

declared! something more from F—— H——; and a new story from S—— and wouldn't I like to see the handwriting of this last! and didn't I wish I could read it in MS. three whole months before the rest of the world.—so good-night to me!—and he had fled into the darkness like a lively, demented old miser.—SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE.

CURRENT EVENTS.

THE meeting of a new Parliament for the first time is always an interesting event. There are so many developments of character and of intrigue to be watched, so many positions to be defined, so many maiden speeches to be made, and so much marshalling of forces to be done, that the bystander can easily find food for amusement, and probably for not a little cynical reflection. The excitement deepens as the opposing parties become more evenly matched, and few can resist the tendency to cast their sympathies on either one side or the other during the struggle. The variety of issues presented to the people at the last general election for the Dominion was so great, and the want of consolidation on both sides so marked, that it was a matter of great difficulty to determine the actual result of the contest. The number of so-called independent members elect was disproportionately large; and, according as these would range themselves on one side or the other, the ministry or their opponents would have a majority in the House. As is usual in such cases, the first divisions clearly proved that the predictions of the newspaper organs on both sides were erroneous. The fact that the government has been sustained for the present, falsifies the vaticinations of the opposition, while the ministers themselves will scarcely feel disposed to consider their majority a safe one. It remains to be seen whether, in a House of two hundred members, a not very reliable majority of less than twenty will suffice to enable the government to weather the session in the face of an opposition powerful in numbers, consolidation, and talent. Many grave questions are coming up for discussion, including, more especially, the Pacific Railway, and, if we may rely upon the implied promise given recently in public by Mr. Blake, the Washington Treaty; the Premier will require all the ability, tact, energy and astuteness which he and his colleagues possess in order to ward off attacks, sure to be as determined as they are well arranged.

The reconstruction of a cabinet is not always or necessarily a sign of weakness; yet, the impression seems to prevail, that nothing but the most urgent necessity could have driven the