

ness to which they belong. Mr. Blake next made a statement showing that the public debt of Canada increased in a more rapid ratio than in the old settled countries in Europe! But what if it has? Is there the first point of true comparison? And can it be possible that this eloquent gentleman is not aware that the interest of the combined States and Federal debt in the United States *per capita*, is about the same as the principal of the debt of Canada? This speech, in fact, is full of eloquence of this texture; but I have not space to follow it further. He concluded by moving a resolution to the effect that the work of constructing the railway in British Columbia be postponed.

Mr. Langevin followed him in a very sharply defined and critical speech, and his task seemed easy, following such a flood of eloquence. He established Mr. Blake's inconsistency, and in fact, disloyalty to his own party and its acts. And he particularly reproached him for disloyalty to the best interests of Canada in that the whole tenor of his speech was to decry its resources and call in question its ability and its credit—the whole upon no better foundation than an array of flimsy fancies. Mr. Bunster, Mr. McInnes and Mr. DeCosmos showed that Mr. Blake had altogether misapprehended and mistated the resources of British Columbia.

The attacks upon Mr. Sanford Fleming, the Chief Engineer, reached such head as to call for a caucus of the party in order to have a good understanding as to how they should be met. This caucus has had two meetings, and at the last of these, a very carefully written defence of Mr. Fleming by himself was placed in the hands of members. I do not think that his statements can be successfully met. He admits there have been some mistakes, but he cannot be blamed for them, and he contends that the expenses which have been made a reproach in that portion of the work at the head of Lake Superior will prove to have been economy in the end. For my own part I do not mind so much the immediate expenditure of money for avoiding a grade or a curve so as to give us a cheap carrying line for a great traffic, as the precious time lost in construction. And as respects the crossing at Selkirk, Mr. Fleming simply re-asserts his opinion without offering any fresh arguments, or even recapitulating the old. It is understood that he will maintain his position, but there is talk of associating with him a Board of Engineers. There is one thing about Mr. Fleming. He is free from even the suspicion of being affected by a taint of jobbery.

The Banking resolutions of Sir Leonard Tilley have been printed. They are short but very important. They provide that the charters of the banks which would have expired in 1881, shall be renewed until 1891. The banks will not, after the renewal, be allowed to issue any notes for a less sum than five dollars, or for any sum not being a multiple of five dollars. Their cash reserves are never to be less than 40 per cent. in Dominion notes. The forms of their monthly returns are to be made more particular, and the notes they issue to be a first charge on all their assets. These points appear to be agreed upon between the Government and several leading bankers who have been to Ottawa.

Sir Leonard Tilley's proposed resolutions on the subject of Dominion Notes is also printed and is of great importance. It provides that the amount of Dominion Notes may be increased to \$20,000,000, that is an increase of \$8,000,000, provided that the Finance Minister shall always hold for the redemption of such notes an amount in gold, or securities guaranteed by the United Kingdom, equal to 25 per cent. of the issue, and that at least 15 per cent. of the total amount of outstanding notes shall be held in gold.

Another motion of which Sir John Macdonald has given notice is for a resolution to enable the Montreal Harbour Commissioners to pay to the widow of the late Hon. John Young, a gratuity equal to 6 per cent. on \$10,000, to be reckoned from the time of Mr. Young's decease. Probably nobody will object to this, and coming from Sir John Macdonald, it is, at least, a generous thing to do; but I do see very grave doubts as to the advisability of establishing a precedent of this nature.

The Marriage of Deceased Wife's Sister's Bill was finally passed by the Commons on Wednesday last, by the very decisive vote of 102 to 40. There were amendments moved, but they had simple reference to gaining time in order to allow the country, and particularly one or two religious bodies, to make a formal expression of their opinion. But, as respects arguments on the merits of the bill itself, those members who opposed it appear to have utterly broken down, and to have narrowed their opposition into a plea for delay. Sir Leonard Tilley, speaking at the close of the debate, said that he had seen no valid objection against the bill, but yet he thought it better to vote for postponement, in order to give time for the expression of opinion outside. The House, however, was not in a temper to listen to this. The Ministers divided in their votes. Messrs. Bowell, Langevin, O'Connor and J. H. Pope voted for the delay; Messrs. Baby and Jas. Macdonald voted against it. The other Ministers were not present. It now remains to be seen what the Senate will do.

It may be mentioned that the Supreme Court have given a decision affirming the constitutionality of what has been known as the "Scott Law," which has been called in question. People can, therefore, under that law, go on to prohibit the sale of liquor in localities.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT IN HORTICULTURE.

