

Notes and Comments.

Few persons believed the story, circulated some time ago, that the French Legitimists and Orleanists were about to "fuse." There are no such enemies as rival relations, so it is without surprise that we learn that at the many private dinner-parties, given recently by members of the old French aristocracy to celebrate the Comte de Chambord's fifty-second birthday, no Orleanists were admitted. The halls where the banquets took place were, we learn, draped with white flags, and the only toast drunk was Henri V.

To discontented speakers at public meetings, etc., who are unable to obtain a hearing we recommend a very effective expedient for commanding silence recently employed by a member of an English local board. The only drawback to its successful and harmless use lies in the fact that the consequences are apt to be unpleasant. At a recent meeting of the board the member in question appeared in the board room with a parcel under his arm. This circumstance caused no apprehension, but when the minutes of the previous meeting had been read, to the dismay of all present, he unpacked the parcel and produced a pair of cymbals, on which he began playing, stating that as he could not have his way with regard to a resolution he had wished to introduce, he would take care that no other member of the board obtained a hearing. He then commenced playing on the instruments, occasionally pausing for a few moments to deliver some forcible remark bearing on the question at issue. The board at last, instead of being moved "by magic numbers and persuasive sounds," called in the police, who removed both the cymbals and the performer.

The Rev. Mr. Voysey, whose religious shiftings have earned him a notoriety such as few English clergymen enjoy, has recently started services according to his own ideas of Divine Worship. A correspondent of the *Church Herald* who was present at one of these meetings at St. George's Hall, London, describes them as utterly lacking in reverence, heartiness, and sincerity. The proceedings are, to say the least, somewhat peculiar. After the congregation, who were slow in taking off their hats and careless of preliminary prayer, had taken their seats, Mr. Voysey began the service by reading one of the opening sentences from the Church of England Book of Common Prayer, which was followed by a mutilated exhortation and confession, the name of Jesus Christ being wholly suppressed. The service was choral, and, of its kind, good. The Psalms, as well as the prayers used, are from a revised version of the Prayer Book. In place of Scripture Lessons portions from sceptical writers were read. After a caricature of the Litany, the service was concluded by an extract chanted from "Theism," by F. W. Newman. The sermon was from the New Koran, Chap. I. v. 3. The writer adds that the unwholesome effect of his two hours' visit was not dispelled until he had attended the hearty, sincere, and devout Evensong at St. Alban's, Holborn.

The *Victoria Standard* had an article some time ago on San Juan which developed a new view of that much contested question. The article was published several weeks before the decision of the German Emperor was made, and if the view taken be correct the dispute over the island would appear to have been a case of "Much Ado About nothing"—resolved, in fact, to a mere dispute over a point of honour. The *Standard* in the article in question thinks the importance of San Juan in a strategic point of view has been greatly overrated. Were it in the hands of the Americans to-morrow, it says, and were hostilities to commence between the United States and Great Britain, no fortifications that they could erect could close the channel effectually against British vessels navigating the waters separating San Juan from Vancouver Island. There are no guns at present in use that could stop a British man-of-war passing through De Haro Channel, or even a commercial steamer, if she felt disposed to do so, from batteries erected on any portion of San Juan Island. It is all very well to talk about Brother Jonathan keeping the door of the Pacific; but should any difficulty ever arise between the two nations, it would soon be seen which of them had possession of the key either to open or close it. Thanks, however, to the Washington Treaty, all probabilities of a rupture of the friendly relations between England and the United States have been effectually removed, and it is doubtful if there be a man now living who will see the day that these two Anglo-Saxon nations will wage war with each other. Their policy is peace.

The ballot experiment in England would appear to be anything but a success. Recent despatches state that the voting, which was conducted amid much excitement and confusion, was so slow that by the time the polls closed many of the electors had not recorded their votes. Advices by mail go to show that it has proved a failure in another way, viz., by giving facilities for bribery. A correspondent of the *Times* gives an illustration of this, drawn from personal experience at Preston. He relates the story of the voting of two Irishmen brought to the poll by an electioneer, whose every movement he was able to observe, and who, as professedly "illiterates," required to give assurance as to the candidate of their choice by naming him in the hearing of the agents of both sides. After the process had been duly gone through and the men had emerged from the scene of action, one of them stated that he had "voted," and now he wanted his "prass." What that meant the correspondent does not profess to know; but as "amid some laughter from the bystanders the conductor of the two men hastily came forward and took them off with him," it is not difficult to make a shrewd guess. At all events, it is plain that bribery may be effectively carried on under the mask of the "illiterate," who is bound to proclaim aloud the candidate for whom he votes. And as the use of the cards distributed by the Conservative agents shows how easily the assumed secrecy of the ballot may be evaded, it seems plain that, instead of putting an end to bribery altogether, we have really made it much easier, because, if skilfully done, much more difficult to trace, than it was under open voting.

