

this view. Prince Edward Island, along with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have decided advantages over Ontario, in being nearer to the English market, and should therefore get better prices for their stock. But to insure these better prices they must necessarily raise better stock. The Governor-General, in his speech at the Hamilton Fair, gave our farmers fair warning that, if they wish to retain any hold on the English market, they must send over only the best of cattle, and this applies more particularly to the Maritime Provinces.

Altogether we have reason to be pleased with the estimate of our country made by Professor SHELDON, and we have no doubt that when his views are placed before that portion of the British public, for whom they are intended, the result will be in the highest favourable to the vital cause of immigration.

THE IMMENSE SIZE OF THE DOMINION.

It is remarkable how heedless we are of many things that concern us nearly, because affecting our national wealth and greatness. An allusion made by Sir CHARLES TUPPER at Knowlton, the other day, and a few paragraphs of official correspondence inserted in some newspapers are of the utmost importance, and yet they have been almost entirely unnoticed.

In reply to an address voted by Parliament in 1878, the Imperial authorities have just decreed the annexation to the Dominion of Canada of all the territory of British North America, which has hitherto not been embodied in the Confederation. A glance at the map will show the vast extent of this acquisition, and fortunately we have in Lovell's Advanced Geography, just published, every facility for acquiring this information.

The newly ceded territory embraces all the country which did not belong to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1870, and which remained under the immediate control of the Home Government when we acquired the possessions of the Northwest. It comprises the greater part of Labrador, and the region lying between Hudson's Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, besides the Islands of the Arctic Ocean, and the Polar possessions of Great Britain. This immense tract of country increases the area of Canada by nearly one-fourth and makes it the vastest country in the world, after Russia and China. In other words, what has been hitherto known as British North America is henceforth to be denominated the Dominion of Canada, the only exception being Newfoundland. Canada is therefore larger than the United States, and the greatest territory in America.

Of course, a great deal of this territory is sterile and uninhabited, on account of the severity of its winter, but it is not, therefore, to be set down as absolutely useless. The conditions of Arctic life are becoming more and more known, and the experience of the late SCHWATKA expedition, which we described a couple of weeks ago, shows that white men can endure as many degrees of cold as the Eskimos without any sensible diminution of vitality. Much of this territory is no bleaker than Siberia, and the Russians have succeeded in making that country quite habitable. The discovery of a North-east passage by Nordenskjold has very properly been pronounced a vast acquisition to commerce, and if a North-west passage should be found, there is no telling what value it might impart to our new Arctic possessions.

But there are two classes of products yielded by these territories whose worth cannot be disputed—mineral deposits and furs. It is already known that there are immense beds of coal along the Upper Saskatchewan and the Mackenzie rivers, while the best quality of copper ore is known to exist on the Southern tributaries of Hudson's Bay. The geological formation up to the Arctic circle is sufficiently ascertained to place its varied mineral wealth beyond a doubt. There are mis-

sionary and other stations as high up as Great Bear Lake, above the 60th parallel, and there is no reason why the more easterly portions of the country on the same line should not be habitable. The fur trade has hitherto been confined to the more southerly sections, but according as the demand increases, more northerly fields will have to be explored with results that cannot be other than satisfactory. The sealing grounds of Hudson's Bay alone are sufficient to furnish an almost limitless supply, while the resources of the Melville Peninsula are still untouched, although their capacity has been repeatedly attested by Arctic voyagers.

The acquisition of Alaska Territory was laughed at by the Americans at the time of purchase, but the bargain was amply justified by the advantage of securing command of Behring Straits and maintaining a foothold on the extreme North-west edge of the Continent. Similarly, our now possessions, besides rounding off the Dominion, make us masters of all the lands and seas in the north, from the straits of Belleisle on the east, to Point Demarcation on the extreme west.

