

that all respectable men, who are not paupers, should have the right to vote in any locality where they have resided for a given time. This is manhood suffrage in the ordinary sense of that term. One of the delegates spoke in favor of woman suffrage also, but in this he was speaking his own sentiments. That manhood and womanhood suffrage are coming, any thoughtful person can see. Whether it is worth while to prolong the agitation by refusing them now, is a good subject for the Government to consider. From a statesman's point of view the policy of Mr. Gladstone in making the franchise as comprehensive as possible, is a sound one, whether his party is to gain by it or lose. If Mr. Mowat will undertake to deal with the matter in the same broad spirit, he may trust his party's interest to the intelligent and patriotic public. Meanwhile, if women wish to get the privilege of voting at political elections, they should make use of the school and municipal franchises which they already have.

The terms "farmer," "crofter," and "cottar," which occur so frequently in the accounts of the land movement in Scotland, are easily distinguishable. A "farmer" is a tenant who pays more than thirty pounds of rent per annum for his holding. A "crofter" is one who pays less than thirty pounds. A "cottar" is the occupant of a cottage, for which he pays no rent, and to which he has no title—in short, what is called in America a "squatter." The owner of the pet lamb in the Winan's deer-forest case is a "cottar," and public sympathy has been shown him by the crofters and cottars of the locality, who organized lately something like a charivari march through Winan's deer forest by way of bravado. At a recent meeting of crofters at Portree, in response to a landlord's meeting at Inverness, a resolution was carried declaring that "leases between landlord and tenant for crofts would be evidence of the power of landlords to still oppress those who cultivate God's earth." At a pro-crofter meeting in Glasgow, it was resolved "that all men being equal in the sight of God, all are equally entitled to the use of the land on which he has called them to live." At the same meeting the Rev. Robert Thomson, of Glasgow, addressed his hearers as "fellow-citizens," adding that that would be the good word by and bye, "when there would be no dukes or earls, or anything of that kind"—a sentiment which was received with cheers and laughter. From these and similar indications it would seem that the encroachment on the territorial influence of the landed aristocracy is likely to proceed step by step with the encroachment on the hereditary legislative powers of the House of Lords.

If all the members of the British aristocracy were like the Countess of Aberdeen, the crusade against lords and landlords would be harder to arouse. Her Ladyship has in full operation in the vicinity of several of the public schools in Aberdeenshire, institutions at which the children can have a warm dinner for a penny a day, the amount being reduced to a half-penny for a second member of the same family where there is one. At one school, where 100 pupils dine daily, the balance of receipts over expenditures on the year's operation was one pound. The institutions are intended to be self-sustaining, but Lady Aberdeen pays for those children whose parents are too poor to afford them a dinner.

Amidst the too prevalent adulation of Robert Burns it is satisfactory to get now and then an opinion from an admirer who is candid enough to tell his hearers that their idol had serious faults. Prof. John Stuart Blackie, of Edinburgh, in a recent public address said that "however much we may excuse or palliate our neighbor's faults we cannot dethrone our ideal of moral sense and conduct without doing permanent injury to ourselves. Burns rose by the strength of his own genius and fell by force of his own passion. If his character had been as great as his genius he would not have blundered and wrecked his life as he did, for his life was a tragical wreck—a brilliant blunder. He had many fine elements in his character. He was a man of great generosity and great gratitude. He was a man of manly pride and high self-esteem. He had a great mind and high intellectual ambition. But the defect of his character was a sad want of volition and of purpose as to his work." If there were more of this candid talk there would be a more prevalent, as well as a sounder appreciation of Burns amongst readers of his poems.

ONLOOKER.

## General News.

## CANADIAN.

Railway traffic throughout the Dominion was greatly interfered with by Sunday's snowstorm. The storm was felt at its worst in Western Ontario, where traffic was blocked for a long time.

At Kingston, a few days ago, some thieves entered the house of a man named Kelly, and stole bank receipts to the value of \$500.

The number of deaths among Roman Catholic citizens of Montreal since the 1st January reaches the alarming total of nine hundred.

Rev. Timothy O'Connell, of London, Ont., was dismissed by the Bishop of Huron, on account of his scandalous and disorderly conduct in frequently drinking to excess, and being seen in different places in an intoxicated condition.

Mr. Wm. Aikens, of Seaforth, was found frozen to death in a snowbank about five miles from the town on 17th inst. He had evidently got into deep snow with his horse and cutter, and becoming confused, lost his way. There were farm houses quite close at hand.

**FIRES.**—At Hagersville, on 16th, a fire broke out in a barn owned by Benjamin Jaques, and quickly laid it in ashes. Two valuable horses, five cows, a mower and reaper combined, and other implements, about 1,200 bushels of grain, and fifteen or twenty tons of hay were destroyed. The loss is very heavy.—At Port Rowan on 16th inst., the residence of Mr. H. W. Dimon, which was the largest and considered the finest residence of the town, was totally destroyed by fire.—At Cornwall, on Feb. 17th, a fire broke out about 7 o'clock at the residence of A. Corriveau, East Cornwall, caused by the explosion of a coal oil lamp. The house is a total loss, and was valued at \$1,200; contents, \$800. Partly insured.

## UNITED STATES.

No less than seventy-five thousand men and women, in the city of New York, are said to be out of employment.

The Michigan House of Assembly, in Committee of the Whole, agreed to a constitutional amendment prohibiting the liquor traffic.

One man was killed and ten seriously burned or injured by a gas explosion in the Fanhill coal mines, at Wilkesbarre, Pa.

A bill has been introduced into the Michigan Legislature making it a crime for teachers or pupils to chew tobacco in the public schools.

Every saloon-keeper in Galesburg, Ill., and several in the towns adjoining, have been indicted for selling liquor to inebriates and minors.

Two stock trains collided at Conemaugh, Pa., on Monday morning. William Keeler and Joseph Erb, drivers, were killed, and a tramp was badly hurt.

A dispatch from Salt Lake City says that the town of Alta has been nearly wiped out by an avalanche. It has been snowing for a week, is twelve feet deep on the level, and is still storming hard. On the night of the 13th a tremendous volume of snow swept down over the Emma mine works. Then it struck the town, crushing about three-fourths of it, but fortunately many of the houses were deserted for the winter. Tucker's boarding house was swept away, and his hotel crushed. A large portion of the lost were in the boarding-house and hotel. Twenty-eight were buried. Twelve were dug out alive the following morning. The rest undoubtedly are all dead. Men from Salt Lake formed a digging force to get out the bodies. Three were taken out at last accounts with much difficulty, and in a heavy storm and severe cold.

**FIRES.**—The town of Wickford, R.I., was saved from destruction by fire on Monday night by a change in the wind. The loss was \$20,000.—Five buildings including Percival block, at Jacksonville, Fla., were burned Sunday morning. Loss, \$50,000.—Nearly all the business portion of Ovid, N.Y., was destroyed by fire on Wednesday. Abram Covert, the wealthiest merchant in the village, became demented over his losses and cut his throat, but may recover. The total loss is about \$140,000.