Mr. Brassey, M. P., on the Labor Question.

Mr. Brassey, M. P., lately delivered two lectures on the Labour Question to the members of the Philosophical Institution, Edinburgh. In the outset Mr. Brassey directed attention to the fact that while we had lost ground in the markets of great manufacturing countries in consequence of the high protective tariffs, British manufactures both of iron and textile fabrics were in much greater demand in non-manufacturing States than the same products from other countries where wages were lower and men worked longer hours. The reason which had been assigned for that was that the British artisan was more inventive than those of any other country, and his application to labour was more intense while engaged at it than the foreign workman. In proof of these statements he quoted the testimony of Mr. Lowthian Bell, Mr. Mundella, Mr. Leone Levi, Mr. Mill, Mr. Willis, and Mr. Mosely. Speaking of the endurance of the British workman, Mr. Brassey said it was his father's experience all over the world that though native labour, when obtainable, was cheapest, yet for tasks of exceptionable difficulty the British miner and navvy is unsurpassed; at home his climate counts for much, but when he settled down in other countries the British workman, on account of the difference of climate and the habits of the people, become less energetic, but he did not believe we should ever be beaten through the personal inferiority of our workmen. There were some dark clouds in the commercial sky, but the remedies for our imperfections should be sought in sounder views of industrial organizations and social influence than in imperial legislation. Much had been done by the Legislature, but all that would be incomplete and unsatisfactory unless followed by social reform. After contrasting the altered disposition which has grown up between employers and workmen, with that which formerly obtained, he pointed to the need for greater economy and provident habits among workmen, and better acquaintance with the causes which led to the fluctuations of trade—qualities which would prevent distrust and unreasonable demands; and also a provision against periods of adversity, which would be found as unavoidable in the future as in the past.—*Ex.*

The new French President Mr. Grevy's political career has been unventful as compared with that of many other members of the Republican party. His life has been void of the dramatic effects which find a place in political existence in France because of his supreme moderation and his undeviating political consistency. He made his *debut* as a moderate Republican in the Constituent Assembly of 1848, and throughout the volcanic chaos of that time up till the *coup d'etat* preserved his soul in patience and equanimity. He distinguished himself and earned the undying gratitude of all true Republicans by the foresight with which he endeavoured to persuade the Assembly to pass a law which would have prevented Louis Bonaparte from grasping the reins of power. Had the Assembly passed a resolution he placed before it France might have been spared the corruption of the Empire. He predicted the *coup d'etat*, and was a sufferer by it. Released from imprisonment, he retired from politics to practice his profession as a barrister. Throughout the Imperialist *regime* he held himself aloof, and can be ranked amongst the staunch Republicans who "never bowed the knee to Baal." Elected to the Assembly in 1870, he became President of the Chamber in 1871, and has since earned the esteem even of the Opposition minority. He owes his election less to intellectual than to moral qualities. Gambetta alluding to him in the course of his well-known speech at the Chateau d'Eau in October 1877, foreshadowed his appointment to the Presidency, because, he said, "his past is pure, his life undeviatingly upright; he is the soul of moderation and wisdom, of fidelity and honour."

The late M. Schneider, President of the Corps Legislatif, said to him in 1871, in his evidence before the Commissioner of Inquiry into the government of national defence. "At a time when there is so much degeneracy of character it is a real pleasure to find a character so serious, upright, and lofty as that of Mr Grevy;" and Marshal MacMahon, on confering with him towards the end of the crisis of 1877, said. "You are the most honest man I know."

EXCESSIVE COST OF THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPARED WITH GAS.—The *Times* gives an interesting account of the recent experiments at Westgate, based on the report of two engineers. It was found that during the 24 days over which the experiment extended the fuel, water and oil cost £7 14s 8d; the 586 Jablochkoff candles at 8d each cost £19 10s 8d; while an allowance of £13 4s is made for the two attendants, thus bringing the total working expenses at £40 9s 4d for maintaining a light of 1182 candles for 96 hours; the actual cost, however, was a trifle less. In order to produce an equivalent light with gas, 10½ ordinary street lamps would be required, each burning five cubic feet of gas per hour of the quality used at Westgate and which would give 11 candles. These 10½ lamps, consuming 5 feet of gas per hour and burning four hours per night for 24 nights would use 51, 600 cubic feet of gas, the cost of only £7 18s 9d for gas for the same period. The figures would be 45,360 cubic feet of gas at 3s 6d per 1000 ft., which is the average price in London. It will be noticed that the cost of fuel, oil, and water alone for the Jablochkoff light was £7 14s 8d. Curiously enough, this very closely approaches the total cost of the equivalent of gas at London prices, which is £7 18s 9d.

