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Current Events.

THE WEEK.

Governor Tilley opened the New Brunswick Legislature on the 12th inst. After referring to the prosperous condition of the Province and to the successful visit of the Governor General last summer, Mr. Tilley with pardonable satisfaction mentions the points in the arrangements between New Brunswick and the Dominion, which are so highly advantageous to the former, and in the securing of which he bore so conspicuous a part. By these arrangements the Government of New Brunswick is to receive from the Government of Canada one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum in perpetuity, as an equivalent for the surrender of the export duty authorized to be collected on lumber shipped from the Province. He also refers to the Dominion act of May last authorizing the Federal Government to assume the surplus debt of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and providing for a proportionate decrease in the debts of the other Provinces as authorized by the British North American Act. This latter arrangement, Mr. Tilley avers, will add to the income of New Brunswick upwards of fifty eight thousand dollars a year. New Brunswick thus finds herself upwards of two hundred and eight thousand dollars per annum better off than she was upon the basis of the Confederation Act; a result of her agitation for "better terms" which we hope affords entire satisfaction to her people. As to the measures to be submitted by the local government during the Session as fore-shadowed in the Governor's speech there is rather a paucity; the most important seem to be Bills providing for attachment in certain civil suits, and the abolition of imprisonment for debt.

The affairs of British Columbia seem to be in a highly disturbed condition. The change in the Dominion Government does not appear to be satisfactory to the people of that Province. From the nature of telegrams received, it is difficult to assign the immediate cause of the excitement, or to state the exact bearing of the questions that are now agitating the people. It appears that on the 9th inst., citizens to the number of nearly one thousand marched to the Parliament Buildings, and presented a petition passed at a previous meeting which declared it inadvisable to enter into any negotiations for capitalizing the dry dock guarantee, or to borrow any money from the Dominion Government until the scheme of Mr. McKenzie's ministry for the revocation of the terms of the Union shall be made known, and expressing opposition to any alteration in the terms of the Union, until such altered terms shall have been submitted to the people for adoption. Though the demonstration seems to have been orderly the local ministry considered it sufficiently menacing to warrant an application to the commander of the fleet for a gun-boat to be stationed at the Government buildings; which however was refused. On the same afternoon Mr DeCosmos, premier of the local government resigned, and Mr. Walkem, his attorney-general, was called upon by the Lieutenant Governor to form a new Government. Up to the writing of this no specific explanation has been received as to the cause or extent of the disaffection. The absence of later news is said to be owing to interruptions in the telegraphic communication. It will probably turn out, however, that the Pacific Railway question is at the bottom of the difficulty. The people of the far west probably have a keen recollection that the members and supporters of the present Dominion Government, when in opposition, urged that the terms upon which British Columbia was admitted into the Union were too favorable to that Province. It may, therefore, easily be conceived that the apprehensions of the people of the Pacific coast have been aroused, lest the recent change of Ministry should produce a change of policy unfavorable to them. We presume there is nothing deep or dangerous in the difficulty, nor anything that ought to baffle an average exercise of the art of state-craft on the part of Mr. McKenzie.

In the Dominion Government the event of the hour is the retirement of Mr. Blake. We presume none of the parties concerned are surprised at the speculation which has been excited touching the real causes of this movement. So important a reconstruction of the Cabinet immediately after a general election seems remarkable; and is an occurrence which we may safely say will not increase the strength or popularity of the ministry. It is no disparagement to the others, to say that Mr. Blake was, the ablest member of the

Cabinet, and the man whom the country justly regarded as the actual if not the nominal leader of his party. Indeed the feeling has been growing, that Mr. Blake ought to be regarded, rather as a national than a party leader. In this point of view he wielded an influence which as a mere political partisan he would never have possessed. In the late elections his name was a tower of strength to the Ministry. His presence in the Cabinet attracted the confidence and secured the votes of thousands of conservatives, and others who but for him would have remained neutral or gone with the Opposition. His retirement will be a disappointment to many. It is true he stated more than a year ago that in the event of the succession of his party to power he would decline official honours; but the statement itself was regarded as most inscrutable, and the expectation was generally entertained that when the time arrived he would be induced to change his mind and accept office. This expectation was not altogether unfounded. When Mr. McKenzie formed his ministry, Mr. Blake became a member of it, although without a department and without salary. In this going contrary to his previous declarations, it is said he yielded to the pressure of his political associates. We can quite believe such pressure was exercised. When the government was now and its strength untried and unknown, the importance of having Mr. Blake as a colleague was of course patent to Mr. McKenzie and his friends. Hence the pressure. When success in the elections made the government powerful beyond precedent, Mr. Blake's assistance was probably no longer considered a *sine qua non*, and we are at liberty to conclude that the pressure under which he came in was relaxed to permit him to go out.