News of the Week.

THE DOMINION.

The Bruce Salt Works have been put in operation. Sir Francis Hincks' family has removed to Montreal. Increase of salaries for the Civil Service is being agitated at Ottawa.

The corner-stone of the new House of Industry, Kingston, was laid on Monday.

Captain Pelletier, on trial at Quebec for the murder of a crimp, has been acquitted.

Three men were killed last week on the Toronto, Grey, and Bruce Railway near Owen Sound.

A powerful steam whistle has been put in operation on St. Paul's Island, Gulf of St. Lawrence.

The great case of the Banque Nationale vs. the City Bank has been decided in favour of the plaintiffs.

The celebration of the *noce d'or* of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Montreal proved a perfect success.

So much lawlessness prevails in Halifax that the citizens are talking of organizing a vigilance committee.

The Lieut.-Governor of Ontario has appointed the 14th inst. a day of public thanksgiving for the Province.

Messrs. Manning & Co., of Toronto, have been awarded the contract for deepening the feeder of the Welland Canal.

The rumours to the effect that Sir Francis Hincks will resign his seat in the Cabinet have been officially denied.

Surveying parties have been organized by the Governments of Ontario and Quebec to settle the boundary line between the two provinces.

It is rumoured that Mr. Simard, ex-M.P. for Quebec Centre, will fill the seat in the Senate vacated by the resignation of the Hon. Mr. Cauchon.

His Lordship the Bishop of Quebec is on a visit to the Eastern Townships. His Lordship will then proceed to Ottawa, and be the guest of the Bishop of Ontario.

The section of the Quebec Colonial Railway between River du Loup and the bridge of Trois Pistoles will be opened for traffic on the 18th inst. Heavily laden platform cars pass over the bridge daily.

It is reported that the Government have decided on the removal of St. John's, Palace, and Hope Gates, at Quebec, and that the esplanade and works between St. Louis and St. John's gates are to be levelled for a public park and placed under municipal control.

UNITED STATES.

Mrs. Greely died on the 30th inst.

The Hon. Jas. A. Griswold died last week.

Snow fell lately at Salt Lake and in Maine.

Mr. Everts, U. S. Consul at Geneva, has returned.

Stanley leaves England for New York to-day, Saturday.

Anna Dickenson has been on the stump in New Jersey.

The horse disease is extending southwards and westwards.

Mr. Charles Francis Adams sailed for New York on Saturday.

The Japanese Minister has been examining the Connecticut school system.

The monument to Sir Walter Scott in Central Park, New York, was unveiled last Saturday.

The Northern Pacific is being pushed on so rapidly that it will reach the Missouri in about a week.

The public debt of the United States has been reduced 5,223,417 dollars during the past month.

"Springfield Boy," the noted trotting horse, died the other day at Springfield, Mass., from the horse disease.

Preparations are being made at Washington for a dinner to Stanley, who is expected to arrive there on the 18th inst.

The steamship "Missouri," of the Atlantic Mail Steamship Co., has been destroyed by fire. The loss of life was very great.

The great California trotter, "Occident," has been badly defeated by the two great mares, "Goldsmith Maid" and "Lucy."

In an interview with Grant at Washington recently, Senator Wilson said he had travelled 50,000 miles and delivered 123 speeches.

The jury on the trial of Mayor Hall were unable to agree, and were consequently discharged. The result stood:—7, guilty; 5, not guilty.

The New York *Mercury* says that Mayor Hall has charges prepared to commence suit against the proprietor and editor of the *Times* and Harper Bros.

A despatch from Springfield, Mass., says that the Chinese Imperial Commissioner of Education, together with his wife, recently joined the South Congregational Church in that city. There is evidently some mistake here.

Warrants have been issued in New York for the arrest of Victoria C. Woodhull and Jennie C. Claflin on a charge of libel. The two libellers have created such an excitement that threats of mobbing them were freely indulged in.

Intelligence has been received in New York from the Polar expedition that new and valuable explorations and discoveries have been made. It has been found that what were formerly regarded as separate islands in the Polar Sea, comprise one large area of land, abounding with birds, seal, and reindeer. A full report of all the discoveries will soon be given to the public.

At a meeting of the directors of the Eastern and North American Railroad Company of Maine, held recently at Bangor, the terms of consolidation with the Eastern and North American Consolidated Railroad Company of New Brunswick Western extension, were signed subject to the ratification of stockholders, a meeting of whom is called for the 8th instant. The new company will be known as the Eastern and North American Consolidated Railroad Company.

