

Reports from the continent indicate that the Unionist triumph in the general elections in the United Kingdom is viewed with satisfaction in Germany, Austria and Italy, but with not a little misgiving in France. No doubt the growing change of English public opinion in favor of joining the Triple Alliance, in order to neutralize the persistent unfriendliness of France, and the fact that the Conservative party has inclined most to that policy, accounts for much of the French apprehension. But there is good reason to believe that, apart from the fear lest British influence may be thrown on the side of the Triple Alliance, the French dread a demand for the settlement of a part at least of the long list of diplomatic injuries inflicted upon Great Britain. Confirmation of this belief, it is claimed, has been given in the meagre publicity accorded by the French press and government to the formal opening a few weeks ago of the great military port and naval arsenal constructed by France at Bizerta, in Tunis, though its importance to the republic is scarcely less than that of the Kiel Canal to Germany. For by cutting a canal from the sea to Lake Bizerta, the French have secured an inland harbor capable of holding their entire fleet, and as absolutely protected from attack by a hostile squadron as the German fleet would be if massed in the middle reaches of the Kiel waterway.

Moreover, a naval base at Bizerta more than doubles the strength of France in the Mediterranean, giving her, with Toulon, a great naval stronghold on either side of sea, thus enabling her to safely divide her fleet and to harass an enemy on both flanks. Yet the only celebration of the opening of this great port was a parade of the French Mediterranean fleet, conducted so quietly that it was hardly known outside of France, and due, no doubt, to the fact that in opening it at all, the republic violated a direct promise made to Great Britain. For in the correspondence between the two governments which accompanied the French occupation of Tunis in 1881, France not only repeatedly promised not to permanently occupy the country, but at England's request, gave special assurances that Bizerta would not be converted into a military and naval port. In view of these pledges, it is not unnatural that the Paris government should carefully refrain from advertising the completion of the port, and dread the return to power of a British premier likely to demand compensation for the injury done to British interests in the construction of a naval stronghold on the British route to India, and if refused, to add it to the list of injuries for which payment will some day be exacted. It is true, of course, that the breaches of faith are by no means all on the French side, but it is, unfortunately, equally true that England can show the longer list of diplomatic grievances, and so is in better position to demand an accounting.

HOW TO TEST A THERMOMETER.

Turn it on End, and if the Mercury Still Fills the Tube You Can Bet It's a Good One.

To tell whether a thermometer accurately does its work invert the instrument. If the mercury does not fall to the end, or if it breaks into several small columns, the thermometer contains air, and is inaccurate. If perfectly made, the slender thread should fill the tube, or should break off at the bulb and fall to the end of the tube.

There is another interesting fact about thermometers. Nine persons out of ten think the mercurial column round, but that is not the case. The thread of mercury in thermometers is flat. If it were round, the column could hardly be seen, for the opening of the tube is as fine as the finest thread. Some eight or ten years ago a manufacturer introduced the scheme of coating the back of the tube with white sizing. That makes the column of mercury stand out plain and distinct.

Thermometers are cheaper and better than ever before. You can now buy a heat marker for twenty-five cents, but a first-class instrument will cost you \$2. A cheap instrument is like a cheap watch—it is unreliable. The reason for this is that a perfect thermometer has a scale of its own. The cheap thermometer is made on guess-work. Hence, you see a difference of two, three or five degrees between thermometers in the same locality on the same day.

The most sensitive heat marker is the radiometer. It consists of four arms suspended on a steel pivot, rotating like a miniature wind-gauge, and the whole affair enclosed in a glass tube from which the air has been exhausted. The light of a candle one or two feet away causes the arms to rotate. Quite as sensitive is the thermopile, which is used to detect the faint rays of heat transmitted from the moon and stars to this cold world.

Eye for Style.

Tramp (interviewing Herr Gutherz at the front door)—Excuse me—yesterday you gave me this hat and light top coat I am now wearing; couldn't you let me have a walking stick to match?

