

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The English musical critics have been bitterly complaining that Nilsson is spoiled by the flattery and adulation she received in America, and American musical magazines are re-echoing the cries of the discontented across the Atlantic. The *Queen* says:—"What is generally complained of by her most ardent admirers is the almost defiant aspect she assumes, as if the composer of the opera were a nonentity, and the conductor a mere cipher. Mlle. Nilsson is not musician enough to dictate to M. Gounod or to Sir Michael Costa. The score of the former must be adhered to; the beat of the latter must be equally observed. The tempi are in the published score; Mlle. Nilsson has no right to prolong them or to hurry them. No prima donna, even if seconded by a Capoul, is justified in ruining one of the most intensely pathetic duos, as in that with which Gounod has been inspired in the garden scene between Faust and Marguerite." While sincerely bewailing the result of too much flattery upon so charming a *prima donna* as Madame Nilsson-Rouzeaud we cannot repress a wish that the Canadian public were a little more given to "spoiling"—in the way of ample applause and substantial encouragement—the artists who from time to time visit us. In Montreal especially a little development of æsthetic tastes would do no harm.

It is the privilege of the Briton to grumble—cause or no cause. It is also his privilege—and one in which he frequently indulges, especially he of the old school—to declare his firm belief that England is not what it was, that, in fact, the country is going to the mischief. In the face of such dire predictions it is pleasant to find that the alarmist's opinions are not entertained by outsiders; that, on the contrary, even our old foes are ready to admit that England still holds as high a place as ever among the nations. Speaking of the probable effects of the discoveries of Livingstone in Central Africa, the *Moscow Gazette* declares that the enterprise of the English scarcely needs any spur, but a footing in Central Africa might have political as well as commercial advantages. It would render the Suez canal doubly important to England, as the road not only to India, but to her newly-acquired possession as well, and political necessity will compel her to make that route her own. However isolated the position of England may appear in Europe, her policy will always possess great weight in the European community of nations; and this influence has always, up to the present time, been conditional on the interests of England in India, and the preservation of her supremacy in the Mediterranean. What changes the acquirement of a new Empire in Africa would effect on English policy, and what influence it would exercise on the political system of Europe, these are questions of the future. But perhaps ten years will not elapse before we find steamers conveying travellers along the tracks marked out by Livingstone to Ujiji, Uvuyanyembe, Tanganyika, and to the other centres, the names of which are still unknown to the civilised world.

The question of the inadequate payment of ministers has been frequently ventilated, but seldom to so much point as in a communication from the Rev. Robert Collyer recently published in the *Chicago Tribune*. Alluding to a paragraph he had come across in that paper respecting an English clergyman who has to feed and clothe a family of ten on an income of £150 a year, Dr. Collyer says he is reminded of a talk he had with the Rev. Charles Voysey in the summer of 1871. "He was then," the Doctor goes on to say, "a clergyman in the Church of England and was rector of a church which gave him a very fair living; but, before this, he had been a curate in London, with a very large family (as ministers generally have), and an income of less than a hundred pounds a year,—not more than eighty, if my memory serves me. It was desperate work, he said, to make ends meet,—so desperate that there came a time when there was not a penny or a crust left in the house, or a pint of milk for the bairns. 'Then,' he said, 'I sat down to think what I should do; and, when I had made up my mind about the course I must take, I went up to my wife,—as noble and true a woman as ever this world heard of,—and said, My dear, we have done our very best, and this is the end. Now, I will tell you what we must do. We are citizens of London, have paid our rates and taxes right along, and are entitled to all the help there is. We will go to the poor-house to-morrow morning, and ask them to take us in. We have a perfect right to go there, and we will go.' She said, 'That is right,' and began at once to get ready to go to the poor-house; but that day I got a letter from some one, enclosing five pounds. There was no signature; I don't know to this day who sent it, but that five pounds saved us from taking that step, and tided us over to quarter-day.' I could not help wishing, when I heard the tale from the mouth of the poor, brave, earnest man,—a true gentleman as he is, a hard worker, a scholar, and, in all respects, fitted for his great office,—that he had been compelled to go to the poor-house of his parish, because I think it would have been like a stroke of lightning in its power to split open the secret of the suffering such men have to bear, and take something from the gorged channels through which the wealth of the English Episcopal Church drifts into the pockets and stomachs of a few of the most favoured, who can, for many reasons, get hold of public or private patronage, and give a fair share of it to those who have to do the hard work."

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

## THE DOMINION.

More crimping at Quebec.

The Hamilton Exhibition was closed on Friday last.

The American Peace Society is holding a meeting at Halifax.

