

Gabriel Dumont has, it seems, returned to his home at Dur Lake, and at once began to organize an agitation for the payment to the rebels of their losses in the campaign of 1885. At first sight it appears rather a cool proceeding for a rebel leader, on his return under amnesty to talk somewhat loudly about restitution of losses which the Metis brought on themselves; but the proceedings of Dumont are as yet constitutional, and, the offences having been condoned, the Government can afford a fairly liberal interpretation of claims. The vast influx of settlers will effectually prevent any repetition of such a rising as that of 1885. Still, if it lie with a Metis to be modest, Dumont would be well advised to cultivate that attraction.

The Rochester, N. Y., *Herald* has a very kindly and appreciative paragraph on the recent telegrams of sympathy with the United States Navy in their loss at Samoa, but is evidently not quite posted on the British Navy List. The *Herald* speaks of "Charles Beresford, Admiral-in-Chief of the British Navy." No doubt Lord Charles might be glad to find himself in that position—if such a one existed, but as a matter of fact Lord Charles, who happened to be the sender, if we remember rightly, of the message on behalf of the Channel Fleet, is a Captain of 1882, and about ninety down the list of that rank. It is pleasant to note also in this connection that the New Zealand Government promptly placed a steamer at the disposal of Admiral Kimberley for the transport of his shipwrecked crews, of which the *Herald* also speaks as "a gracious and generous act."

We have often urged that the amendment of social customs, and the spread of true philosophic principles of temperance, together with the continual and increasing working of legitimate moral and religious suasion, are rendering unnecessary extreme measures in the direction of prohibition. In support of this view we quote the following from the *London Times*:—"Temperance has greatly advanced and is advancing. The revenue returns would be in themselves proof of this, but there is other evidence which is within the personal experience of everyone. The wealthier class consume infinitely less wine than they did, and what wine they drink is lighter. Partly from a transformation of the general ideas of hygiene, and partly from a wish to set an example, the dinners of the well-to-do are accompanied with far less wine than they were twenty or even ten years ago. Officers' messes are in the same case; so are undergraduates' wine parties. The majority of ladies at an ordinary dinner party never taste wine at all."

In a lecture on European subjects recently delivered by Principal Forrest, the lecturer expressed his opinion that the next great war would probably arise on the eastern question. Russia, he thought, would yet be the instrument for the expulsion of the Turk, and it was quite possible that England might yet view with equanimity a Russian occupation of Constantinople. Howsoever these surmises may turn out, we have always deplored the Russophobia generated by that miserable fiasco, the Crimean war, and so long as England is great at sea we have never yet been able to perceive why she should be scared at this contingency. If it were once accomplished with the good will of Great Britain, Russia, although her power would be enormously enhanced, would experience but little temptation to interfere with her in India, and would in all probability become as friendly as she always was before the shallow but crafty Louis Napoleon succeeded in bamboozing a weak English Government and stirring up bad blood.

We cannot but acknowledge in a more than ordinary manner the courtesy which the *Educational Review* (St. John) has shown us in the pains it has taken to answer a question which we knew involved considerable trouble and thought. We have no doubt the *Review* will as courteously accept as our excuse that, like Miss Dartle—only with the difference of sincerity—we really asked "for information." The subject has some peculiar attractions for students of the bearing of ancient science on the religions of antiquity, and we shall from time to time find space to recur to it. Access to the best authorities on assyriology, which is the fountain-head of zodiacal myth, is not easy here, and that is one reason why, presuming on its high standard, we ventured to tax the kindness of the *Educational Review* which we have to thank now for one or two points, notably that of the difference between the actual and the theoretical length of the signs—a point of which, without being actually ignorant of it, we had for the time lost sight.

The debate on the proposed subsidy of \$500,000 per year for a fast Atlantic service has placed Mr. Jones in a somewhat unpleasant position. The worst enemy of Halifax could not have advanced arguments more likely to injure her interests than those used by the senior member for Halifax County in his place in Parliament. In purely political questions there is every reason for Mr. Jones opposing the Government of the day, but we are astonished to find him opposing a measure that is of vital importance to the trade and commerce of this port. His position is not improved when it is pointed out that Mr. Jones is the Agent of the Dominion Line of Steamships, a line dividing the present subsidy with the Allan Company, and rendering a most inefficient service with Portland as the terminal point. The arguments are not the arguments of Mr. Jones, the member for Halifax, but of Mr. Jones, the Agent of the Dominion S. S. Line, and therein lies the sting. When he contends that it is useless for Canada to attempt to compete in the Atlantic service with New York lines for either cabin or steerage passengers, threatens that the withdrawal of the subsidy from the present lines will increase the rate of freight, and denounces the fast service as unnecessary and extravagant, he is betraying the interests of his constituents to favor the interests of his steamship line. We sincerely regret that Mr. Jones, who has many qualifications necessary to make him a valuable representative of this constituency, should have so far forgotten his duty as to array himself in opposition to the interests of Halifax.