Finally, it is a gracious act on the part of the Imperial Government to have divested themselves of all these possessions, and made them over unreservedly to this colony. Practically, Great Britain has resigned her last foothold in America, having no direct control anywhere except, as we have said, in Newfoundland.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL TRIENNIAL CONVENTION.—The Triennial Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church convened in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Madison Avenue Forty-second street, New York, on October 6th. The convention was divided into the House of Bishops, composed of the sixty bishops of the Church in the United States, and the House of Deputies, which embraces eight delegates—four clergymen and four laymen—from each diocese of the Church—about 398 in all. Bishop Smith of Kentucky, presided over the House of Bishops, he being the senior Bishop of the Church. The Rev. H. C. Potter, D.D., of New York, acted as Secretary, and the Rev. W. Tablock, D.D., of Connecticut, as Assistant Secretary. The proceedings of the House of Bishops were conducted with closed doors in the chapel of the church. The House of Deputies met in the body of the church, and their proceedings were public. The House of Deputies holds about the same relation to the House of Bishops that the House of Representatives does to the Senate in Congress. The proceedings of the Convention are conducted under parliamentary rules, and a measure originated in either House must be passed in the other before it becomes effective in the government of the Church. A majority of votes is sufficient to carry a resolution in either branch of the Convention. The devotional exercises preliminary to the opening of the Convention were held in the St. George's Episcopal Church, in Rutherford Place, on the morning of the 6th. There was a great throng of visitors. In the chancel of the church seats were provided for the bishops and the officiating clergy. The communion-table, spread with a snow-white cloth, stood in the centre of the sanctuary, and behind it was a high-backed chair for the presiding bishop, flanked by two other chairs with backs not so high. On the table rested the alms-basin, of solid gold, presented to the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States by the Convocation of Canterbury, England, and the solid silver communion-service presented by Trinity Church in 1812, and used by each General Convention which has assembled since that date. The full choir of Trinity Church occupied the organ-gallery, and furnished the music of the morning services. At 11.30 the grand procession of the bishops and clergy left the chapel, the clergy leading, and the venerable Bishop Smith of Kentucky, leaning on the arm of Bishop Cottrell of Edinburgh, bringing up the rear. The clergy and the bishops were habited in their ecclesiastical vestments, and as they marched through the courtyard, on their way from the chapel to the church, presented a very dignified and solemn spectacle. When the head of the procession entered the church, the Trinity choir began the processional hymn, "The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ the Lord," and the great congregation arose and stood until bishops and clergy were seated. As Dr. Tyng and Dr. Williams, who led the march, reached the steps of the altar they stopped. Those who followed ranged themselves in a double column down the centre aisle, and the bishops passed through, preceded by Bishop Smith, and took their seats in the sanctuary. Bishop Smith had to be supported to the high-backed chair set apart for him. This is the sixth General Convention over which he has been called to preside, and he is very weak from age. On his

right sat Bishop Cottrell of Edinburgh, and on his left Bishop Lee of Delaware. The other bishops, forty seven in number, had seats within the railing of the church, while the officiating clergymen sat without the railing, inside the lectern and pulpit. The services, in which the Rev. Dr. W. M. Williams, Rev. Dr. Tyng, Bishop Lee of Delaware, Bishop Herzog of Germany, Bishop Kip of California, Bishop Williams of Connecticut, and others, participated were eminently impressive.

BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS.

The season of amusements has begun and, we are glad to say, Montreal is prepared for it. We have now two down-town resorts, the Theatre Royal, thoroughly renovated and already opened under the happiest auspices, and Nordheimer's Hall, a gem of comfort and artistic ornament. Up town there are also two popular places—the Academy of Music, which the manager, Mr. Henry Thomas, is doing so much to make the home of the highest drama, and the new Queen's Hall, second to none of its class in America, which is to be inaugurated next Thursday by a grand concert, under the auspices of the President and officers of the Montreal Philharmonic Society. Messrs. Nordheimer have the management of the hall bearing their well-known name; Mr. Henry Prince sells the tickets for the Royal; Mr. Henry Thomas has opened handsome offices for the Academy on St. James street, and Messrs. De Zouche & Co. will cater for the Queen's Hall, we believe, in their usual enterprising and intelligent spirit. Mr. Henry Shaw has furnished a Weber Grand for the Queen's Hall, and we invite all to attend Thursday's opening concert there, when this instrument will be fully tested by the eminent pianist, Mme. Teresa Carreno.

