

## HERE AND THERE.

THE Scott Act has been carried in Peterborough County by a majority under four hundred. A few months ago it would have carried by at least treble that number. The organization on the other side has been slender and it was late in the field. The Scott Act emissaries had been at work long before it securing signatures to their petition, which were given in this case as in others with fatal facility, and canvassing for votes. But the attention of the people has at last been awakened, their apathy has been dispelled and their spirit has been roused. The spirit of the people in Peterborough was roused to a high pitch. Nor have they yet abandoned the hope of cancelling even the doubtful victory which the Scott Act men have obtained. The returning officer, a strong Scott Act man, is alleged to have been guilty of partiality, and his proceedings, with some other alleged irregularities, may form the ground of a legal appeal.

THERE were twenty failures in Canada reported to Bradstreet's during the past week, against eighteen in the preceding week, and twenty-eight, thirty-one and eighteen in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882, respectively. In the United States there were one hundred and forty failures reported, as compared with one hundred and forty-eight in the preceding week, and with two hundred and one, one hundred and sixty-four and one hundred and seventy-three, respectively, in the corresponding weeks of 1884, 1883 and 1882. About eighty-three per cent. were those of small traders whose capital was less than \$5,000.

IF M. Max O'Rell's new book, "Les Chers Voisins," is scarcely so full of good things as were his previous productions, it must, nevertheless, be admitted that there is much in it that is amusing and characteristic. For instance, his *rencontre* with an ill-mannered Englishman in France is worthy of reproduction. Rusticating in the heart of the country, M. O'Rell was in the habit of walking about dressed in a long blouse and a huge straw hat, and might not unreasonably have been taken for one of the peasantry. Such was the case, in fact, one day while he was out walking in this disguise. An Englishman asking the nearest way to a neighbouring village, M. O'Rell, with all possible courtesy, gave the fullest directions (in French, for he likes to make Englishmen talk his own language when they are in his country, it seems), and ended in walking part of the way with him, in order that there might be no mistake as to the route. When he had gone far enough, M. O'Rell stopped and raised his hat. "Oh!" said the Englishman bluntly, and went on his way. "Pardon," called the astonished Frenchman. The Englishman turned, and apologizing in choice Anglo-French, put his hand in his pocket and produced a half-franc piece.

POCKETING the coin, M. O'Rell then proceeded to give the Englishman a little bit of his mind, speaking English this time, much to the tourist's surprise. The essence of his remarks was to the effect that in France it was customary to say "Thank you," even to one's inferiors; adding, in conclusion—"While in this country never offer money unless you are perfectly sure that it will be accepted, or you may chance to have it thrown in your face." The Englishman stretched out his hand to take back his money. "No," said M. O'Rell, cruelly. "Don't be afraid of my doing so. I have lived too long in England to throw money either out of the window or in anyone's face. I make a point of pocketing it." This boorish tourist certainly got his deserts; it is to be hoped, however, that M. O'Rell's compatriots will not take this rough specimen as an average type of Englishman. Ten to one they will do so, though; and *ces gredins d'Anglais* will be voted more incomprehensible than ever!

MR. SALA, who is very justly described as *le plus spirituel et le plus aimable des journalistes anglais*, referred, it seems, to M. O'Rell's last book as being as full of blunders as an egg is full of meat. Says the imperturbable Frenchman: "Mr. Sala, *qui connaît son Londres et les œufs qui s'y vendent*, could not possibly have paid me a more graceful or witty compliment."

LEST M. O'Rell should labour under the impression that discourtesy is an exclusively English attribute, it is perhaps well that he should be reminded of the instructive, if somewhat discreditable, story which appeared in the *St. James's Gazette*:

"You ought to warn all your friends," says a writer in a private letter, "not to come to Paris at present. I witnessed yesterday a scene which would have disgraced an Irish town during election time. An English lady, with her two daughters, was walking on the upper part of the Champs Elysées, near the Arc de Triomphe. Suddenly three or four Parisian roughs began to call out, 'A bas les assassins anglais! A bas l'Ambassade des assassins!' 'Vive Rochefort!' 'La mort aux assassins d'Olivier Pain!' The three ladies were regularly mobbed and hooted at. There were several respectable-looking Frenchmen, some of them what might be called gentlemen in appearance, but none of them lent a hand to rescue the poor women, who were evidently frightened to death. Two armed police officers also looked on, but did nothing towards helping the victims of this outrage. The mob got larger and larger. I did my utmost, as did also two Englishmen who happened to be there; but what were three against so many? It was with the greatest difficulty, and only by promising a very large present, that we got a cabman to admit us into his vehicle and drove away. Three or four cabmen positively refused to take us. Paris is no place for any English person, and least of all for English ladies to come to at present."

This is scarcely creditable, to say the least of it, in a country where, according to M. O'Rell, "*Le Culte de la Femme*" is such an all-pervading sentiment!