The President has signed a proclamation declaring that all the provisions of the acts imposing discriminating foreign tonnage and import duties in the United States are renewed,

and shall henceforth be and remain in full force as relates to goods and merchandize imported into the United States in French vessels, from countries other than France, so long as any discriminating duties shall continue to be imposed by France upon goods and merchandize imported into France in vessels of the United States from countries other than the United States.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

The Queen of Spain is *en route*.

Marshal Bazaine's trial has been resumed.

The cholera has made its appearance in Ireland.

A revolutionary conspiracy is on foot in Costa Rica.

The horse disease has made its appearance in Devonshire.

Lord Penzance, Judge of the English Court of Probate, has resigned.

The work on the new Bolivian railway is being rapidly pushed forward.

The German Government denies that it has attempted to stop emigration.

The pay of French soldiers has been increased by order of the Government.

The inundations along the banks of the Po continue to cause much damage.

A war on a small scale is being carried on against Russia by the Khan of Khiva.

Riotous demonstrations against the new Licensing Act have been made in Liverpool.

The German Emperor has conferred on Mr. Hepworth Dixon the order of the Golden Cross.

There have been riots at Sheffield. The police were called out and arrested five of the ringleaders.

It is expected that by the 1st of January only two milliards of the war indemnity will remain unpaid.

The floods in the South of France have subsided. The damage done to farms and vineyards is extensive.

It is said that one of the Deputies from Corsica will resign his seat in the Assembly to make room for Prince Napoleon.

The Prussian Diet have rejected the reform bill in the teeth of the government. The latter immediately dissolved the Diet.

The mortal remains of Heinrich Heine, which were buried in the Montmartre Cemetery, have been disinterred and taken to Hamburg.

M. Thiers has informed Princess Clotilde that the decree of banishment enforced against her husband, Prince Napoleon, does not apply to her.

The Spanish Cortes has resolved by a vote of 124 against 104 to consider articles of impeachment against the members of the Sagasta Ministry.

Mr. Thomas Hughes, better known as the author of "Tom Brown's School-days," has announced to his constituents his decision to retire from politics.

The German Government will re-establish next year the councils general in Alsace and Lorraine, in the same form in which they existed under the French dominion.

The golden wedding of the King and Queen of Saxony was celebrated at Dresden, on Sunday, with great ceremony. The German Emperor, Empress, and Crown Prince were present.

The municipal elections throughout England last week resulted in heavy Conservative gains, which are attributed to the passage by Parliament and enforcement of the Licensing Act.

John Francis Maguire the well known Irish member of Parliament for Cork city, and proprietor and editor of the *Cork Examiner*, died last week. He was in the 57th year of his age.

A petition was presented to the Cortes to-day by one of the Republican Deputies, asking to urge the adoption of measures looking to the procurement from England of the cession of Gibraltar to Spain.

A banquet was given last week in London by the Royal Geographical Society in honour of M. Bartle Frere, who is about to proceed to Africa to promote the cause of abolition of slavery in that country.

A despatch from Peking announces that the Emperor of China was married on the 16th of October. There was no outside ceremony other than a procession, which escorted the bride from her residence to the Imperial Palace.

A Paris despatch states that the Council General of the Department of the Seine has adopted a resolution in favour of compulsory education and the employment of lady teachers in the public schools, and will petition the Assembly for legislation to that effect.

London files report that Messrs. Lowe and Gladstone propose raising the money to meet the American Claims by a loan—probably a cheque or bonds will be issued as a compensation for part of the fifteen millions, so as to spread the payment over a considerable period.

Advices from Hayti state that the French Minister threatens to resort to the same measures taken by the Germans for the recovery of \$54,000 due to the French citizens, and has sent for the French Admiral. The Haytiens appealed to the liberality and humanity of President Thiers.

A general conference of Jews has been held at Brussels. Delegates from Roumania laid before it the condition of their people in the principalities. They proposed to petition the Roumanian Chamber for full civil and political rights, and stated that their intention of emigrating *en masse* to America has been abandoned.

The Marquis of Ripon, who presided over the High Joint Commission which framed the "Alabama" treaty at Washington, delivered an address last week at Ripon, in Yorkshire, upon the results of the arbitration in Geneva. The speaker expressed himself as thankful that all the points involved in the Treaty of Washington had been peacefully and amicably settled. He regarded this as a great step towards the preservation of the peace of the world. Though, said the Marquis, the controversy between the two nations had been sometimes keen and eager, the feelings of the people, as well as the representative government, had never become embittered. He believed that the arbitration at Geneva had been the means of inaugurating good relations between England and the United States, which would long endure.