WHAT SIX MILLIONS MEANS.—An eccentric correspondent suggests that the Bank Directors being found guilty, might be awarded the punishment of being handed over to a sort of jailor Barnum to be exhibited in all the cities of the world at a charge of 2s 6d for reserved seats, with inferior accommodations for 1s 6d. Our correspendent thinks the sympathies of the Directors themselves might be enlisted in this enterprise, and he feels confident that if they addressed a few words to the youth of the cities they visited on commercial vices, with some warning on the evils of making haste to be rich, they might not only raise the £6,000,000, but do much good. This is another curious instance of the incapacity of the ordinary mind to conceive the nature of a million of money. It would require about half the civilized world to pay their shillings at the door to make the sum; and if the show were visited by 1000 people a day it would take nearly 400 years to complete the business.—*Glasgow News.*

NEW THEORY WITH REGARD TO FOOD AND CLOTHING.—A German physician has started a new theory with regard to food. He maintains that both the vegetarians and meat-eaters are on the wrong tack. Vegetables are not more wholesome than meat, or meat than vegetables, and nothing is gained by consuming a compound of both. Whatever nutritive qualities they may possess, he says, is destroyed in a great measure, and often entirely, by the process of cooking. All food should be eaten raw. If this practice were adopted there would be little or no illness among human beings. Clothing, our adviser also thinks, is a mistake; but he admits that the world is not yet far enough advanced in civilisation to go about undressed. —*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Curling matches in Scotland owing to the protracted season, are in danger of running to seed. Clubs having exhausted their trials for supremacy, contests for meal and coals to the poor have become common, and sides chosen from different religious denominations have been played. But it has been reserved for the Raith Curling Club to stalke out a novelty in "sides." The snuffers and smokers of this Club each selected rinks, and the struggle resulted in a tie, which the snuffers won in the play off by one pinch, or shot.

Richard Renell, of New York, champion dumb bell-lifter of the United States, and Michael Alexandre, of London, have arranged an international dumb bell lifting match for £200 and the championship. The bells are to be weighed by members of the London sporting press, and put up without a jerk. Alexandre has put up a 208 and Renell a 207 pound bell. The match is to take place at London on March 2nd.

Jack Stewart, of Glasgow, and Tom Allen, of St. Louis, have been matched to fight according to the new rules of the London prize ring, for £200 a side. They will use light gloves. The fight is to take palce at Glasgow the first week in March.

Communications.

CURLING.

For the "Agriculturist.

STR,—As there are doubtless many of your readers who know little or nothing of "Curling," a game that is very popular here now, I will, with your permission, relate some incidents of a visit paid to the "rink" a few days ago. While passing down Queen St., near the Barker House, my attention was attracted to the Officers' Square, by an uproar proceeding from that quarter. Being anxious to know what was going on, I crossed the street and entered the enclosure. Here I found a lot of men of various ages, with brooms in their hands, apparently amusing themselves by throwing large polished stones from one end of a sheet of ice to the other, some shouting and sweeping with might and main. I was told by a friend whom I chanced to meet among the spectators, that this was the "roarin game,"—curling. I thought it appropriately named. Cries of "soop it up," "pethd," "you're a hog," and others as mysterious soon became familiar to my ears, and I was only aroused to closer attention by a young man with eye-glasses, who was vigorously "sooping it up," and screaching in a shrill voice, "bring him, bring him for a wick." On turning to my friend he explained the meaning of the expression, and said I would hear more of the vocabulary presently Sure enough, another young man who stood inside a circle, and seemed to do all the talking, shouted in a stentorian voice, "I want a mountain here," pointing to the spot with his broom. My friend assured me that this was not meant literally, and therefore I need not move, but that the "skip," as he called him, only wanted a "guard." My curiosity was satisfied but did not remain so long, for I had to return to my friend for an explanation, when a short man with a Scotch bonnet on, asked from the farther end of the ice, "Is't elba out ye want." This my friend explained applied to the motion given given the stone in throwing it. Another player, with a smiling face and heavy moustache, greeted the delivery of every stone with, "That's the way to curl, that's the way to curl," and seemed to be pleased with everything that happened. His genial manner pleased me, and my companion was about to tell me confidingly that he was the "keenest—when his remark was drowned by shouts of "bring him, I tell you, bring him along boys," from a smart looking young man in a long overcoat the effect of which was to make his players ply their brooms with greater vigor, while one encouraged his fellows with "*All* the way, *all* the way," until the "shot" was gained. Feeling much pleased with what I had seen, I was about to turn away when my friend said "look at this shot." It was a pretty one, and no sooner made than I was startled by a thundering "Aha!" from a hearty looking old fellow just behind me, who declared it to be a "miraculous shot." "Come," I said, "I am afraid I will be deafened here," but we had only gone a few steps, when some one called out, "Is that ye Mither?" I thought this addressed to me, so I answered, "I guess so," and amidst shouts of laughter gained the street, where I felt at ease again.

Thanking you for your space, I will not presume any farther, but will only subscribe my name which you know is

"MITHER."

Fredericton, Feb. 20, 1879.

The Agriculturist.

FREDERICTON, N. B., FEBRUARY, 22, 1879.

The Lumber Trade.