TENNIS has so thoroughly established itself that whatever assists to a perfect playing of the game has become of importance to large numbers of ladies and gentlemen. In this connection it is of interest to learn that a

new and ingenious kind of roller was used with much success during a recent Tennis Tournament in London, England. An ordinary garden roller makes very little impression on an asphalt tennis court, but the machines used on that occasion—namely, Messrs. Barford and Perkin's Patent Water Ballast Rollers—were found to be of the utmost service, flattening the court to perfection. Being hollow and watertight, these rollers can be filled, if necessary, with water, their weight being thereby doubled. After a spell of dry weather, or, indeed, whenever the ground is hard and lumpy, these excellent rollers will be found invaluable. Everyone who played was enthusiastic about the hardness and smoothness of the court. These machines, which are not at all dear, and when empty very light and easily manageable, have, we understand, gained a silver medal at the Inventions Exhibition.

"HER eyes were himmel blue," wrote Hans Breitmann. Of the same heavenly shade were those of a sweet girl with golden hair and a silvery voice. She was on a Brooklyn ferry-boat. She sang some sweet Salvation hymns in the cabin; the people were touched, touched even as was "blooming Bob" in Charles Ross's story when he heard

Some sweet remembered strains,  
Played by a common organ-man at the corner of the street,  
And did not squelch that child;

all but one bad man who ordered her to be turned out. Americans respect women; the poor girl wept bitterly, told her story, her persecutor relented, took a \$5 note out of his pocket and dropped it into his hat, then took them round—the hat and the note. It (the hat) was filled; the poor girl smiled again, and when the boat touched the landing, such is the forgiveness of women, she took his arm. He was her husband. La Bruyère was right: *Les femmes sont extrêmes, elles sont meilleures ou pires que les hommes.*

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications intended for the Editor must be addressed: EDITOR OF THE WEEK, 5 Jordan Street, Toronto.  
Contributors who desire their MS. returned, if not accepted, must enclose stamp for that purpose.

## VOLUNTEER LAND BOUNTIES.

To the Editor of The Week:

SIR,—The liberal bounty voted by Parliament to members of the Active Militia force who took part in the recent campaign has elicited a not unnatural claim by the volunteers who turned out years ago to repel the Fenian invasion that their patriotic services should meet with similar recognition; and it may now be reasonably expected that the bestowal of an Imperial medal upon troops who suppressed a mere domestic disturbance will be regarded by those who took up arms to drive back a foreign foe as an honour to which they themselves had earned a far better title. Leaving this more remote phase of a somewhat difficult question to be agitated by those peculiarly interested, the present time appears specially opportune for bringing into public notice the grounds that exist for believing that the terms of the grant just made will have to be amended so as to make it of a more comprehensive character.

The Militia authorities, it appears, have already assumed the position that what are called "permanent corps" have no right to participate in Parliament's generosity. The troops interested in this ruling are about two hundred in number, and comprise the detachments of the Cavalry School Corps, of "A" and "B" Batteries, and of "C" Company Infantry School Corps, that went to the North-West in support of law and order. Apart from the fact that the representatives of the three first-named corps who have served at the front were among the first troops called out, and that they are still engaged in campaigning under circumstances of much privation and discomfort, it may be said that the text of the Act of last session (48 and 49 Vic., chap. 73) by no means appears to justify discrimination against them. Section 1 of the Statute recites that "the Governor-in-Council is authorized to grant to each member of the enrolled Militia force actively engaged and bearing arms in the suppression of the Indian and Half-breed outbreak, and serving west of Port Arthur since the twenty-fifth day of March last, including officers, non-commissioned officers and men, a free homestead of two quarter-sections." It will be observed that the grant is not absolute by the terms of the Act, for the Government is simply thereby authorized to make a certain grant. In other words, the bestowal of the grant is discretionary with the Executive. Whatever may be the temporary ruling of the Militia Department, there is good reason to believe that the gallantry shown by the "regulars," their excellent discipline, and the good example they afforded on active service, will meet with fitting recognition at the hands of the Government, for it would be a subject of deep regret if these corps should come to entertain the impression that they had been unfairly treated. It has been said that, if the Government were to allow members of the corps enlisted for continuous service to participate in this bounty, the next demand would come from the Mounted Police who fought during the campaign. If so, that claim would likewise have to be considered on its merits. The chief objection urged against the making of such concessions is that they would establish precedents that might hereafter be found inconvenient—a consideration that is, of course, entitled to due weight. Neither the men of the permanent corps of militia nor those of the Mounted Police are permitted, by the rules of discipline, to agitate or combine their efforts on behalf of objects of personal interest; so it is all the more necessary that public men, and particularly the public press, should give a generous consideration to their claims.

Having already alluded to the awkwardness attending the establishment of a precedent, it is now in order to show that, while Parliament overlooked entirely the claims of those militia corps embodied for active service, and yet not actually required to be sent to the North-West, the course pursued in 1871 furnishes strong *prima facie* ground for such troops to claim participation in the bounty bestowed on corps which went to the front. The precedent alluded to is to be found in the following section of the "Dominion Lands Act, 1883":

23. And whereas by Order of the Governor-in-Council, dated the twenty-fifth April, 1871, it was declared that the officers and soldiers of the 1st, or Ontario, and the 2nd, or Quebec, Battalions of Rifles, then stationed in Manitoba, whether in the service or depot companies, and not having been dismissed therefrom, should be entitled to a free