

Notes of the Week.

The re-assembling of the British Parliament on Thursday afforded the Opposition the opportunity to question the Government as to their intentions with regard to Egypt. The Premier, however, declined to speak definitely with reference to the Government's future policy, declaring that they would be guided by the course of events, and challenging the Opposition to a vote of want of confidence. It is estimated the cost of the war, exclusive of the expenses of the army of occupation and of the Indian contingent, will amount to twenty millions of dollars. . . . On motion of Mr. Gladstone a committee was appointed to enquire into the case of Mr. E. Dwyer Gray, a newspaper editor and member of Parliament, who, our readers may remember, was fined and imprisoned by an Irish Judge for contempt of court in publishing an article charging drunkenness upon a jury in a State trial who had found a prisoner guilty of murder. . . . Mr. Gladstone's motion for precedence for the rules of procedure whenever set down was also carried. This will expedite business, and the adoption of the *Closure* will prevent useless and damaging waste of time. Subsequently in the debate upon the main question an amendment, offered by Stokeney and accepted by the Government, that a question must have been adequately discussed before *Closure* is pronounced, was adopted.

The trial of Arabi has begun, and English counsel defend him. Wilfred Blunt telegraphing Napier, one of Arabi's counsel, relative to the discovery of Arabi's papers, says:—"Success is assured." Counsel say they will be able to show that he acted under instructions, and that the Sultan was instigating him against the English. The *Times* Cairo correspondent telegraphs that Arabi says that he desires to quit Egypt as soon as possible, and will accept the sentence of exile to any part of British dominions. He does not wish to see Egypt again. The correspondent believes that Sir Edward Malet has informed the Government that no interference will be allowed with the sentence if Arabi is proven directly guilty either of abuse of the white flag, incendiarism or massacre. The Sultan, it is reported, is making desperate efforts to have the trial abandoned, but the feeling in England will brook no such interference.

Recent news from Egypt report new complications. A serious battle has been fought between the false prophet, who has a large following, and some troops of the Khedive, in which the prophet was victorious. Telegrams of Saturday say:—"The false prophet is reported to be within three days' march of Khartoum. A council of ministers has decided to instruct the Governor of Soudan to hold out at Khartoum until assistance arrives. It has been decided to enlist as many black troops as possible for service against the false prophet. Ismael Pasha Eyoub will be placed at the head of these forces, with Stone Pasha second in command. It is felt that the English will have their hands full in quieting the country, which is now becoming again very unsettled.

What may lead to a serious revolution has shown itself in France. *Le Pays*, a Paris paper, publishes the details of an anarchist conspiracy. It is composed of a small number of staunch supporters in all towns and manufacturing villages of France. The members are mostly young men, who distribute revolutionary papers. Each group has a distinctive name. A letter seized by the authorities recommends that the groups should pretend to be trades' unions. All groups in a department form a federation. M. Floquet, Prefect of the Department of the Seine, has resigned. It is stated that the members of anarchist federations in Paris and its suburbs alone number 1,229. This is a sad outlook for France. Rapidly all public recognition of religion is being removed, indeed already it has been banished from the State, and without God and the restraining influences of Christianity, it is not diffi-

cult to foretell a return of those terrible days of former times when the streets of Paris ran with human blood. May God avert so awful a catastrophe. A despatch from London says: Private advices represent the state of Lyons very alarming. Business is suspended. More troops have been telegraphed for. The situation is critical. A panic has seized the population. The theatres last night were empty. The mobs threaten to attack the banks and public buildings. Measures of precaution have been taken.

Mrs. Langtry, who is called "a celebrated English professional beauty," and who has been attracting the admiration of large audiences in the Provincial towns of England, has arrived in this country, having landed in New York on Wednesday last. Despatches state that boxes for her first performance in that city sold by auction at from \$45 to \$320. It is not claimed that the lady has any merits as an actress, and while a beautiful woman is always an object of admiration, it is a new phase of modern manners to find a lady of good family and position simply to accumulate wealth trading upon her beauty by such public exhibitions. It certainly does not speak well for nineteenth century taste and refinement.

A Chinese coin, 3,000 years old, was found by gold miners digging in a claim at Cassian B. C. It is supposed to have been left there by Chinese mariners wrecked on the coast long before the Christian era. The question is again asked—Was not America first discovered by the Chinese?

The English Church papers are largely occupied with interesting accounts of the Church Congress just concluded at Derby. It was the twenty-second Congress and as regards number exceeded any previous occasion of the kind. Nearly 4000 tickets were issued and sold. While the subjects discussed embraced some of the burning questions of the day, and were engaged in with warmth by men of different views, yet on the whole the proceedings were harmonious, and calculated to draw Churchmen more closely together. The speaking it is stated was particularly good. The workingmen's meeting on one of the evenings was a great success, over 4000 being present. The speakers were the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Bedford, Canon Hole and Canon Knox Little.