The lumbermen of the Dominion are looking forward with much anxiety to anticipated changes in the tariff. The lumber trade, next to agriculture, is the greatest interest in the Dominion, and is, at present suffering from the depression of commerce that exists at home and abroad. For the last four years lumberers complain that the price of lumber has been so reduced that it has been impossible for those engaged in the trade to make the prices realized do more than cover the cost of production and Crown dues leaving no returns, whatever, for capital invested in limits, mills, &c. An increase of duties on articles that lumbermen consume—as it would increase the cost of production, would thay say like the last straw that broke the camel's back—break it down altogether, at least, prove most disastrous to it. The lumber trade, it is calculated gives employment to 60,000 men 300 days in every year, and this represents a population of 311,-450. Lumbermen in their general business use immense quantities of flour, pork, oats, corn, blankets, woolens, iron, hardware, and steel, and if increased duties are placed on these articles, as well as on those used in the families of their employees, the cost of living and production of lumber will be increased without any increase in the value of the product.

The lumbermen in making out their case so too far. If, as they say, there is hardly an article imported into the country which does not come under the expenditure for the production of lumber, and they protest that any increase of duties will destroy their trade, it is evident that were the Government to accede to their request not to impose additional duties they would have to abandon their policy altogether. But the Government will in some measure be compelled to take the interests of the lumbermen into consideration when readjusting the tariff. The result will, likely be, that between the manufacturing interests, demanding a national protection policy, and the lumbering interest praying for no increase of duties—they will (as indeed the statement in the Governor-General's speech goes to prove) only raise the duties on such articles as will bring them an increase of revenue, and on these that will give some of the manufactures of the Dominion incidental protection. The circumstances of the country, and the demand for revenue, are too strong upon the Government to allow them to break away from the old lines and inaugurate a new and national policy. But what a fearful sell for those who voted for Sir John in hope of strict protection—and who looked for prosperity—as certain to follow it.

Fires and Failures, &c.

The spirit of recklessness and waste, as shown in losses by fire, failures, and over importation is very rife, and must do much to bring on the hard times of which all complain. The *Journal of Commerce* furnishes some statistics on this subject. Last year the losses by fire in Canada amounted to $5,950,-500, of which insurance Companies bore the burden of $3,102,700, leaving $2,847,800 of uninsured loss to be borne by property owners who chose "to take the chances." These losses were so many millions abstracted from the nation's wealth, leaving nothing but ruins, dust and ashes. The frequency of fires on this continent must strike every one. There is not an hour passes but there is a fire somewhere in the United States and Canada. Last year, in these countries, 12,023 fires occurred, or one nearly in every forty-three minutes, destroying property amounting to over seventy million dollars, or $192,811 worth every day during the entire year. The fire losses in Canada in the years 1876-7-8 amounted to $44,356,700, which might as well have been thrown into the sea. In the same three years, the losses by failures amounted to $74,950,677, giving something like $25,000,000 for the annual average. Many of these failures were the result of business men increasing their indebtedness abroad, by over importing, and glutting the market, and consequently decreasing values. It is calculated that in the three years 1875-6-7, the average of imports to the exports per head of population was $25.27 to $17.76 or an excess of $8.51 of imports over exports. "How long," the *Journal of Commerce* asks, "could such a state of affairs last increasing every year the indebtedness abroad, without bringing failures upon failures, ruin upon ruin."

PARLIAMENT.

The House of Commons has not yet fairly settled down to its work. It could hardly be expected that it would until the State festivities following the formal opening were over. The ball at Rideau Hall, for which a thousand invitations were issued, took place on Wednesday 19th, and after so grand and brilliant, and crushing an affair, it would be two or three days before the capital quieted down and ministers and members became composed enough to attend to the business of the country.

The address in answer to the Speech moved by Mr. Brecken, P. E. I., seconded by Mr. Tasse, Ottawa, was passed on Monday. Following the modern custom, the opposition allowed it to pass without moving any amendment or criticising it at any length. The address in fact was framed in such a way (all angular edges being smoothed off) as to allow it to slip through easily.

Messrs. Brecken and Tasse acquitted themselves in a manner that called forth the approbation of the leaders of the opposition and government.

Their remarks on the paragraphs of the Address, referring to the Governor General's expression of gratification at being selected for the high office, and to the Queen's thanks for the loyal and generous reception of her daughter, were conceived in a good spirit, and expressed the feeling of the people of Canada. Supposed to be in the confidence of the Government, they did not throw any light on its policy.

Hon. Mr. McKenzie was temperate, but sometimes caustic in his remarks. He was amused and surprised at Mr. Brecken eulogising Sir John A. Macdonald for the part he had taken in framing the Washington Treaty, and bringing the Fishery Award question to a successful conclusion. He accounted for his ignorance of the almost general condemnation of that treaty in Canada, by the fact that he (Brecken) lived in little P. E. I. where they knew nothing about it.