The Ontario Legislature is still in session. We have to acknowledge the receipt from that house of the following Bills:—An Act to amend and consolidate the law for the sale of fermented or spirituous liquors; Act to amend the public and high-school laws of Ontario; Act respecting the railway fund; Act respecting the public works of Ontario; Act to provide for the inspection of railways; Act respecting the incorporation of joint-stock companies; Act to amend the law respecting the administration of estates; Act to exempt wages and salaries of mechanics and others from liability to attachment; Act relating to the practice of medicine and surgery.

In Europe the exciting topic amongst statesmen and legislators are the relations between the ecclesiastical and civil powers. In Germany the conflict is maintained with bitterness. Between France and Italy the influences of these questions produced the most unpleasant diplomatic relations, which unpleasantness has been greatly removed by the explicit declaration which France felt herself bound to make, that she would not allow the influence of the hierarchy to draw her into relations hostile to the Italian government. France has recently adopted the same policy with reference to the German ecclesiastical question; having taken measures to restrain the violent and intemperate language in which the French priests have recently assailed the German Government.

In Austria a great radical change in the church laws has just been effected. The compact between the Pope and Emperor, known as the concordat has been abolished, and new laws have been enacted by the legislature, placing the relations between Church and State upon quite a different footing. A synopsis of these laws will be found in our ecclesiastical column. Compared with the Prussian May laws, these Austrian provisions are milder in form, whilst they will probably be found amply sufficient to secure the object in view, namely, the supremacy of the civil power and the restriction of the ecclesiastical functions within their proper sphere.

In England the elections are nearly concluded, the net conservative gain being, so far, sixty members. The defeat of Mr. Gladstone is now admitted on all sides to be beyond doubt; and speculation is freely indulged in respecting the personnel of the incoming ministry. We apprehend there can be no serious question that Mr. Disraeli will be Premier; although a suggestion has been broached that Lord Derby might occupy that position.

From the Gold Coast we have the news that the British forces took possession of Coomassie, the capital of Ashantee, on the 29th Jan., and would commence their march to the coast on the 2nd of February.

Imperial entertainments are the order of the day in Russia. The Czar

and his august family have no sooner got the Royal Family Marriage votes off their hands than they find themselves called upon to dispense hospitalities of the Court, in honor of the Emperor of Austria, who is now on a visit to Russia. We suppose Emperors are politicians from habit and necessity. At all events His Majesty of all the Russias, has acquired the art of using fair words on fitting occasions. A grand dinner was given on the evening of the 15th inst. by the Czar to his Imperial and Royal visitors. In his after-dinner speech he said, the Emperor of Germany, the Queen of England, the Emperor of Austria, and himself, would preserve the peace of the world. Such words from a powerful Monarch have a pleasant sound; but, unfortunately for the peace of the world, there is nothing in them except sound. Professions of a similar nature on similar occasions, have long been in fashion, but the peace of the world has not been maintained. Moreover, such pacific qualities ascribed to Prussia and Russia have, at the present moment a rather cynical sound. These two powers have recently shown the most perfect willingness to break the peace of the world, to further their own aggrandisement. Within the last half-dozen years Prussia has made war upon, and conquered in succession Denmark, Austria, and France; while within the last three years, Russia has torn up the treaty which limited her aggressions Eastward, which act she has followed up by conquering many hundred miles of new territory.

Ecclesiastical.

The Rev. Dr. Biber, one of the editorial contributors to the *English Churchman*, died in West Allington, on Monday, January 10th.

A Rome despatch says, the Pope will hold another Consistory in June next, when eight more Cardinals will be created, including Archbishop Manning.

It is proposed to erect an Episcopal throne in the Cathedral at Oxford, in memory of the late Bishop Wilberforce, £800 having already been subscribed for the purpose.

The Chicago *Times* says that a movement is now on foot to establish in that city a Hebrew theological college, under the supervision of the Union of American Congregations.

Among the novelties of mission work is a public controversy recently held in the island of Ceylon between a Buddhist and a Christian missionary. Over four thousand persons were present. The Buddhist priests have also taken the field as lecturers.