One of the most beautiful results of scientific research has just been announced and experimentally demonstrated before the Royal Society by the distinguished physicist, Dr. SIEMENS, of London. Several months ago he began an extensive series of experiments to ascertain whether the electric light was capable of promoting the growth and maturing of plants exposed to its beams. The method pursued was to plant quick-growing seeds and plants, such as mustard, carrots, beans and cucumbers in pots, dividing the pots into four groups, each group being subjected to different degrees of illumination. One of these was exposed to the electric light only, one to daylight only, one kept in the dark, and the last group to both electric and solar light in succession, the electric rays being thrown on the plants for six hours every night. The general results were that those kept in total darkness soon died, while those brought under the electric light alone, flourished as well as those kept under sunlight only; but the plants which were constantly subjected to electric and solar light successively developed with amazing vigor and rapidity, as the specimens exhibited by the experimenter fully attested. Dr. SIEMENS stated that tulip buds, exposed in his laboratory to the electric light for two hours, expanded into full bloom; and the *London Times*, in reporting his address, says: "Before concluding, Dr. SIEMENS placed a pot of budding tulips in the full brightness of an electric lamp in the meeting and in about forty minutes the buds had expanded into full bloom." The reality and great value of his discovery are substantiated by *Nature*, the leading scientific journal of England. But the experiments speak for themselves.

The apparent mystery of this fecundating or quickening power of electric light is not so occult as it seems. The light of the sun and the artificial light are both one, and the result reached by Dr. SIEMENS it has long been suspected would be realized; indeed other investigators, though with less skill and inadequate contrivances, have sought it. In the recent experiments, great care was taken to eliminate the element of stove heat, but the electric light itself kept up the temperature of the room in which the test was made to 72 degrees, thus fully proving that plants do not require diurnal repose, as animals do, but thrive under continuous exposure to sunlight by day and electric light by night. This, perhaps, is the most important deduction arrived at by Dr. SIEMENS' inquiries, as it promises to open up a new art, which has been fitly termed "electro-horticulture."

This able scientist modestly sums up the conclusions which are clearly derivable from his researches, the first of which is that electric illumination is efficacious in producing the leaf-green of plants and promoting growth without pushing the vegetative process so fast as to endanger their vitality or health. He also concludes that "the radiation of heat from powerful electric arcs can be made available to correct night frosts, and is likely to promote the ripening of fruit in the open air." No doubt for a considerable time this application of electric light-force must be restricted to the gardens and parterres of the wealthy classes. But where the mechanical power for supplying the electric machines is cheap (as from water-falls) the wider utilization of the new agency will not be neglected by nurserymen and horticulturists.

NOTES FROM HAMILTON.

WHAT THE PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT.

The city of Hamilton has a population of about 33,000. At a rough estimate it may be safe to say that number is made up as follows:

14,300 women.
13,200 men.
5,500 children.

Total... 33,000

Before proceeding further, perhaps, it will be well to mention that the above calculation is based upon observations made from my hotel window, which looks out upon the central portion of the popular thoroughfare called James street. Almost everybody, who is out doors at all, is pretty sure to strike this street at some hour of the day. They roll past in carriages, cabs, hotel omnibuses, street cars, baby carriages and freight wagons; but the great bulk of the passers-by are pedestrians. How amusing it is to watch them. The list comprises beggars, the poor, the ne'er-do-wells, the industrious, the moderately well off, the prosperous, and the wealthy. The good, bad, and indifferent crowd and jostle one another just the same as in the streets of larger cities. The extremes are not quite so great; the travelled eye may look in vain for the newest fashions, but it has no difficulty in discovering the antiquated; the crowd is not so cosmopolitan in complexion as that to be seen in a great metropolis,—for I believe the 33,000 of a population includes but two orientals,—still, there is a great variety of form, visage, carriage and character. Italy—sunny Italy, which poets delight to sing about—contributes a few organ grinders and peanut vendors and Africa's dusky hue is, here and there, visible; but the Anglo-Saxon and the Celtic, are the predominating elements. Look out upon the street on a sunny afternoon and

observe the crowd. It is made up of much the same class of people only occupying different stations in life. See the ragged, uncared for urchins; neatly dressed children; fair young faces; middle aged, old and feeble; cripples and paupers. What a motley throng! Gazing out upon it, one finds himself almost unconsciously quoting Gay's lines:

"Here the brib'd lawyer, sunk in velvet, sleeps;
The starving orphan, as he passes, weeps;
There flames a fool, begirt with tinsel slaves,
Who wastes the wealth of a whole race of knaves;
That other with a clustering train behind,
Owes his new honours to a morbid mind!
The next in court fidelity exerts,
The public rides, and his country sells."

But, of course, that is altogether too severe to apply to this interesting little city. Perhaps no place in Canada has equally as good grounds to boast of its church accommodation, its temperance organizations, its Sabbath observance society, its prevention of cruelty to animals society, and other institutions, which are putting forth their best endeavours to purify the moral atmosphere.