Sir John, of course, defended the Washington Treaty, and maliciously reminded Mr. Mackenzie, while giving him all credit for obtaining the fishery award, that he once remarked that he "actually bathed the idea of accepting money for our rights respecting the fisheries." The money did not smell, Sir John said, and came in at time when it was very much needed. He surely does not contemplate using it for the general necessities of the Dominion, and to ignore the particular claims of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and P. E. Island! The passage of words between the leaders of the Opposition and Government were light and almost playful, they may become bitter and earnest by the time that the session is half over.

Earl Dufferin through Edinburgh Spectacles.

The most glowing elogium, and there have been many and highly spiced, passed on Earl Dufferin, is that by the *Convent* of Edinburgh. We do not know whether the editor or critic had an intimate knowledge of the state of Canada before and during the Earl's Administration, or whether he has only read a large number of favorable accounts of it (including Leggo's history which he notices,) but anyway his article makes very pretty reading. We fancy people away in this part of the Dominion liked and esteemed the Earl with the silvern tongue, and thought that he had the most wonderful knack of making the most pleasant of speeches, but they did not imagine that he was a sort of Prospero—a magician—who, (as the Edinburgh critic says) found "the Canadian Dominion in its spiritual cradle and left it a healthy robust boy. He took its young soul when it was flabby, unformed, and equally suspectible to good or bad influences, and breathed into it the spirit of honor and patriotism!"

SUDDEN DEATH.—At four o'clock on Thursday morning Mrs. Owen McLaughlin, of Regent Street, was found dead on the floor of her room. The circumstance of this sudden death led to the police taking cognisance of it. A coroners inquest was held, and a verdict was returned of "death through a fall, neglect, and exposure." A medical examination was afterwards made, and the opinion given that death had been caused by alcohol, which from the position of the body had produced suffocation. The funeral took place this morning. In order more fully to satisfy public feeling, a thorough investigation will be held before the Police Magistrate, in the beginning of the week.

☞ Now is the time to buy cheap Books by calling at M. S. Hall's Book Store. See Advt.

We are sorry to hear that Professor Eastty, who gave a series of admirable readings in Fredericton, met with a severe accident on Wednesday evening last in Lowell, Mass. The *American Citizen* of that place says that "he was walking down Merrimack St. with Rev. Dr. Flanders, and stepping upon a slippery spot at the St. John Street crossing fell and struck violently on his head. He appeared unconcious when taken into Bradey & Brown's apothecary store, but partially recovered after a time. He was subsequently taken to the residence of Dr. Flanders where he now is. It is to be hoped that his injuries are not of a critical character."

A. A. Miller & Co., have on exhibition a series of landscapes, twelve in all, executed by Art Students in Berlin. Several of the scenes depicted are quite pretty and picturesque, and they are dashed off in a not ineffective style. In handsome gilt frames they make quite presentable pictures, and their price, 15 dollars for a sett of two, is wonderfully moderate. Of course one cannot expect high art at such a low figure, but a sett or two would greatly improve the look of a bare walled apartment.

STORM.—The greatest storm of the season occurred on Friday. In the city, the wind blew the loose snow in blinding gasts, and swept the platforms, and no body stirred out except on strict business. For the first time this winter, there was no train from St. John, owing to the very heavy drifts. It has cleared up bright and cold after the storm.

The entertainment of the F. R. C. M. Troupe which was to have been given on Friday evening was postponed on account of the storm. It will take place on Monday with extra attractions. All who wish to enjoy a hearty laugh, should attend on Monday night.

A despatch from Cape Town states that the rifles captured by the Zulus were Martini-Henrys, and the guns were seven-pounders, mounted on nine-pounder carriages.

The wine interests of California represent $60,000,000.

Public Reports.

We have received copies of the Annual Reports of the Trade and Navigation returns for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1878, also "the Public Accounts." Both are very bulky documents.

The trade returns notice fluctuations in the quantities of certain articles imported into Canada in 1878, as compared with the two former years, such as sulphuric acid and butter, which show a decline in quantity; cigars and meats, an increase in quantity but a decline in price, a shrinkage in value.

The importation of petroleum in 1878, was largely in excess of 1877, owing to the reduction in duty from 15 to 5 cents per gallon, and a great shrinkage in the price of United States productions. The quantity of green and black teas entered for consumption in 1878 was less than in 1876-7, and the prices show a steady decline. In February, 1877, the duties on all teas were increased from 3 and 4 cents to 5 and 6 cents per lb., (Japan tea being classed as green) which had the effect of bringing the average values of green and black to nearly an equality.

The consumption of sugars grading over No. 13, showed a large increase, that of No. 9 to 13, inclusive, a decrease. The most marked feature in the general results of sugar, is that the low grades under No. 9, "Dutch Standard," have almost ceased to be used, and that the imports of higher grades, chiefly refined sugars, have largely increased from Great Britain and the United States. The importation of medium sugars, between No. 9 and No. 13 has largely increased from Great Britain and more largely decreased from the United States; from the West Indies there has been a continued decline of importation of sugars of all grades.

In the large classes of the goods upon which the *ad valorem* duty of 17½ per cent. is collected there appears but little to be specially noted.