The "Galley Slave," Bartley Campbell's romantic play, which had a successful run during the past week at the Theatre Royal, was uncommonly good, and every actress and actor did full justice to their respective parts. Miss Ida Lewis as Cicely Blaine, and Miss Ida Cortland as Francesca, deserved the highest credit, not only for their true emotional acting, but also for their distinct pronunciation, which added greatly to the effect of the plot throughout the entire play. Mr. Power, as Sidney Worcott, possesses all the requirements for the rôle of a true lover, while Mr. Cooper, as the unfaithful husband of Francesca, showed his conceptive powers particularly in the scene of the "Saloon in the American Colony." Mr. Ward, as Fitts, a travelled American, who with his funny and well-timed remarks caused much laughter among the whole audience, made a good contrast in the drama.

This week "Unknown," another romantic drama, with John N. Stevens in the title rôle, will be played at this theatre, and the manager, Mr. J. B. Sparrow, will no doubt prove once more that he knows how to please Montreal theatre-goers.

FOOT NOTES.

NEILSON.—Miss Neilson says a writer in the *Daily News*, was a native of Leeds. She was born in a house in St. Peter's Square in this town, on the third of March, 1849. Her real name was Elizabeth Ann Brown. Her father was a basket-maker, who for a long time occupied a cellar in Briggate as a workshop. At an early age she evinced a strong passion for the stage, and one night, after shaking hands with her uncle on old Leeds Bridge, she ran away from home, and eventually found herself in London. She was then scarcely thirteen years of age. Joining the *corps de ballet*, at one of the metropolitan theatres, she made her first appearance on the stage in "The Yorkshire Lass." Her mother, to whom she allowed £300 a year, is still living, and resides in the neighborhood of Guiseley. On receipt of the sad intelligence of her daughter's death she at once proceeded to Paris, and was present at the funeral, though few among the crowd were aware of the fact.

THE PRESS IN RUSSIA.—The greater grievances of Russian editors—the three warnings, the suppression for three or six months, the stoppage of the sale of single copies and the prohibition to insert advertisements for a specified period—are familiar to the general public; but less is known, says the *London Globe*, of the minor regulations of the Press Code, which hamper so seriously the progress of a provincial newspaper. Thus, a provincial sheet, after receiving official approval of its programme, cannot deviate in the slightest from the lines laid down without subjecting itself to heavy fines. A daily paper, for instance, unfurnished with the license to insert dramatic criticism, cannot make the faintest allusion to local theatrical affairs. Some papers must not insert novels; others, again, must submit every advertisement they publish to the critical eyes of a censor: others only insert advertisements and news copied from the St. Petersburg or Moscow newspapers and must print nothing original of their own. In starting a provincial paper only a few privileges are granted to the promoters, who have to earn the rest by good behaviour. The names of all the persons employed on the staff have to be made known to the censor; and none of these, from editor to reporter, can exercise their functions until they have received his solemn permission, inscribed on official paper and signed and sealed by himself.

