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THE TIMES.

The Quebec Legislature has come to the end of its labours. They have been exciting and somewhat arduous—speaking with reference to both sides of the House. The Government was weak to begin, and the Opposition was strong and determined to do all it could to show that M. Joly was not able to carry on the political business of the Province. This was no more than all had reason to expect—for M. Chapleau and his friends had been irritated by the ill-timed and high-handed action of the Lieutenant-Governor—and by their subsequent defeat when appealing to the electors. But M. Joly has done well—accepting the situation, and making the best of it. He has carried through the supplies, which gave evidence of an honest effort to bring down expenditure—passed a bill to abolish the Legislative Council, which is simply an expensive nuisance—another for the abolition of District Magistrates, which Magistrates the Province can well afford to lose. The Legislature has also passed a Party Processions Bill, which is aimed directly at the Orangemen, and will be worth nothing at all, if approved; just because there are twenty ways of evading it.

The Bill for paying the Volunteers who were called in to suppress the Quebec riots has been criticised and strongly opposed. And there was room for the criticism and reason for the opposition. Why should the Province pay the volunteers for going to the City of Quebec? If that city could not manage its rowdies, and had to call in military help, it seems hard that those who had neither part nor lot in the matter should have to pay for it. At any rate—if the Provincial Parliament is to pay the volunteers for going to Quebec—what is there in law to hinder its paying the bill the City of Montreal now owes to the military for having gone there to keep the peace on the twelfth? Our politicians must not make fish of one and flesh of the other.

It was quite refreshing to see how certain leaders of public opinion in Montreal kept the law as laid down by the Mayor anent gatherings in the streets. They had talked much and loudly, and showed their courage in a general way—but when the supreme day had come, instead of multiplying the mob by their presence, they took what the Mayor declared was "the birthright of every citizen," viz., "the right to remain in their own homes." There was no business doing in the town—and it was very hot—and it was a good opportunity for taking a holiday—and there was a chance of meeting stray bullets in the streets—and—discretion is always the better part of valour. So those who were so conspicuous by their absence had good reason on their side.

Seriously, the non-appearance of many of the city Aldermen and Magistrates was a pity and a serious blunder. The moral effect of their presence would have been great. For the rowdies were not all of one party, and certain it is that Mr. McNamee and some other Magistrates, who are Catholics, did very much to suppress mob violence, and Protestant leaders should have been alongside of them. But for Mr. M. H. Gault—who did good and brave work—and some two or three others—not forgetting Mr. Mercer—things would have been worse than they were.

The signs of the times, both positive and negative, are for peace. Britain countermands an order for forty millions of cartridges—which, if every bullet has its billet, must be the better for a good many poor fellows—and all the nations are crowding round the British money-bags to get a dip in. Russia wants to borrow forty million pounds (better for her than the same number of cartridges); Greece has a little affair on hand that needs money; Austria, Hungary, Turkey, Spain, Portugal, and even France, are asking for more—or for much, which is about the same thing. Meanwhile Canada, in the person of the Grand Trunk Manager, has been beforehand and secured a few millions for railway extension in the west, where an attempt is to be made to block

Vanderbilt's game with the Michigan Central; and the Hamilton and North-Western has also placed a loan of half a million on the London market.

Mr. Jefferson Davis has been making a speech in Mississippi which has caused some angry comment from Republican papers. He laid great stress on the fact that, having struck for independence and been unsuccessful, the Southerners agreed to return to the Union and abide by the Constitution and laws made in conformity with it. So far all is right, but Mr. Davis immediately proceeded to point out that he did not consider a great many existing laws to be in conformity with the Constitution, and to assert that the promises of the reconstructed did not extend to obeying the unconstitutional laws. For instance, he did not believe in the shipping laws by which registration of foreign vessels under the American flag was prohibited, nor in the policy which levied such duties as to interfere with shipbuilding. Mr. Davis took the opportunity of expressing his joy at the virtual re-establishment of the doctrine of State rights as exemplified in the proceedings of Congress since the last election.

The President of the University of Vermont preached a good sermon at the opening a few days ago, containing sound things as to principle and practice; inculcating the duty of personal right living and obedience to God's commands. For instance: Truth-telling is well if I tell the truth in order to escape the evil consequences of telling a falsehood; but it does not become a moral act until I tell the truth out of regard for truth itself. Honesty as the best policy is a poor thing compared with honesty as the best principle. If thou enter into life—the moral law—thou must keep the moral law, which is not "Thou shalt not steal, because thou wouldst suffer for it," but, "Thou shalt not steal, even though there were no suffering for it, because—because thou shalt not steal; because the moral law forbids it, and thou art loyal to that law." That is good preaching; and if the students take heed, America will be the better for it.

Some more dirt is being flung at the Fisheries' Commission. An American correspondent makes M. Delfosse say that he did not go to Halifax to listen to a parcel of fishermen, but to settle a great international question; in other words, that he deliberately dishonoured himself by disregarding the evidence. But this farce will soon be acted out, now that England has time and attention to bestow on the matter! American objections will not probably be pushed much farther.

The Treaty has been signed at Berlin, and Europe begins to breathe again and hope for a term of peace. Most of the English papers are jubilant, the *Times* leading off the shouting thus, speaking of the Congress: "It has made changes which transform an empire; has removed long-standing causes of discontent; has pacified, we may hope, provinces torn by dissension and misrule, and placed barriers between rival forms of implacable bigotry; has stopped many avenues of foreign intrigue, and if it has abridged the power of the Porte, it has given peace to Europe." Certainly the power of the Porte has been abridged, which is good as far as it goes; but it remains to be proved whether Europe has found a permanent basis of peace. England in possession of Cyprus and in alliance with Turkey seems heaping up obligations which it will be difficult if not dangerous to fulfil. Still, we may rejoice in things as they are, and hope for yet better.

Of course the Earl of Beaconsfield wins all the honour. He went in to do that, and has done it. An admiring people bow down before him; they welcome him home from the scene of his triumph with true British enthusiasm. He is the great Englishman, the one man of the time, who has restored Britain's lost glory. He has vindicated the sacred cause of right, and done well unto himself. The people are filled with the lofty sentiment of patriotism, and do rejoice accordingly. The great Earl may now make his appeal to the country confident of returning to Parliament with a large majority. But we are not yet sure of this Earl; he has given us some surprises lately, a few telling against him, the rest telling for him, and we shall get some more yet. We never shall be sure of him until he has passed into history.