The result of the year's transactions, as respect to revenue, is so far satisfactory, that the custom duties collected were slightly in advance of the preceding year. The amount of revenue collected in the seven Provinces amounted to—Custom Duties, $12,795,673; "other revenues," $133,730—grand total, $12,929,423. The revenue collected in New Brunswick amounted to $1,466,913 being $241,230 greater than the revenue collected in Nova Scotia.

From "the Public Accounts" for 1878, we learn that on the 1st July, 1878, the total funded and unfunded debt was $149,587,942; the total liabilities amounted to $174,957,-268; the total interest on the total public debt $7,100,023; the total expenditure on capital account $6,651,200; the increase of public debt $7,126,660; the total receipts of consolidated fund $22,375,011, and the total expenditure as compared with receipts $23,-503,158, leaving a deficit for the past year of $1,128,146.

Yesterday, Governmental notice was given to the Collector of customs at the port of St. John, instructing him to deposit in the various banks any notes or cheques upon such banks which may be collected for duties, in place of depositing them in the Bank of Montreal alone, as hitherto has been the practice. This step is considered will be a relief to all other banking institutions. We suppose that a similar notice has been received by all collectors of customs in the Province.

The Carnival in the rink on Wednesday night was not so largely attended by skaters in costume as the manager had a right to expect. The spectators were numerous, and the band played a fine selection of peices. A grand and closing Carnival will be held in March, and a crowd of characters in fine costumes will figure on the ice.

☞ If you want good and cheap Cottons, go to Dever Bros., where you will have a large stock to select from. Good bargains can be had in other goods at the same establishment.

The British Government is prepared to subsidize any company that will undertake to lay a cable to the Cape of Good Hope.

The Bank of England will be 185 years old the 27th of the coming July, having received its charter of incorporation at that date, and having been projected by William Paterson, a Scotchman. Constituted as a joint-stock company, with a capital of £1,-200,000, the whole sum was lent at interest to the Government of William and Mary then much embarrassed. At the outset it was the servant of the State, and has ever since continued such more or less. The charter, granted first for eleven years, has been from time to time renewed, the last renewal, subject to modification or revocation, having been in 1844. For a while the business was done in one room; now the bank occupies, as everybody knows, a large building on Threadneedle street, and employs some 800 men. Nothing less than a £5 note is ever issued, and no note is issued a second time. The average amount of notes in circulation is £25,000,000.

The Law just passed by Congress prohibiting any ships from bringing to the shores of the United States more than fifteen Chinese at one voyage is going to ruin the Pacific steamship companies, who have been able to make well on Chinese immigrants and Chinese visiting their homes, as they very often do, making what we call Christmas visits home at the New Year. Steamers will not be able to maintain themselves against sailing ships carrying ten one way, which is the bulk of their freight business. This law was passed against treaty obligations to please the Irish, who a quarter of a century ago were under like persecution as cheap foreigners. We wonder what sort of laws will be passed to please the Chinese in the year 1900?

EXECUTIONS IN AMERICA.—The "hangman's record" for 1878 in the United States shows that during the past year ninety-six murderers in that country died for their crimes on the gallows. All of the culprits were men. Forty were white, fifty-two coloured, two were Indians, and one a Cumaman. Of the executions that took place, seven were "double executions," four triple, and two quadruple. More hangings occured on Friday than on all the other days of the week, the number of Friday executions being seventy. March was especially fatal to murderers, twenty-five being hanged in that month. The Southern States had 70 per cent. of all the hangings, and nearly two-thirds of the criminals executed there were negroes.

According to the statistics of the Russian Church, 137 new sects (congregations) sprung up in that country last year. The members of one of them style themselves "Leeches," and hold that new-born infants should be baptised and nourished with blood drawn from their mothers. The proselytes are chiefly peasants in the province of Vologda, and the mortality of married women there has considerably increased.

A NEW GUN.—The *Daily News* says that the latest novelty in the way of gunnery is a steel cannon of 70 tons, which is to surpass all the doings of the monster ordnance recently tried in this country. The 70-ton steel gun is the work of the great Westphalian iron-master, Herr Krupp, of Heasen, and is to be tried in a few months' time on the practice ground adjoining the famous steel works where it was made. It is a breech-loader.

Lord Elcho presided at a dinner of the Edinburgh East Lethian Association last night, and in proposing the health of the Queen said he understood Imperialism to mean that all were to do their best to maintain the grandeur of the Empire, and to consider that our colonies were the reverse of an encumberance or burden to the nation.

The Zulu Affairs.