Satisfied With Horrors.

Mabel—I am beginning to have a horror of man.

Estelle (sighing)—Indeed? I should be grateful for even a chance to work up a good substantial horror just now.

HAS EARNED HIS SPURS.

LORD WOLSELEY TAKES CHARGE OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

The Appointment Causes Great Satisfaction in England—He is a Renowned Fighter—While of Irish Birth, He Has no Sympathy With the Present Leader—Some of His Battles.

The announcement that General Lord Wolseley has been chosen to succeed the Duke of Cambridge as commander-in-chief of the British army causes the greatest possible gratification among the government's friends and supporters, says a London letter. For many years Wolseley has been to many minds the ideal soldier—the greatest living master of the art of war. General Lord Roberts, for many years commander-in-chief of the forces in India, and who for the past two years has been in Great Britain receiving the administration to which his prowess in Asia entitled him, is his only rival, but he has never filled the public mind as has the man who boldly sat in judgment on the deeds of Wellington and Bonaparte and on the campaigns of General Ulysses S. Grant.

His popularity is due almost entirely to his military prowess. There is nothing imposing or magnetic about his appearance. He has not the fine physique of Lord "Bobs." Slim, small statured, with a ruddy face, firmly lined, searching blue eyes and a drooping mustache, his general bearing is by no means that of the typical soldier of romance. Although 62 years of age, he looks at least a decade younger, and his Irish birth shows itself in a marked brogue, which he would be glad to remove from his voice, as he has no sympathy whatever with the cause of Parnell, Redmond and McCarthy. The Irishman in

assistant general at the war office in 1871. When the Ashantee war began in August, 1873, he was chosen to command the British troops, with the local rank of major general. The African campaign was a brilliant one, the natives being defeated every turn. General Wolseley entering Coomassie on Feb. 5, 1874, and receiving the submission of the king. His return to England was a great popular triumph. Like a second Scipio Africanus, he was the hero of the day. Parliament passed a resolution thanking him for his services to the British crown and granting him \$125,000 as a partial reward for his "courage, energy and perseverance." The Queen made him a Knight Commander of the Bath, while the City of London, not to be outdone in favoring the popular hero, presented him with the freedom of the city and a splendid sword valued at 100 guineas. He was shortly afterward made commander of the auxiliary forces, but it being felt that his services were needed in Africa, where success had previously met him at every turn, he was dispatched to Natal to act as governor of that colony, to advise the colonial office of the best form of government for the natives, and to arrange for suitable military organization and defenses in the event of another outbreak.

HONORS CAME VERY FAST.

Upon his return to London he was again made commander of the auxiliary forces, and then a member of the council for India. His next appointment was as Governor of Cyprus, and commander in chief of the army, in that newly acquired important military point. African warfare again demanded his services in June, 1879, and he was made governor and high commissioner of Natal, the whole of the Zulu war being left in his hands. In this venture he was successful, as always, succeeding in destroying the strongholds of Sikukuni. At the close of the campaign he held successively the offices of quartermaster general and adjutant general of the army, but when the expeditionary force was sent to Egypt, in 1882, he was chosen as its leader. His services there gained him again the thanks of Parliament, as well as the title of Baron Wolseley of Cairo, and of Wolseley in the County of Stafford. He also obtained the rank of full general, while both



THE FAMOUS SOLDIER WHO HAS BEEN CHOSEN TO SUCCEED THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF BRITAIN'S ARMIES.

his constitution also shows itself in a suave manner and a not altogether suppressed tendency to blarney his friends, although during the last score years of his life he has succeeded in getting rid of that Irish trait. His boast is that he always says exactly what he thinks of friend or foe and to their faces. Often he excoiates his contemporaries in quite unprofessional fashion in the magazines and reviews, paying no more respect to living generals such as Lord Roberts than he does to Napoleon, Wellington, Grant, Caesar or Hannibal.