A Canadian Chess Association was formed at Hamilton last week.

There was a most uncalled-for run on the Ontario Bank at Ottawa last week.

A convict named Graham escaped from Kingston Penitentiary on Saturday last.

Sir George E. Cartier left for England by the steamship "Prussian" on Saturday.

The extradition warrant in the case of the prisoner Dennehy,

accused of the murder of Favor at Providence, R. I., has been issued.

During the storm at Quebec last week a young girl was killed and a ropewalk burnt.

The Provincial Exhibition at Hamilton is said to be the finest ever held in the Dominion.

The Intercolonial Railway will be open between St. John and Halifax by the end of the month.

The sailors in the port of Kingston are on strike for higher wages. They demand \$2.50 a day in gold.

It is reported that Mr. John Ferris, M.P. for Queen's County, N.B., will be called to the Senate in the place of Hon. Mr. Mitchell.

A terrible accident was averted on the Intercolonial near Amherst last week by the courage and *sang froid* of a brakeman.

A detachment of the B Battalion of Canadian Artillery and some volunteers, to the number of 49, left Quebec last week for Fort Garry.

The Directors of the Bank of Montreal propose to increase the capital stock of the bank to \$12,000,000. With the new stock at twenty-five per cent premium this increase would absorb \$5,000,000.

## UNITED STATES.

The Chicago carpenters have struck.

Edmund Yates lectured on Saturday in New York.

The Sioux Indians are growing troublesome in Montana.

A case of ballot-stuffing has been discovered in New York. General Grant has returned to Washington from Long Branch.

A fire at Cleveland last week destroyed \$100,000 worth of property.

A massacre of negroes by white men took place last week in New Jersey.

The Mississippi is very low at New Orleans, and a drought is much feared in Louisiana.

A furious storm set in on Saturday night in the neighbourhood of Detroit, causing much damage to shipping.

The Straight-out Democrats of Milwaukee held a convention last week and decided to put an electoral ticket in the field.

Suit has been begun by the Erie Railroad for the recovery of the Grand Opera House from Jay Gould and Mrs. Fisk.

The Straight-out Democrats of Kansas have issued a call for a State Convention, to nominate a State and electoral ticket.

The jury in the case of Mrs. Laura Fair, on her second trial, for the murder of A. P. Crittenden, have rendered a verdict of "Not guilty."

A fight among the militia-men of the third regiment in New York last week, resulted in the death of two men. Some 25 or 30 were wounded.

Snow fell along the line of the Union Pacific Railway last week. Immense embankments are being constructed along the line to protect it from snow.

Stanley has written a letter to the New York *Herald* denying the stories related of him by Noe, and asserting that he has put neither pen nor pencil to Livingstone's letters.

A collision took place in New York last week between a freight car on the Newhaver Railroad and a street car on the Grand Street line. Two persons were injured, one fatally.

A passenger in the steerage of an Ocean steamship gives in a New York paper a detailed account of the horrors of overcrowding, bad food, and outrages suffered on a recent voyage.

A terrible storm visited the neighbourhood of Milwaukee last week. The streets and cellars were flooded and considerable damage done. In the country several barns were struck by lightning.

The official report of the investigation in the "Metis" disaster results in revoking the licenses of the captain and first mate. The report states the responsibility of the disaster rests upon Captain Burton and the two pilots, and some blame is attached to Deane, the first mate.

The Northern Ohio Lunatic Asylum at Newbury, Ohio, caught fire last week. The main, or old portion of the building, was entirely destroyed. There were about six hundred inmates in the building at the time of the fire, all of whom are said to be safe. A number of these have escaped and are now at large. The loss is unknown, but it will probably amount to about \$350,000, on which it is said there is no insurance.

## BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The Jesuits have been expelled from Strasburg.

Garibaldi denounces Thiers' policy towards Italy.

The Chinese rice crop is very abundant this year.

The health of the ex-Empress Carlotta is improving.

The report of Lord Hatherley's resignation is confirmed.

The Princess Hohenlohe, half-sister of Her Majesty, is dead.

Bancroft Davis sailed from Liverpool on Thursday of last week.

Gambetta demands the dissolution of the National Assembly.

Emigration from Alsace and Lorraine is said to be on the increase.

Small-pox prevails on the coast between Valparaiso and Panama.

Sir Sydney Waterlow has been elected Lord Mayor of London.

The elections in Brazil have resulted in favour of the Government.

The Rinderpest has appeared among the cattle in Lincolnshire.

Belize, the capital of British Honduras, has been attacked by Indians.

Metz has lost one third of her population by emigration since the war.

Professor Tyndall sailed for New York by the "Russia" on Saturday last.