There is still some obscurity regarding the cause of the war in Zululand, the outset of which has been signalised by so a terrible disaster to the English force, and to the scene of which large reinforcements are now steaming. Every body knows it has grown out of the annexation of the Dutch Transvaal by Sir Theophilus Shepstone in 1877, an act which was looked upon as highhanded by many, and which would have excited much more adverse comment than it did, had not English statesmen and journalists been engrossed with the Eastern Question. It was, by some looked upon as a matter of not very much importance, as affecting only a few Boers and Caffirs, but it has already cost England dear, and who knows how much blood will yet be spilt, and treasures spent before the Transvaal is safe from the incursions of the Zulus and Cetewayo is brought to account. But in annexing the Transvaal Sir Theophilus, for the Imperial Government, only retook possession of land, which had been tacitly abandoned for the purpose of introducing into it good government, for the better security of the colony of Natal. But the English in pushing into the Transvaal, came in contact with the native tribes bordering on it, particularly the Zulus, whose King looked upon them as intruders, and feared that they might extend their annexationist designs into his territory proper. The colonists in the Transvaal naturally apprehended danger, when they had on their frontiers a tribe so numerous and warlike as the Zulus, commanded by an absolute chief, so strongwilled and bloodthirsty, so capable and capricious as Cetewayo. There seems to be no doubt that many of the colonists thought that, as there was a considerable force of English troops in the Transvaal, occasion should be taken to make war upon the Zulu King, and annex his territory, both because it was a desirable land in itself, and because their own security demanded the removal of so dangerous a neighbor. The policy of Sir Bartle Frere does not appear at first to have reached so far as that. He wished to impose his will in Cetewapo, to transform the savage and warlike king into a wise and temperate ruler and a peaceful neighbor, to make him reform his cruel and bloody government, to break down his stringent military system, (which conscripts all the young men of the country, and forbids them to marry, to allow the residence of a British representative in his capital, (if he has one), who would act like a critical overseer of his actions, and make report of the manner in which he carried out his reforms. But Cetewayo fiery and headstrong refused to surrender his independence, and having forty thousand young agile, and unmarried warriors disciplined after the bush fashion thought he was strong enough to drive the English out of the Transvaal, and make Sir Bartle quake in Capetown. It was impossible to make a peaceful neighbor of a capricious savage and the mutual positions and dispositions of the colonists and Zulus urged them to war. In such a state of mind a small incident was sufficient to bring on war. It is said that a party of Zulus crossed the Tugala, the frontier river in pursuit of two women, and captured them in British territory and brutally murdered them, and that another party arrested and maltreated two English tourists who were out sketching near the frontiers, but still, in British territory. Another version of the story of the Zulu women and the tourists puts the matter in a much more favorable light for the Zulus and acquits them of committing acts that could be called either a violation of British territory or an outrage on British subjects.

English correspondents viewing the circumstances from different points of view have written to their journals condemning or commending Sir Bartle for taking occasion of the outrages by the Zulus to assume the aggressive and to demand of Cetewayo the acceptance of the reforms proposed to him and to give guarantees for their performance. Some view the matter very seriously and think the violation of British territory by the Zulus was a provocation sufficient for a declaration of war, and the bringing Cetewayo to account. Others do not see it in that light. They think that even savages have rights that ought to be respected, Cetewayo may not be a model monarch, but that is no reasons why reforms, residents and missionaries should be forced on himagainst his will, and they think also that a war with a savage ruler can bring no glory to English arms or the acquisition of his territory any gain to the Empire at all proportionate to the cost of the sacrifice conquest and will entail. By the time the letters of the correspondents reached Fleet St., London, "the unfortunate affair" of Rokes Drift took place, which whether the policy that provoked the war be justiable or the object to be gained by the successful prosecution of it be worth while or not, has most probably determined the fate of Cetewayo and the annexation of his "King dom" to the British Territory.

The following force has sailed for Natal:—17th Lancers; 1st Dragoons; 58th, 94th, 21st and 91st Regiments of the line; and 60th Regt. of Rifles; a detachment of Royal Engineers; a battery of Artillery; and the Supply and Army Service Corps.

THE TARIFF.—It was announced from Ottawa early in the week that the House would go into Supply on Friday (yesterday,) when Hon. Mr. Tilley would make his financial statement, and announce the proposed changes in the tariff. But the agony of suspense is to be protracted for a week or a fortnight longer.

Ellis, the New York Bank defaulter, who has been in gaol in St. John for nearly three years, despairing of ever regaining his freedom on any other terms, has it is said, commenced negotiations with the Bank with the view of making restitution of the whole or part of the funds which he is accused of having stolen.

The many friends of John Pickard Esq. whose state of health for some time past as to cause anxiety, will be pleased to learn that he has recoved a fair measure of strength, and writes in good spirits from Ottawa.

It is stated on what is said to be good authority, that Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise will, in all probability, return to England in the course of a few months, on an extended visit to Her Majesty.

In anticipation of an increase of duty, A. A. Miller & Co., have imported a large stock of cotton goods which they are prepared to sell at low prices.

NEW ARMY RANK.—A new army rank, intermediate between the officer and the non-commissioned officer, has been created by the warrant of promotion in the Army Service Corps, which was issued last month. The warrant officers, or conductors, as they are called, will be selected from the higher branches of non-commissioned officers, and will wear a uniform similar to that of the officers; but the rank will not entitle the owner to the military salute, and the pay will be 5s 6d per day, which is the same as the allowance to sergeant-majors in the same corps.