For some years past the Chinese question has attracted an amount of attention in the United States which at last led to the passage of a bill through both Houses of their Parliament forbidding for a period of years any Chinese immigration into the country. And now the same question is looming up in Canada, several thousands of Celestials having been imported into British Columbia to work as navvies on the Canadian Pacific Railways. Recently at a meeting of all the Trades Unions of Toronto, resolutions were passed strongly condemnatory of "John Chinaman" being allowed the countenance of government or its contractors, and urging a prohibition or restriction, whenever practicable, of Chinese immigration. Probably in the near future we may expect a very large addition to our population in the persons of these Asiatics, and no doubt efforts will be brought to bear upon Government and Parliament to adopt the same course as has been made the law of the neighbouring Republic. There is no doubt the Chinese question is one of great political and social consequence, but we should hope that Christians will recognize in their presence in increasing numbers a glorious opportunity to bring them to a knowledge of Christ. Whose religion, it is hoped, will lead its professors to deal with the question in a Christlike spirit, removed from all selfish considerations.

It is rather humiliating as well as provoking to learn that Canada's exhibit at the great International Fisheries Exhibition to be held in London next year will not be a creditable one. Mr. Wilnot complains of being too limited in point of time to get up a proper exhibit of the Canadian fisheries, and says he should have had two years' notice in order to get up a creditable collection. Of course it takes time, but somebody must be to blame for

not having begun to make the collection months ago. It will be too bad if our display is not a prominent feature of the Exhibition.

A preliminary meeting has been held in Montreal to make arrangements for the reception of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1884. It seems now to be understood as a positive thing that this learned and distinguished body will hold its next meeting in our Metropolitan city, and it is well that arrangements should at once be begun to give them a right royal reception.

An Upper Canadian paper says there is great demand for immigrants by Railway Contractors and others. Emigrants are snapped up as fast as they arrive by contractors and such is the competition that they are in the habit of engaging with one and then going and offering themselves to other employers at an advance. The present enormous demand for labor on the railways is likely to result in an enormous emigration in the early spring, but, meantime men worth anything are hard to get except at good rates. It might be worth while for some of the employers who are defrauded by broken engagements to make an example of a few of these men for the sake of diffusing a little better morality among the remainder.

The descendants of the Loyalists in St. John, New Brunswick, propose to themselves the erection of a Memorial Hall to commemorate the centenary celebration of their forefathers' settlement of that city. At a recent meeting of the Committee appointed to carry into effect the contemplated work, the President, J. W. Lawrence, Esq., read the following note which had been sent him:—"I admire the good work being done by the N. B. Historical Society in their effort to celebrate 1883 (the Centennial) and to secure a Centennial Hall, to be used for a public museum, art gallery, library and reading room in St. John. There is nothing more required, and that will do so much good in my opinion. I will be glad to lend a helping hand in any way I can. You can draw on me for five hundred (\$500) dollars." The idea is a good and noble one, and the feeling which prompts the efforts now being made is worthy of the descendants of those brave and loyal men, whose love for king and country led to the sacrifice of very much of personal comfort and property in removing from a settled country to what was then a dreary, uninhabited wilderness. The people of St. John have enough of the spirit which animated their forefathers to make the proposed building a credit to their city, and an enduring monument of their own patriotism.

Boat races and walking matches as now conducted have in themselves no intrinsic value, they are of no possible benefit to anybody but those who participate in them, and are on the other hand particularly objectionable as gambling speculations and as affording opportunity for the exercise of fraudulent practices. Athletic sports and innocent amusements ought to be encouraged, but when the things we have named above have come to be so abused, they can no longer receive the countenance and support of Christians. It has come to be accepted at most of these public exhibitions that those who are interested can have the result as they want it, so that it is really no display or test of skill or strength, and no dependence can be placed upon an honest race where the best man wins.

Efforts are being put forth to make compulsory the reading of the Bible in the Public Schools of Ontario. It is difficult to see how the Minister of Education can agree to the adoption of such a demand after having withdrawn "Marmion" in deference to the wishes of the Roman Catholic Archbishop Lynch of Toronto. The school system of Canada is non-sectarian, and while we have ever felt how damaging to the future religious principles of our youth is the neglect to include religious instruction in their education, still while separate schools are opposed by the majority of the electors, and definite religious teaching during school hours equally condemned, compulsory Bible reading, it seems to us, cannot and ought not to be enforced.