The English hop crop has been gathered in and gives an abundant yield.

The foundries at Lisbon have been closed owing to a strike of the workmen.

Miss Emily Faithful sailed for New York in the "Oceanic" on Thursday last.

The Vice-President of the Republic of San Salvador has been assassinated.

It is stated that the Mexican revolutionary generals have laid down their arms.

A storm in Eastern Bengal is reported to have done much damage to the jute crops.

The Evangelical Congress sitting at Geneva has issued an address to the Old Catholics.

The International Peace Congress, in session last week at Lugano, adjourned on Friday.

It is stated that Sir Roundell Palmer will succeed Lord Hatherley as Lord Chancellor.

The Right Hon. Mr. Lowe has been presented with the freedom of the city of Glasgow.

The late King of Sweden was buried at Stockholm with great pomp on Wednesday week.

Negotiations between the Holy See and the Russian Government are proceeding satisfactorily.

Garibaldi has, in a letter to the Peace Congress, expressed his approval of the Geneva Arbitration.

The Austrian Archduke Albrecht, whose death was recently reported, is rapidly recovering from illness.

The damage caused at Martinique by the recent hurricane is estimated at from 1,200,000 to 1,500,000 francs.

The German troops will commence to evacuate the departments of Marne and Haute Marne on the 15th inst.

M. Thiers has under consideration the question of a Vice-Presidency, an Upper Chamber, and a new electoral law.

A Commissioner is coming over from Constantinople, to receive rifled guns ordered in the United States for Turkey.

Rivero has been elected President of the Cortes by a vote of 176 to 30. The Senate elected Figuerola President by 53 to 3.

On Monday the Pope, for the first time since the occupation of Rome by the Italian troops, went out of the Vatican precincts.

It is reported that Lord John Russell is preparing a review of the proceedings and award of the Geneva Board of Arbitrators.

The Berlin authorities have stopped the transmission by telegraph of a cipher despatch of four hundred words signed by Napoleon.

Djemil Mohammed Pacha, the Turkish ambassador to France, died in a railway train while going from Paris to Leimbach, Austria.

Very tempestuous weather prevailed throughout England during the early part of last week. Some damage was done to the shipping on the coast.

A despatch from Madrid states that the Spanish Budget proposes to meet the excess of expenditures over receipts by withholding the subsidies of the clergy.

At a recent meeting between the Czar and the late Djemil Pacha, the former expressed a desire to render the relations between Russia and Turkey more friendly.

At a recent meeting of Roman Catholic Bishops at Maynooth, although Archbishop Cullen opposed the principle of Home Rule, the majority of the Bishops voted in favour of it.

The Aide-de-camp of the Sultan has been despatched as special messenger to Egypt to present to the Viceroy a firman sanctioning his title of Khedive and making it hereditary.

Berlin advices report that the recent meeting of the three Emperors was in the interest of peace, all three being very desirous of establishing amicable relations with one another.

The advance in the price of coal has caused an increase in expenses of running the Lancashire mills to such an extent that it has been decided to reduce the number of hours of labour.

The opinion of Sir Alexander Cockburn, disagreeing with the decision of his colleagues on the Geneva Tribunal, has been published. It makes a pamphlet of two hundred and fifty pages.

The Rt. Hon. Mr. Lowe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, severely condemns Sir Alexander Cockburn for his dissent from the verdict of his colleagues on the Geneva Board of Arbitration.

A large meeting of railroad men was held on Sunday in Hyde Park, London, favourable to emigration to the United States, where better wages and shorter hours are believed to be obtainable.

The German authorities are determined to wage the great battle of church and state to the very end. The Bishop of Ermeland, the champion of the Roman Catholic Church policy, is to be prosecuted.

King Johannes, of Abyssinnia, has sent a messenger to England with letters for the Queen, asking the intervention of England against Egypt. The same messenger has letters for France, Russia, and Germany.

It is said that efforts are being made which have not yet assumed any official form, to require the Messrs. Laird, the constructors of the privateer Alabama, to pay a portion of the sum awarded to the United States by the Geneva tribunal.

Eighteen thousand Communists are yet held in confinement by the French Government. It is the intention, however, to immediately release one-half this number. Only those accused of assassination, arson, and thieving will be prosecuted.

Chambers of Commerce in several of the leading cities of England have adopted resolves congratulating Her Majesty's Government on the happy termination of the Alabama Arbitration, and copies of the resolves have been forwarded to the United States.

It is reported that the Spanish Government has resolved to submit to the other European powers the question of the justice of its claims against the Government of the United States for damages sustained by filibustering expeditions from American ports for Cuba.