There is considerable evidence that Newfoundland is entering on a new era of progress, and energy in pushing it. A fishing bureau has been organized, hatcheries are to be established, and greater attention is to be given to the bait-fisheries. Agricultural resources and capabilities have been discussed in the Legislature, and a model and stock farm is being agitated for. The opening up of the country by railways is to be vigorously taken in hand, and a manhood suffrage has been adopted. Nova Scotia has scarcely yet ceased to suffer from the old idea that it was a frozen wilderness with nine months winter and three months bad weather, and many accounts indicate that Newfoundland also may be found to possess a better climate and greater agricultural resources than is commonly believed.

It might be thought that all that is obnoxious to the *Ottawa Evening Journal* had been exhausted by Halifax and St. John, but after all it seems that the head and front of the offence of claiming a population of 43,000 lies with Hamilton, which unhappy city is scathed after this fashion:—"Hamilton, we may state, is situated near Toronto. From that place it has imbibed a spirit of overweening self-conceit, without any of Toronto's advantages to justify it. It used to have a second rate baseball team, which advertised it somewhat, but this year could not guarantee the small salaries required by the players, and is consequently sinking into its original obscurity." Then follows a comparison of the taxation of Hamilton and Ottawa respectively, and it is surmised that "Hamilton men, with that unscrupulous mendacity which often characterizes inferior people, will no doubt argue that this comparison is to Hamilton's advantage, never saying a word about the eight or ten millions of Government or church property here exempt from taxation, or about the \$2,000,000 city of Hull with its 10,000 progressive people linked to us. In fact, taking in Hull, this centre of population rivals Quebec both in assessment and number of people. Moreover if quality and not quantity be considered the best standard of supremacy in cities, Quebec is far inferior to Ottawa, while Hamilton becomes less than half as important. We are inferior to Hamilton, St. John and Halifax chiefly in jail population." This is conclusive. But what on earth is the matter with our really respected contemporary?

There are some old titles which seem to have a prestige of ill-fortune, and no matter how often revived, are sure to lapse again after a short time. Something of this uncanny weird inheres in the dukedom of Albany, but that of Buckingham is a more striking instance. It has been a great title. In one or two of its representative families it has been very near the throne, so near in Henry the Eighth's time that the propinquity brought the Duke's head to the block at the command of that summary monarch. Richard the Third had also dealt in like fashion with a previous possessor of the title. We believe it was in the person of the late Duke still so near as to come within the legitimate line of succession in the event of a failure of the more direct heirs of the House of Guelph—a concatenation against which, however, the prolific qualities of the Royal Family are probably a quite sufficient guarantee for some time to come. The Buckingham title has now for the fourth time become extinct. Besides the descendant of the Plantagenets executed by Henry, it has been borne by the Villiers and Sheffields, in both of which houses it died out. The Dukedom just demised was of late creation, 1822 only, but the long string of associated family names borne by its incumbent are evidence of the wide-reaching connection which led to its recreation. The late Duke, who was a man of ability, and for some years Governor of Madras, rejoiced in the names of Richard Plantagenet Chandos Temple Nugent Bridges Cavendish Grenville. The heir to the Earldom of Temple is Mr. W. S. Gore-Langton. Whether he is a person of sufficient consequence to revive the Dukedom we do not know. Probably not.

A fecundity and spreading power has been ascribed to the French-Canadian race which proves when critically investigated to be somewhat fabulous. Some time ago we reproduced some statistics which disproved the exaggerated statements as to the extent of French families. The latest aspect of the scare is the notion that this wonderful people are now overrunning New England. The last Massachusetts census (1885) gives the following figures, which are not particularly alarming, though of course the last three years may have altered proportions a little:—

Place of Birth.	Number.	Percentage.
Native born.....	1,415,274	72 87
Massachusetts.....	1,117,440	57 54
Other New England States.....	216,725	11 16
Other States.....	81,109	4 17
Foreign born.....	526,867	27 13
Canada (English).....	79,966	4 12
Canada (French).....	64,503	3 32
England.....	56,924	2 93
Scotland.....	15,970	0 82
Ireland.....	244,629	12 60
Germany.....	23,115	1 19
Sweden.....	9,436	0 49
Portugal.....	6,118	0 31
Other countries.....	26,216	1 35

A contemporary observes on these statistics that "Ireland heads the list with inhabitants of foreign birth, contributing about 1 person in 8 of the whole population, while Canada comes next with a contribution of 144,469, or 1 in 13½. The French-Canadians, it will be noticed, are 64,503, as against 79,966 of English-Canadians. Of the latter Nova Scotia furnishes for its quota 40,839, Prince Edward Island 6,809, and New Brunswick 16,449. The remarkable fact is that there are more Canadian-born English in Massachusetts than Canadian-born French. There is little reason to suppose that the case is much different in other New England States."