IS AN ACTUAL FIGHTER.

It must not be supposed, however, that Lord Wolseley is one of those soldiers who do most of their fighting with pen and ink. He has had many more than his share of hard campaigns since he entered the army as ensign in March, 1852. From that time he has been in the most notable battles in which the British army has been engaged. He was an ensign during the second Burmese war. At the siege of Sebastopol he was a lieutenant, and rose on that field to the rank of captain in the first month of 1855. On his way to China in 1857 he endured the hardships of the sea, being wrecked near Singapore. He took part in the suppression of the Indian mutiny in that year, receiving a commission as major in March, 1858, and the next year gaining a lieutenant colonelcy at the age of 26 years. In 1860 he served on the staff of the quartermaster general throughout the Chinese campaign, for which he received the honor of a medal with two clasps. He was appointed deputy quartermaster general in Canada in October, 1867, and commanded the expedition to the Red River. His gallantry on the field and his services as an executive officer won him a nomination as Knight Commander of the Order of S. S. Michael and George in 1870, and upon his return to England he was

the great English universities conferred upon him their highest degrees. Almost before he had thoroughly rested himself from the Egyptian campaign he was sent back to that country to the relief of General Gordon. This was the only failure in his career, and even for this only his enemies hold him accountable. Through a combination of circumstances his steamer arrived at Khartoum forty-eight hours too late, rendering the expedition abortive. To console him for his disappointment, the popular hero was thanked for his services by both houses of parliament, and was made Viscount Wolseley. In 1890 he retired from being adjutant general to the forces and became commander in chief of the forces in Ireland, which position he has since held, his conduct winning the approval of the English Tories and the nature of the Irish, who would almost as soon see further honors heaped upon the Duke of Cambridge himself as upon their enemy. This, of course, is another thing which gives the conservatives great satisfaction.

COVERED WITH SCARS.

Wounds as well as honors have been Lord Wolseley's lot since he first donned a red uniform. In leading a storming party while ensign during England's war with Burmah in 1854 both he and his brother officer were shot down as they entered the enemy's works. The other bled to death in five minutes and it was only as if by a miracle and after intense suffering that the life of the future commander-in-chief of the British army was saved. During the siege of Sebastopol he was wounded three times and on one occasion while working in the trenches he was bowled over by a solid shot striking him. He was picked up for dead hardly recognizable from the number of wounds on his face. The surgeons declared that there was no possibility of his recovery but he took a different view of the matter and lived to see all of them in their graves, although

for a long time he was compelled to live in a dark room, total blindness being threatened.

While not engaged in fighting with the sword, Lord Wolseley has been wielding the pen with almost as good effect. In his essays he has not hesitated to criticize almost every great general of ancient and modern times. To complete the picture of the English hero there is need only to add that he is a confirmed prohibitionist and an inveterate smoker. He has an only daughter of marriageable age, who will inherit his viscounty.

SOMEWHAT CURIOUS.

There are 13,000 distinct varieties of postage stamps.

A French railroad company has ordered clocks placed on the outside of every locomotive.

The native dog of Australia, the Egyptian dog and the Persian desert dog never bark. May their tribe increase.

The German army is to spend 100,000 marks for bicycles. Two wheels are assigned to each battalion for work formerly done by mounted orderlies.

A snake fourteen feet long has, according to report, been stealing ducks, geese, chickens, peacocks and other delicacies from a farm at Cold Spring Harbor, L. I.

It was stated some time ago by one of the heads of departments of the London and Northwestern Railway that that company issues yearly five tons of railway tickets.

A contested claim to a yearling calf caused Joseph Hamilton and Clarence Chapman, of Lonoke Co., Ark., to kill each other in a duel. It wasn't the calf so much as it was the principle of the thing and somehow the law can't settle that.

The perpendicularity of a monument is visibly affected by the rays of the sun. On every sunny day a tall monument has a regular lean from the sun. This phenomenon is due to the greatest expansion of the side on which the rays of the sun fall.