But what are the people talking about? Let us take a bird's eye view of the subjects of conversation as well as of the inhabitants themselves. Step into any of the twenty-one pretentious, and innumerable unpretentious, churches on a Sunday and see how the majority of the buildings are crowded. The people have the Gospel served out to them, each Sabbath, in the following proportions: About 18 Methodist sermons, 12 Presbyterian do., 4 Baptist do., 2 Congregational do., 4 Roman Catholic services, 10 Episcopalian do., not to speak of the "Plymouth Brothers," the "True Believers," the "Bible Christians" and other sects, the names of which cannot be thought of just now. If a stranger is not satisfied with any of the foregoing he can step into a hall and be one of a promiscuous crowd to listen to a lecture after the style of Ingersoll's "Mistakes of Moses," or he can go into another building and take a hand at a kind of a "gem puzzle" offer of a prize of fifty dollars for the discovery of the word "hell" in the New Testament. Besides all the above variety of religious diet, the Y. M. C. A. never let an opportunity slip by without making some kind of an effort to capture the outlying sinners. Should the stranger still be longing for excitement he can pay the small sum of five cents and thereby gain admission to an opera chair, in the Mechanics' Hall, and listen to an entertainment given by the temperance people, at four o'clock every Sunday afternoon. At these entertainments a company of clever coloured people, who call themselves "The Jubilee Singers," treat the large audience to some delightful old plantation ditties, &c., &c., and are followed by sundry jubilant speakers who claim to have recently triumphed over the demon intemperance. Should the stranger survive the exercises of the Sabbath, and, on Monday, or some other week night, still find his thirst for amusement unslaked, he can revisit some of the fashionable churches and spend an evening in what they call their "Church Parlours" where, for a small admission fee, he will be treated to some goody-goody speeches, wishy-washy music and tarts.

W. F. McM.

Hamilton, April, 1880.
(To be continued.)

BRELOQUES POUR DAMES.

WHEN pastors preach against the vanity of false things, the ladies know which is which.

It is just as safe, says Prof. Huxley, to marry on a three week courtship as to wait longer.

It is very easy to recollect an actress' age. Get it once fixed in your mind and you've got it for ever.

WORTH is said to have made this remark to a lady who was dowdily dressed: "Madame, I cannot risk my reputation on you."

THE *Dunbury News* asserts that there is a man in Connecticut who sneezes so loud as to sour milk.

TAKE care of the pennies, and your wife will take care of the dollars every time she wants a new bonnet.

A CONNECTICUT farmer recently jumped into a well because his wife ran him into debt. He found however, that he couldn't keep his head above water any better after he got there.

A LITTLE child was asked, "Where do you live?" Turning to its mother, who stood near by, the little one said, "Where mother is, there is where I live."

ADA (aged four), who was doing something, and was told to desist by her mother. Mother: "Ada, am I to speak to you again?" Ada: "Yes, ma, you may if you like."

"THE grass is turning green," was the observant remark of a young man escorting a pretty damsel across the common, and the saucy miss replied that he had got ahead of the grass by a number of days.

IN the gallery of the Louvre, before the statue of the Venus of Milo. Little boy: "What did they cut her arms off for?" Mother: "Because she put her fingers in the sugar-bowl."

Two centuries ago not one in a hundred wore stockings. Fifty years ago not a boy in a thousand was allowed to run at large at night. Fifty years ago not a girl in a thousand made a waiting-maid of her mother. Wonderful improvements in this age!

Maine News.

Aop Bitters, which are advertised in our columns, are a sure cure for ague, biliousness and kidney complaints. Those who use them say they cannot be too highly recommended. Those afflicted should give them a fair trial, and will become thereby enthusiastically in the praise of their curative qualities.—*Portland Ad.*

THE CROPPY BOY.

Our front page is decorated by a Diploma Picture, the work of Mrs. C. N. B. Schreiber, C.A., of Toronto, which attracted the most flattering attention at the late Exhibition of the Canadian Academy of Arts. The subject is taken from an old ballad of the time of the Irish Rebellion:—

The youth has knelt to tell his sins,
"Nomine Dei" the youth begins,
"At the Siege of Ross, did my father fall,
And at Garry my loving brothers all,
I, alone, am left of my name and race,
I will go to Wexford to take their place."

Now, Father, bless me before I go
To die, if God has ordained it so."
The Priest said naught, but a rustling noise
Made the youth look up in wild surprise;
The robes were off, and in scarlet there
Sat a yeoman captain with fiery glare;
With fiery glare, and with fury hoarse,
Instead of blessing he breathed a curse,
"Twas a good thought, boy, to come here and shrive,
For one short hour is your time to live."