Dr. Butt intends to move a resolution in the House of Commons, looking to better facilities for Irishmen of all religious denominations, to obtain education in Irish Universities.

What a Quarantine Cordon Means.

Russia is now a terror to her neighbors—and the plague within her borders is a greater terror to the nations of Europe than even her intriguing ambitious policy though that has been plague enough. Russia is admonished on all hands to establish a close cordon around the plague area of Astrachan; it is easy to say that such a thing should be done, but it is one very difficult and onerous, though not impossible to carry out. Russia once established a quarantine cordon in 1828-9, and attempted to prevent the plague quitting Turkey, and she adopted the following measures. Two lines were established, one along the course of the Pruth, 550 verats (400 miles) in length; and another along the Dniester, a considerable distance longer. At every verst along each line was established a hut, with nine foot soldiers forming three reliefs; and at every third verst was a cossack station, with 12 horsemen, forming six reliefs, or two per verst. All day and all night long one cossack was kept incessantly patrolling half a verst of ground, while at every third of a verst was mounted on guard, under shelter of reeds, an infantry man. In case the first line failed to intercept the fugitives from the plague district, there was the second line on the alert the whole course of the Dneister, and, thanks to these precautions, which occupied an entire army several months, the infection did not cross anywhere from Moldavia into Russia. To repeat these precautions at Astrachan would involve the institution of three lines, one to surround the villages attacked, a second to enclose Eustaevsk district, and a third the entire Province of Astrachan. In this case, the task, would be gigantic, Enstaovsk alone having a circumference of 900 verts, and Astrachan 1500. To close the former district would employ 45 regiments of regular cavalry, or 30 of cossacks, and 36 regiments, or nine divisions of infantry, even allowing only one relief to each picket, a number plainly beyond the possibility of maintenance in such a barren and sparsely populated region. Rejecting (the *Golos*, one of the leading Russian papers remarks) these three thing, then, as being too difficult to be thought of, there remains the alternative plan of two slightly curved parallell lines, one on either side of the Volga, and stretching from the river at Tsartsin to the delta at Astrachan. Even this could not be made shorter than 700 versts, which with a single relief, would require 35 regiments of regular or 22 of cossack cavalry, and 24 regiments, or six divisions of infantry. The institution of such a cordon would be a grievous burden to Russia, but it would be one nevertheless which she could not possibly escape from without incurring the risk of imposing heavier burdens still.

Russia's changed attitude to Turkey and England may, perhaps, be accounted for the necessities of her internal condition. Two or three months ago she appeared defiant, and resolved to beard England rather than carry out the Berlin Treaty. What with secret societies plotting the overthrow of society, students rising up against arbritrary authority, and labour troubles, and distress and last but not least the plague, she has trouble enough to make her think seriously, and to engage her hands without entering on new wars. Had not the "Black Death" appeared in her midst, rousing the apprehensions of Europe, and compelled her to take preventative measures against its spread, Russia might not yet have signed the definitive treaty with Turkey or commenced retiring her troops from Turkish territory.

Royal Canadian Insurance Co.

The annual meeting of the Royal Canadian Insurance Co. took place at the head office, Montreal, on the 7th of February, at which there was a large attendance of shareholders. The annual report of the Directors showed that the Company was in a sound state. Owing to the stagnation of business, inadequate premium rates, and weeding out of undlsarable risks, there was, during the past year, a considerable falling off in the premium income, still the net surplus showed an increase over that of the last twelve months. The amount for the security of the Policy Holders is $852,414.49, and after reduction of Re-Insurance Liabilities, as required by law, amounting to $344,446,57, leaves capital, $300,000, and a surplus for the Shareholders of $287,964,67, showing an increase over last year of $65,464.67. A dividend of five per cent. has this year been declared, and the chairman held out hopes that in the future the dividends will gradually increase.

The Royal Canadian suffered very severely by the St. John fire, and it was a question afterwards whether the company should not discontinue business, but by the great exertions of the Directors, and their applications to the interests of the company, the liabilities had been reduced about $125,000, which after providing for the depreciating securities, and general assets, showed a net gain of $60,000 for the year's business, the directors, had in fact, Hon. Peter Mitchell observed, saved the company from being in the same position as the "Stadacona" is today—so that, those, who after the St. John fire would have given their shares to any one who would have taken them, could now get good value for them.

The directors intend to reduce the capital from $6,000,000 to $2,000,000, as arranged for by the amended act of incorporation, and to make a reduction in the expenses (those of the Boston office amount to $30,-000 last year) of management. The losses on the American business amounted to $276,138, and the expenditure and receipts were about even. Up to this year it always showed a good profit, and the Canadian business a loss. There appeared to be a general feeling that the "Royal Canadian" will best conserve its interests by depending more on its home management, and by not indiscretly extending the American business.

