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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1878.

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THE WEEK.

THE efforts made by Darwinians and others to degrade man to the level of the brutes meet with a counterpart in the endeavors made by some to raise the brute to a level with humanity. What man is, as distinguished from other living creatures, in the world, may be a question. It has been supposed to be scarcely sufficient to speak of him as the only rational animal in the face of some facts which look very much like the possession of a certain kind and degree of the reasoning faculty in some other animals, as dogs and elephants. Some speak of man as a laughing animal; and others with an assurance which defies contradiction, assert that the great distinction is shown by declaring him to be a religious animal. To meet this idea, however, a speaker at the recent meeting of the British Association is reported to have said: "That animals may possess the moral sense in a rudimentary form was illustrated by a striking anecdote of a Skye terrier, who having stolen a cutlet off the table and kept it in his possession for some minutes, was impelled by a pure sense of remorse to bring it back uneaten." That was supposed positively to look like conscience, until a lady suggested there might have been too much pepper placed on the cutlet. It is not stated, however, whether the dog was hungry, whether it had been in the habit of pilfering, or whether it had been taught to bring its food to its owner before eating it. Indeed a vast number of facts of a much stronger character than this would be required before the principle could for a moment be entertained that the dog, like man, is a religious animal.

The political atmosphere has continued during the week pretty much the same. Astonishment has been expressed by all, consternation by some, notes of triumph by others. "How the battle was lost" and how it was won are topics that have been speculated upon without any very definite prac-

tical result. It is supposed to have been lost by selfishness, as it is believed to have been gained by the desire of a large mass of electors to secure a change of government. One thing is certain, that the new Administration, whenever it may be formed and of whomsoever it may consist, will have to walk very warily if it will desire to retain the large majority indicated by the result of the elections. "Great expectations" have been formed. A new government must heal all the ills of humanity; it is expected to make the desert rejoice, and blossom as the rose; and woe to its members if these desires are not gratified! But who ever heard of the great expectations indulged in by a change of ministry being half of them ever gratified? The principles contended for out of office are generally ignored when the sweets of official emolument begin to be tasted. On two questions, however, a great deal of curiosity will be manifested as to the mode in which they will be taken up. One will be, how the Pacific Railroad will be carried on so as to become most serviceable to the Dominion, and yet satisfy local interests and former engagements. The other is, what system of protection can be adopted to foster rising industries and yet be of service to the community at large. We venture to say that these two problems will be quite enough to occupy the wisest heads in any Administration that may be formed.

An effort is spoken of as being made to give the island of Crete to Greece in consideration of her renouncing her claim to a portion of the mainland awarded to her by the Berlin Treaty. Midhat Pasha is reported to have suggested this basis, and England is said to be endeavoring to make the arrangement with the Powers. A correspondent at Constantinople states that the project of a treaty proposed by Russia for enforcing those portions of the treaty of Stefano not abrogated by the Berlin Congress, fixes the amount of war indemnity to be paid by Turkey, exclusive of territorial accessions, at 310,500,000 francs. The Russians have selected Sofia as the capital of Bulgaria, instead of Tirnova, and are otherwise seeking to contravene the Treaty of Berlin and thwart the International Commissioners in Eastern Roumania. A Bucharest despatch of the 27th says: The Chambers met in special session to-day. The message of Prince Charles advises the maintenance of a dignified attitude relative to Bessarabia, in the hope that the territory may eventually be restored by the more clearly informed justice of Europe. It is reported that 30,000 insurgents are concentrated in the neighborhood of Visehrad.

The Hungarian Radicals held a mass meeting at Perth on the 29th to protest against the occupation of Bosnia. Deputies Helby and Simonji, leaders of the movement, and many other members of the Hungarian Diet were present at the meeting, which was

largely attended. Resolutions were unanimously adopted declaring the occupation of Bosnia by Austria fatal to the Hungarian nation, protesting against the sacrifice of the blood and money of the Hungarians against their wishes, and demanding the withdrawal of their army from Bosnia. The resolutions will be forwarded to the Ministers, and Parliament will be asked to pass a vote of want of confidence in the Cabinet.

At a recent Church consecration the Bishop of Manchester took occasion to draw attention to the progress which has been made of late years in the free and open church system. He stated that his predecessor, Bishop Lee, between the years 1847 and 1869 consecrated 130 churches, and of these only 19 were free and open. He said that this year (1878) was the ninth year of his own episcopate; and he found that up to the end of last year he had consecrated sixty-six churches, and twenty-nine of these were free and open, and many of those which were not absolutely so, might almost be considered free in consequence of the large proportion of free seats in comparison with those which were appropriated. Last year out of eight churches which he had consecrated, six were entirely free. This year he had consecrated twelve churches, the majority of which were free and open.

The southern pestilence continues unabated in some parts of the States. In New Orleans there are now three thousand five hundred corpses within the city, most of them covered by only about six inches of loose clods, the others being above ground in vaults through the crevices of which the noxious gases of putrefaction escape; and, such is the present progress of the pestilence there, that we are told "aid is still urgently solicited." In one day last week the Howard Association forwarded ten thousand dollars to the Peabody Relief Association, and five thousand dollars to the New Orleans Central Relief Committee. At Holly Springs, we are told the magnitude of the plague is much greater than was supposed. Twelve physicians there have been seized with the fever, four of whom have died. At Water Valley the fever is fast increasing. At Memphis, the fever is described as of the most malignant type; one hundred and seventeen new cases occurring in one day. The cemeteries being in the heart of the city are supposed to have caused the malignancy in the character of the fever. Several nurses have died there. At Vicksburg on the 28th the fever was reported to have continued attacking the refugees who had returned. The mercury on that day stood at 94. At Bovina the fever is increasing. At New Orleans, the additional cases on the 28th were three hundred and twenty-six. Senator Morgan telegraphed to the effect that the Secretary of War declined to issue Government rations while the benevolent societies have means. But this is surely a miserable excuse for a government neglecting its duty. For the