THE FRENCH ARMY.—The current number of the French "Army List" bears a total of 48,039 officers of all arms, the standing army having 24,713, the active reserve 7,679, and the territorial army 15,647. The general staff comprises 100 generals of division and 200 brigadier-generals on active service; three Marshals of France, 83 generals of division, and 27 brigadier-generals on the reserve list; and 76 generals of division and 185 brigadier-generals on the retired, making in all 624 general officers. The infantry has 23,011 officers, of whom 11,839, including 175 colonels and the same number of lieutenant-colonels are on active service; and of the 3,092 officers of cavalry, 3,379, including 88 colonels and 90 lieutenant-colonels, belong to the standing army. There are 5,414 officers of artillery, 2,901 belonging to the standing army, 1,233 to the reserve, and 1,250 to the territorial army; and of the 1,505 officers of engineers, 901 are in the standing army, 171 in the reserve, and 433 in the territorial army. The 811 officers of gendarmerie are all on active service; and with the officers of the coastguard, custom-house, and forestry services, a total is arrived at of 37,130 officers, rather more than half of whom belong to the standing army. The medical staff, the veterinarians, telegraphic operators, accountants, and other non-combatants holding the rank of officer, number nearly 11,000; and so the nominal strength is made to reach 48,000, as stated above.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CLERGYMAN.—The remains of the late Rev. Samuel Fenton, M.A., who had been rector of St. Mary's, Wavertree, for a period of twenty-seven years, and who died on the 26th ult., were interred on the 31st ult. in the yard of the parish church. The deceased gentleman, who died at the advanced age of eighty-four years, was one of the old school of clergymen. He was of Welsh birth, and an ardent Orangeman, being one of the most intimate associates of the late Dean McNeill; and it is said that his violent denunciations of Roman Catholics in his sermons which recurred every "Fifth of November," attracted large congregations of those who even had no sympathy with his theological views. He was a very earnest man, and was held generally in high esteem by the population of Wavertree. During the period of his active life he interested himself greatly in mechanics, and held especially a high rank as a lock-mith, some of his locks being patented. He was a great believer in "silted brandy" as a panacea for all disorders, and wrote a treatise on the subject. His only literary effort which was published was "A Guide to the United States of America." Some ten years ago old age compelled him to relinquish his ministerial duties, and for some time he was a confirmed invalid. The rev. gentleman was preferred to the living in 1853 by the then Bishop of Chester, but the patronage is now transferred to the new Bishop of Liverpool.

TAKING COMFORT IN LIFE.—Sooner or later, friends, the time for folded hands will come to us all. Whether or not we ease from hurry and worry now, we shall one day shut our eyes upon it, and lie still, untroubled by the stir and fret of the things about us. Why not take comfort as we go on? You, proud mother of a beautiful, active boy, of what use will it be to you to remember how exquisitely fine was his raiment, how daintily spread his bed, and how costly and profuse his toys! What the child needs is mothering, brooding, tender resting on your heart; and he needs it every step of the way from baby days to manhood. Take the comfort of your opportunities. Never mind though the dress be coarse, and the food plain, and the playthings few; but answer the questions, tell the stories, spare the half-hour at bed-time, and be merry and gay, confidential and sympathetic with your boy. And you, whose graceful young daughter is just blushing out into the bloom and freshness of a wondrously fair womanliness, do not be so occupied with your ambition for her advancement in life, that you let her ways and your own fall apart. Why are her friends, her interests, and her engagements so wholly and distinct from yours? Why does she visit here and there, and receive visitors from this and that home, and you scarcely know the people by sight? You are losing precious hours, and the comfort you ought to take is flying fast away on those wings of time that are never overtaken.

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

"In the hour of danger woman thinks least of herself," said Mme. de Staël. True. When the thunder roars and the lightning flashes, and the big drops come down, the woman who is caught out in the storm devotes her agony to the thought that her hat and dress will be ruined.

WOMAN, courageous enough in most matters, is at her weakest when economy is in question. She will not make in view of what seems to her an easier method the one large sacrifice requisite; rather than suffer the loss of social standing and the reduced establishment, she will face that weary flight of keeping up appearances, and contrive that the new means shall "furnish out" the old ways by a hundred small devices.

Good wives to snails should be akin,
Always their houses keep within;
But not to carry fashion's shackles,
All they are worth upon their backs.

Good wives, like city clocks, should be
Exact, with regularity;
But not, like city clocks, so loud,
Be heard by all the vulgar crowd.

Good wives, like echo, should be true,
And speak but when they're spoken to;
But not, like echo, so absurd,
To have for ever the last word.