During the last few years science has made rapid strides in every direction. It has no respect for old associations, sacred or secular, and if either be found to impede its progress, it is put aside. It is now stated that a Frenchman, a native of Marseilles, has purchased the right of extracting chlorate of potash from the Dead Sea. In the neighbourhood of Sodom and Gomorrah may soon be seen the smoke of an engine furnace, instead of that which was beheld after the rain of brimstone and fire. The water of the Dead Sea is largely impregnated with magnesian and soda salts; there are also at the bottom of the Lake considerable deposits of common salt, sulphate of lime, and carbonate of lime. The enterprising Frenchman who has taken the Lake in hand is hopeful that he will be able to offer in London a chemical product at 72s per ton the present selling price of which is 104s. It will be curious if the Dead Sea comes to be profitably utilised by extracting from it the salt largely employed in the manufacture of lucifer matches and to a smaller extent in that of white gunpowder.

LORD DERBY ON GOOD SHOOTING.—Lord Derby, presiding at a meeting of the County of Lancaster Rifle Association said that under the present system of war accurate shooting was more important than ever; and whatever might be the differences respecting foreign wars, all would agree on the necessity for home defence.

L. O. A. Lecture Course.

On Wednesday evening, the Orange Hall was filled with a respectable and attentive audience to hear William Wilson, Esq., deliver his postponed lecture on "what the Revolution of 1690 secured for the Anglo Saxon race." He spoke without referring to paper and forcibly and well. Amidst a subject, bristling with dangerous points, he moved safely. He kept to the shores of England, and did not, with his hero, King William, cross the Irish Channel and stir up rancorous memories. He said nothing that could reasonably arouse the historical preconceptions or the religious susceptibilities of any one. He commenced with a dissertation on the principles of society implanted in the human breast that bound men together in sympathy to advise and act with each other to carry out measures of reform whether political, religious, or economic. England's history was one long struggle for one kind of liberty or another. He reviewed in a strong spirit of sympathy, the struggles in England for freedom against the tyranny of its absolute minded kings, from the time when in the little, but world renoun field of Runnymede, the Barons of England wrested from King John the Magna Charta, in which were laid down, the fundamental principles of the British constitution, down through the reigns of the Tudors, and the Stuarts to the portentous years of James II, when the fabric of absolute power in England was broken for ever, under the glorious auspices of King William III, who came not like the first of the name, as a conqueror, the reign of constitutional government, founded on the principles of the Magna Charta, was firmly established. The lecturer showed how nobly William carried out his resolve to "maintain English liberty and the Protestant religion," (the motto that was inscribed on the standard that floated from the "Grille," that bore him to the shores of England,) and what sacrifices be made and what dringers incurred in the great enterprise. Mr. Wilson grew eloquent in discanting on the blessings that the freedom of the press and the freedom of conscience, "the right of each one to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience, no man making him afraid," had, along with the political liberties established by the revolution of 1690, secured for the race.

In closing a very interesting and able lecture, Mr. Wilson spoke of the object of the Orange Association, and vinindicated it against the aspersions of these who calumiated it as an assemblage of lawless personages anxious to make a row. There was, as in every body, reckless; antagonistic men who created disturbance and made fools of themselves, but such were perverts from the true purpose of the body which was to keep alive the flame of civil and religious liberty, to perpetuate the principles established by the revolution of 1690, and to inspire its members with the determination to "maintain English liberties and the Protestant religion."

Wheat Growing in England.

The question has been asked, if it would ever become unprofitable for the English farmer to raise wheat. Last year when the Indian famine was engrossing painful attention, and thought was turned towards the best means of preventing the reoccurrence of so frightful a calamity, it was proposed to construct new irrigation works which would tend to greatly extend the area of wheat culture in India, and to the exportation of vast quantities of grain to England, which would bring down the value to such prices as would render it hopeless for the English farmer to contend against. In some of the London papers—the *Pall Mall Gazette* and *Financial Opinion*, &c., there were articles predicting that the time might come when the farmers in England would abandon the culture of wheat and cereals altogether, and devote themselves entirely to raising cattle and sheep, and that England would gradually assume the aspect of a pastoral country, and that in place of smiling well hedged fields, nothing would be seen but green undulating pastures. We notice the following in the *Toronto Mail*:—

It would seem that the time must come, and that very soon, when English farmers will have to give up the idea of growing wheat for profit. Messrs. Thomas C. Scott and Arthur H. Savory, two exceptionally good authorities on the subject, have been making investigations, and they both state that wheat-raising by English farmers with the present prices must prove unremunerative. Mr. Savory, who is the most pronounced in his opinion, after making a careful summary of the cost of production, shows that in order to pay back to the farmer his outlay in seed, labour, manure, cartage, &c., the wheat must net him at least £2 8s per quarter. In other words, the English producer has, this season, lost one shilling per bushel on all the grain that he has raised, and as this has amounted to more than 80,000,-000 bushels when the United Kingdom is taken into account, the outgo to the farmer must have been sufficiently large to cause him to look towards the future with serious misgivings.

The Decay of Evangelicalism.

The *Times* says:—The death of Dean M'Neile removes a striking