it we exclude, because it bears upon the recent investigation, to which it has been our desire not to refer in any way whatever. We cannot be wholly silent, however, when so utterly indecent a proceeding as our correspondent reveals is going on in our very presence. There is no difficulty in tracing it to its proper source. In it is visible the same hand which we saw in the movement started by Dr. TASSIE of Galt, after the recent investigation was ordered, to pronounce Dr. MCLELLAN guiltless beforehand. We had that little game stopped. Now, there is another going on, and a more impudent and shameless one it is in every sense. This time, we have reason to believe, the ballting tool is Mr. C. CLARKSON, B.A., Brockville. From him the circular emanated, and to him it was to be returned when filled. We are curious to know how many Model School Masters have appended their names to this disgraceful and very truthful document. As they are all tyros at their work, having been appointed only a couple of months ago, we should expect from them an extent of modesty to which Dr. MCLELLAN and Mr. CLARKSON are wholly strangers. So impertinent an attempt to dragoon these newly-appointed teachers into championing a cause of which we shall be able to speak more freely by-and-by-are ripe the climax of, that speaks of boldness which has been so long practised by and on behalf of one whom it is needless here to name. We call Mr. CROOKS' attention to Mr. CLARKSON's gross misconduct; and we are justified in asking him to rebuke this impertinence in a way that will have a healthy influence in educational matters for some time to come.

SPECULATION IN GOLD.

It is now some time since the New York gold brokers met at DELMONICO's, to celebrate the formal closing of the gold-room. By some the affair was called the gold brokers' funeral—not indeed of these estimable gentlemen in their respective individual capacities, but as a corporation. It was described as one of the jolliest of funerals, and the suspicion may have remained with some that it was only a sham funeral after all, and that speculation in gold, as probable to a few in time past, was not destined immediately to disappear from among the contingencies of time to come. There is something to be made out of the turns in the market, even when the margin between gold and greenbacks averages under three per cent. There would, however, be much more to be made if from the action of the Treasury and Government the public mind were seized with the idea that a jump to ten or fifteen per cent. was not only possible but probable. And it is certainly the interest of those who are speculators by profession that such a state of doubt and uncertainty as is thus indicated should obtain.

We fancy that with not a few old speculators must have revived when they read, among the latest news, that a large pool had been formed in Washington to buy gold, in anticipation of a rise to follow the expected passage of the Silver Bill. This report may or may not be true at the moment, but it would probably touch the truth very closely to say that such a pool has for a long time had a substantial though latent existence, and has been ready at very short notice to assume functions of activity. Gold speculation in the United States is like the proverbial cat of nine lives. It cannot easily be killed, because there are so many wealthy, active, and influential people who will not willingly let it die. Every one of them is a DEMETRIUS—by this craft he has or hopes to have his wealth—only his idol is of gold and not of silver. To them a silver bill, an anti-resumption bill, or anything that creates fresh uncertainty and excites to fresh speculation, is a godsend of good luck. It is their interest that greenbacks should not become equal to gold, but with that their occupation would be gone. And, therefore, when we hear of the battle in Congress between gold money men on one side, and silver men and paper money men on the other, let us not forget the strong and influential band of gold brokers and their controlling clients, whose interest it is that the fight should continue.

THE FALL OF PLEVNA.

THE tidings of the fall of Plevna, received Tuesday, can scarcely have taken anybody by surprise. It was manifest to those who have the most rudimentary acquaintance with military strategy that from the hour the Russians succeeded in establishing themselves on the Sophia road, between Plevna and Orchanie, OSMAN Pasha's position was desperate, unless a strong relieving force could advance to his assistance—of which there seemed to be scarcely any chance. Although the capture of Plevna and the number of the garrison constitute a very serious reverse for Turkey—especially with the Russian troops holding the Schipka Pass—the result of course by no means ended. Yet, as the London *Times* suggests, matters have now come to a stage when the good offices of other Powers, England especially, may find a favourable opportunity for intervention in a peaceful kind. In view of this contingency it may be worth while to glance at the policy lately indicated by Earl DERBY, when waited on recently by deputations, in whose idea, untrammelled by official responsibilities, England ought either to have sent troops to the assistance of the Turks.