A handsome testimonial was presented recently to Mr. R. H. Smith, of Quebec, by the Clergy of the Diocese. The testimonial stands twenty inches high. The design is extremely handsome. From an elaborately chased foot springs a slender palm tree stem, whose spreading foliage offers support to a crystal vase. At the base two hounds, exquisitely executed, are in sport. A silver plate bears the following inscription: "Presented by the Clergy of the Diocese of Quebec to R. H. Smith, Esq., in testimony of their appreciation of the kind manner in which for many years he has discharged the duties of Treasurer of the Synod and Diocesan Board."

The New York *Observer* says:—"There are more Jews in New York than in Jerusalem, and more than in any other city in the world, it is said by those who have studied their present state. Mr. Miggins says of New York, 'There are more Germans than in Berlin, more Irishmen than in Dublin, more Catholics than in Rome, and more Jews than in Palestine.' The census does not give religious statistics; but the number of professing Jews residents of this city has been approximately estimated by the quantity of Passover biscuits manufactured for their use. The bakeries produced on the average for the last decade, 800,000 pounds yearly, which, at the rate of one pound per day, for each adult during the eight days generally observed, would make a number of 100,000 persons. They have an orphan asylum to accommodate 250 orphans, a hospital and a number of charitable societies, among which is the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, and have also established within the last few years a home for aged and indigent of both sexes, managed by ladies."

We clip the following items of Church news from the last number of the *New York Church Journal*:—"The suggestion of a Constitutional Congress or Commission was adopted by Bishop Cox, was cordially endorsed by the Albany Convention. The Missionary Bishop of Arkansas made his first visit to Monticello on the 8th inst. The Convocation of the Third Missionary District

of Central New York met at Harpersville, Jan. 27th.—The Bishop of Central Pennsylvania has announced his appointments for the Spring Visitation.—We are happy to chronicle the growth of St. John's Church, Waterbury, Conn., under its most estimable rector and associate.—On the 10th ult. the Bishop of Mississippi returned to his home after a fatiguing visitation of three months and a half, to rest in preparation for another tour.—A new church consecrated, the congregation of another renting more commodious quarters than its own building, a new library opened, a candidate for Deacon's Orders recommended, and a deacon ordained, is the substance of the last church news from Missouri.—The twenty-fourth anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church, Newark, N. J., was celebrated on the 2nd inst.—The Assistant Bishop of North Carolina has announced his Spring appointments.—By a noble gift a Mission Church in Cleveland, O., is freed from all encumbrance, and doing an efficient work. Steps have been taken for the speedy re-opening of Gambier Theological Seminary.—Bishop Spalding, before his departure for his new field, at the request of the Bishop of Pittsburgh, held a Confirmation at Smithport. Bishop Kerfoot administered Confirmation at Washington, Pa., on the 20th ult.

Miscellaneous.

The immense balloon, *Le Condor Transatlantique*, it is said, will soon leave France for the United States, under the guidance of M. Poitevin.

It is reported that the Turkish Government has ordered the construction in England of an iron-clad corvette at a cost of \$600,000.

The English Post Office carries annually about 870,000,000 letters, 75,000,000 postal cards, 108,000,000 book packets, and 99,000,000 newspapers.

The highest newspaper-office in the world is at Cerro de Pasco, a village on the slope of the Andes, 14,000 feet above the level of the sea.

An English clergyman, the Rector of Twyckham, was fined £5 the other day for using armorial bearings without having paid the duty.

The Swedish Government has just presented to the Reichstag of that country a bill to augment by 30 per cent. the salaries of all the functionaries and employes of the State.

Count de Montmelat, a celebrated French traveller who explored Tibet and China, died recently in Paris, at the age of seventy-one, leaving considerable wealth and curiosities of priceless value.

Sir Bartle Frere has just published, in England, an essay "On the Impending Famine in Bengal; how it will be met, and how to prevent future famines in India."

It is estimated that during the impending famine in India, the Government will be called upon to supply half a pound of grain per day, for eight months, to 25,000,000 people.

A carrier pigeon arrived in Bridgeport, Conn., recently from a steamer off Cape Hatteras, which had a party of Bridgeport people on board bound for Florida.

During last year, 90,149 emigrants left Ireland, being an increase, compared with the year 1872, of 12,047. The total emigration from Ireland since May 1, 1851, is stated to be 2,252,745 persons.

During the past quarter eight vessels have been added to the English navy, and at the present time there are twenty-seven others in course of construction at the various government yards or by private firms.