HUMOROUS.

A TRAMP called his shoes "corporations," because they had no soles.

PEOPLE do not like to acknowledge that they are poor, except to book agents.

A DOG which won't run away from an elephant will break his back to get away from an oyster-can.

THERE'S the sickle, the bicycle and the tricycle, but the most worthy of these is the sickle.

A UTICA bootblack who was driven out of that city claims consideration now as a Polish refugee.

FABER has made a great deal of money from lead pencils. What is the difference between Faber and reporters?

THE world is full of compensations. The more prices go up the more we have to come down for everything.

THE biggest moustache on record is the one Michael Angelo cut on his statue of Moses. It weighs a ton and a half.

AN Englishman, who is boarding, says he can stand Ash Wednesday once in a while, but 'ash Monday every week is too 'ard.

AND now they have improved upon "You may bet your sweet life," and say "You may gamble your saccharine existence."

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, April 12.—The Swedish Ministry has resigned. The new German Army Bill is causing many to emigrate.—Prince Gortschakoff's death may be expected at any moment.—By an explosion near North Woolwich, eleven lives were lost.—Prince Bismarck is opposed to the disarmament of Germany.—The Austrian Ministry has been defeated on the question of secret service funds.

TUESDAY, April 13.—Russia and Portugal will probably combine to expel the Chinese from Macao, calling in Japan to their aid.—The British troops are to be withdrawn from Afghanistan as soon as the Afghan chiefs shall have elected a friendly Ameer.—The *Agence Russe* denies that the Emperors of Russia, Germany and Austria are to meet for the purpose of discussing European affairs.—Russia will not consent to restore Kuldja under Chinese threats. In case of war, it is feared that foreigners residing in China will be massacred.—Gambetta predicts a dissolution of the French Chambers.—Emigration is taking place on a large scale from Sweden.

WEDNESDAY, April 14.—In contradiction to previous rumours, it is now said Russia will go to war with China.—Election petitions will be presented against returns from seven constituencies in England.—Lordillard's Wallenstein won the handicap race at the Newmarket Craven Meeting yesterday.—The United States Congress awaits Franco's proposal with regard to a treaty of commerce.—It is expected that the International Exhibition to be held at Melbourne, Victoria, will be a great success.—A serious collision took place on the Thames, yesterday, between a sailor and a steamer; no lives lost.—Otero, the would-be assassin of King Alfonso, of Spain, was executed yesterday, notwithstanding the earnest desire of the Queen that his sentence should be commuted.

THURSDAY, April 15.—Cork County has rejected the Parnellite candidate.—Canon Ryle has been appointed to the new bishopric of Liverpool.—Lord John Manners and Sir Stafford Northcote have each received the G.C.B.—The Marlborough Relief committee has been dissolved, owing to the political changes.—The news from Russia is gloomy; a famine, nihilist arrests and court-martials are the order of the day.—It has been decided by the Spanish Ministry that the Cuban municipal elections shall be postponed until May 1881.—A member of the German Reichstag considers England a source of anxiety and danger with Gladstone at her head.—The Cardinal Archbishop of Paris predicts internal troubles for France in case the decrees against the unauthorized orders should be executed.

FRIDAY, April 16.—An attempt has been made to poison the Czar.—The Reichstag has passed the German Army Bill.—The ex-Empress Eugenie has arrived at the Cape.—The Atlantic cable of 1873 is again in working order.—The steamer *Scotia* is shortly to engage in the laying of the new Anglo-American cable.—Dr. Kenealy, of Tichborne fame, is dead. The cause of his death was mortification of the right foot.—A boat has been washed ashore at Vienna, on the Portuguese coast, and it is surmised that it belongs to the missing training-ship *Atalanta*. Nothing definite has yet been ascertained.

SATURDAY, April 17.—Lord Beaconsfield has placed his resignation in the hands of the Queen.—It is said Lord Dufferin will be the next Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.—Parnell's flowers number 24, and Shaw's, the leader of the Moderate Home Rule party, 36.—A number of the Afghan chiefs are aiding the advance of the British troops on Ghuznee.—Count de Lesseps says he has obtained subscriptions in America to the amount of 300,000,000 francs.—Bulgarians are sacking Mussulman villages, and Mouktar Pasha has demanded reinforcements for them.—Dean Stanley will abandon his idea of erecting a monument to the late Prince Imperial in Westminster Abbey.—It is rumoured a battle has taken place at Moquequa, Peru, with adverse results to the Chilians, who seem to be getting worsted on land as well as on sea.—On Saturday, Quebec, Halifax, Toronto and Ottawa were visited, like Montreal, with severe storms. From the Californian Sierras comes the report of the severest storm of the season.