Most people will admit, we opine, that in the present critical position of affairs in France, and in the general inflammatory state of Europe, calm good sense in public men in England is especially needed in the direction of the public mind. There have been bursts of enthusiasm by out-of-office politicians, and chivalry and philanthropy in plenty. These commodities are cheap, and the supply has been equal to the demand. What is wanted is sober judgment, such as was exhibited by Earl DERBY both at the Mansion-house dinner and on the occasion when quite recently deputationists assumed to themselves recently the office of jogging the Foreign Secretary's elbow, and intimating to him the way in which he and his colleagues ought to go. These gentlemen, we fear, in advising British armed intervention, as things then stood, must have forgotten, if they ever realized, what war among first-class Powers means in gold, and what it has meant in time past to Britain. Under the rule of the great governing families, Tory or Whig, from 1689 to 1832, a period of 143 years, when England was to all intents and purposes almost an oligarchy, and constantly at war, the national debt rose from nil to £840,000,000. If there was a brilliant series of triumphs from the taking of Namur to the battle of Waterloo, there was a respectable number of reverses, and a naval defeat or two, with vast expenditure of blood and treasure. Since then immensely increased commercial transactions have aided a modification in Foreign Office traditions in effecting a different state of things, the forty-five years which have elapsed since the middle classes, Conservative or Liberal, undertook the government of England have been signalized by only one short war with a first-class Power, and by no conspicuous disaster or loss of territory.

Judging, therefore, from the conduct of Earl DERBY and his colleagues we may assume that the very appreciation they have shown of the proverb, "The "beginning of strife is as the letting "out of waters," will, so far as English interest and policy are concerned, prevent them in the future from being driven into any injudicious or precipitate course, and from allowing, for the sake of whether by *pro*-Turkish or *pro*-Russian enthusiasts. So long as they consider the situation "without any wild or "British interests" they will hesitate at British interference. This policy concedes everything which responsible statesmanship can advise as a sound and community demand. There are no doubt agitators, Turkophiles and Russophiles, who are sadly disappointed that the Government of England has steadily kept on in a wise neutrality so far. But the Government knows what a vast gunpowder magazine Europe is at present, and how great are the difficulties and complications which only those in high office in a position to see the matter in full work. We imagine that the British Cabinet will continue, as heretofore, a prudent, waiting policy—patiently watching the progress of events, and eschewing all impatient counsels, from whatever quarter presented, which would involve the enormous responsibility of the sacrifice of the gigantic sacrifices, comprehended in gratuitous active interference in a contest in which Britain could scarcely have anything to gain and might have much to lose.

The speech of Count ANDRASSY at Vienna a day or two ago reminds one of the fact that both Germany and Austria—on whose course of action so much depends, have carefully abstained so far from showing their hands. Germany is a Power whose policy, while it cannot for an instant be doubted, may be very far from coinciding with that of Downing Street. Orators and deputationists can afford to overleap such considerations. But to statesmen charged with the immense responsibility of wielding the power of England, they are of prime moment, and must determine all their resolves and every word they utter. There are rocks and shoals on every side, and only by consummate skill can the vessel of the State be steered through them with safety and honour. Lord DERBY has given ample proof that in all essential respects the Government is in full accord with the mass of the People, and that it will continue so without any change of front other than may be rendered necessary by the pressure of new events. This will be enough for every sensible person. A Ministry, sound in its main policy, may safely be left to arrange proper and unconstitutional. In that connection, he was associated with REIL and LEPINE. They knew but little English, and he was the interlocutor between the English-speaking people and the Provisional Government. The so-called Fenian invasion of Manitoba was part and parcel of the scheme of REIL and LEPINE, no less and no more than O'DONOGHUE, were agents and principals in this movement. The intention was to alarm the Dominion authorities and to obtain by the demonstration on the frontier those rights and privileges which they claimed they ought to possess. At the supreme moment when O'DONOGHUE was organizing the raid at Emerson, REIL and LEPINE saw new light and approaching Lieut.-Governor ARCHIBALD offered him their services against the raiders. By that, says O'DONOGHUE, the two French rebels relieved themselves of the attainture of the Scott murder, and obtained amnesty from the Dominion Government. As for the murder of SCOTT, O'DONOGHUE declares that not only did he not advise or countenance it, but he protested against it as not not to be justified on any ground. He charged REIL and LEPINE that the taking of SCOTT's life would sully the record of the Provisional Government, hurt their cause and provoke hostile public sentiment. These facts, he avers, were so well known in Manitoba that when Attorney-General CLARKE set about the prosecution of LEPINE, he offered to give the Irish rebel free conveyance and safe conduct if he would come and testify on behalf of the Crown. Under these circumstances, he maintains that an amnesty placing the principals in a position to think there had been no pardon, but a compliance with the demand