The proposition of President Grant, that Congress should appropriate a large area of the public lands for the purpose of establishing a University in Washington, is likely to commend itself to public favor.

Dr. McCosh has nearly completed a history of Scottish Philosophy, which will be published late in the year by the Carvers. It will be largely biographical in character, embracing the lives of above a hundred Scottish thinkers, and will be a most important contribution to the history of thought.

Absolutely pure iron is said to have been prepared by a Russian chemist by means of the galvanic battery. During the process a large quantity of hydrogen was disengaged from the ordinary iron used. The pure iron is a silver-white metal, very malleable and ductile, and so soft as to be readily cut with a pair of scissors. It oxidizes rapidly, and water is decomposed by it with the rapid absorption of oxygen.

The Paris *Univers* has been suppress-

ed. As this was the organ of the clerical party, and was most violent in its denunciation of the Prussian policy, it was supposed that its suppression had been requested. But the *Times* correspondent asserts that by taking this step, and thus separating itself so distinctly from the clerical party, the Cabinet has sought to clear the Government, in the eyes of all Europe, from any suspicion of holding hostile or malevolent views."

It is the custom in Russia, for both the parents of a bridegroom and bride to absent themselves from the marriage ceremony of their children. But at the recent royal marriage, in St. Petersburg, both the Czar and Czarina were present. The marriage occurred on a Friday, which, while it is popularly considered an "unlucky" day in England, is considered a holy day in Russia, and therefore, especially appropriate for a marriage.

Women are received into California University on the same terms with young men, and have an equal share in all the advantages of the University. The majority of them have come for special courses; some attending single classes, as in modern languages, botany, English, literature, etc. The number of these special students has diminished since the removal of the University from Oakland. In 1872-73, there were 11 young women enrolled in the regular classes; this year there are eight, of whom one is in the senior class. In the freshman class of 1872 and 1873, two young women made the highest record of scholarship for the year. They belonged to College of Letters.

The London correspondent of the *Dundee Advertiser* gives the following particulars of an estimate of the cost of the Tichborne trial: "To the jury has been paid £2,000; to the shorthand writers close on £2,000; to the printers nearly £4,000. The prosecuting counsel—five in all—have swallowed over £14,000. The defendant's counsel are paid miserably compared with the prosecution, but the exact amount is not known. Some of the witnesses for the prosecution, received very large fees—one £1,000, another £700, and a third £500. Of course they came from Australia and Chili, and their evidence was deemed necessary. Altogether the 'little bill' on one side alone, when it comes to be added up, must reach close on £150,000."

The proprietor of the Model Dockyard, in Fleet street, London has constructed for the Russian Imperial family, a model railway, of which the *Times* says: "Nothing could be more complete. When we were invited, a few days ago, to inspect this truly marvelous piece of mechanism, we could scarcely give credence to the sight we witnessed. The little 'Express' engine steamed away in grand style over the sixty feet of circular rails laid down as a track, at the rate of something like ten miles an hour, and the carriages attached were as perfect as could be, the interior of each being replete with cushions trimmed with crimson satin, the outside bearing the Imperial Arms; and, taken altogether, we may fairly say that a more charming model train could not possibly be constructed. To amuse the young princess of Russia, the Czarina has also ordered a locomotive in pieces, so that the pieces can be put together and the whole of the machinery fitted in St. Petersburg by the young princess."

The French have a system of bells lately patented which work by air. A series of small leaden tubes proceed from the kitchen to each room, one to the sitting-room, one to the drawing-room, and one to each bedroom. Attached to these tubes in each room are a few feet of India rubber tubing, suited in color to the paper of the room. To the end of the tube a syringe is fixed air tight, and this hangs similar to an ordinary bell-ropes. In the kitchen is a case containing the bell, which serves for all the rooms, the distinction being effected by tickets with the names of their respective rooms printed on them, held down by springs. They work in this manner: The India rubber syringe is pressed, and the air by this means is forced through the tube into a corresponding India-rubber syringe or ball in the case in the kitchen. This, of course, expands, and forces up a small rod, which moves a cogwheel and rings the bell, and at the same time sets free the spring which retains the ticket of the room in which the bell is rung; this starts up into a square place in the glass door, and at once indicates in a simple manner the room. These ingenious bells act as effectively as electric bells, which they resemble exceedingly in sound, without their trouble and expense, and not getting out of order like our wire bells and cranks.