Bucharest is known to-day as the greatest den of swindlers in the world. Even the great American crime centers cannot hold a candle to Bucharest. It is the exit, so to speak, the initiative station for the criminals of the Balkan states, whence they travel westward to Vienna, Berlin, Paris, London, Rome and New York.

In the manufacture of watch glasses balls are usually blown to a size of about two feet in diameter, and at the exhibition of 1839 there was shown a ball of considerably over a yard in diameter, arrived at by a system in which compressed air is employed. No less than 3,000 watch glasses were obtained from this bubble.

Boy battalions have sprung up all over Spain since the little king has begun to grow up. They drill after school hours, and try to imitate their elders in all things. At Grenada the school battalion mutinied recently because it did not receive its pay, went in a body to the newspaper offices and proclaimed its grievance, then marched through the city streets smashing all the lanterns.

A Heavy Burden.

The history of labor strikes, if fully written, would contain some odd incidents. None could be more so, perhaps, than the story of a recent strike in Omaha among the brewery workmen.

An agreement had been made between the brewers and their employes which was acceptable in every point but one, and upon this one point they held out. It had been provided that beer should be furnished the workmen to drink without charge at nine, eleven, two, three, four and six o'clock, but the men insisted upon having it free at every hour of the day! Here is oppression of labor by capital with a vengeance!

In point of fact, there are no two things more at odds than efficient labor and excessive drinking. About a thousand million dollars a year are spent in the United States for liquors, wines and ales. The proportion of this enormous sum that comes from the pockets of the working people of small means is quite out of proportion to their number.

The loss is not only direct, but indirect. Indolence and incapacity always follow in the train of excess. A manufacturer has lately been quoted as saying that he had many men in his employ to whom he used to pay five dollars a day, but who could now with difficulty earn a dollar and a quarter; and that solely because they would drink. And the circumstance is not exceptional, but typical.

Waste and idleness are of the nearest kin to vice and excess.

Health on a Mountain-Top.

A striking indication of the comparative freedom of the higher regions of the atmosphere from floating germs has been noticed in Scotland. During the past twelve years a meteorological observatory has been maintained on the summit of Ben Nevis. Members of the observatory staff who have resided on the mountain-top have been remarkably free from sickness, although they are exposed to very inclement weather.

In particular, it has been noted that they do not suffer from catarrh, and other affections of the mucous membrane and air-passages, as long as they remain on the mountain; but when they return to live at a low level they are especially subject to attacks of influenza catarrh.

The explanation offered is that the freedom from disease during residence on the mountain is due to the comparative absence of deleterious organisms in the air there, while the liability to influenza affections on descending into the lowlands arises from the peculiar susceptibility of the mucous surfaces—so long accustomed to pure air—to the attacks of the germs that swarm at the bottom of the atmospheric ocean.

Ben Nevis is only forty-four hundred feet in height, but in the rigorous climate of Scotland this elevation is sufficient to bring about a sharp distinction in the condition of the air between the mountain-top and the valleys.

Where there is no hope there can be no endeavor.—Johnson.

PURELY CANADIAN NEWS

INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT OUR OWN COUNTRY.

Gathered from Various Points from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Quebec is talking of a winter carnival. Typhoid fever is prevalent in London. The Oddfellows of Ayr have a new hall.

Sneak thieves pillaged Ridgetown gardens. An Aldborough man has a pair of tame eagles.

This season 1,000 persons settled in Algoma.

The C. M. B. A. will have a branch at Upergroye. Kent county has a fine barley crop this season.

Port Rowan has stock company boring for gas. Robert Steed, of Sarnia, has arrived at South Africa.

Meaford's water power throws a stream 150 feet high.

Some farmers are refusing \$20 a ton for their hay.

The M. C. R. impounds all cattle found on its property. In ten minutes Barry Lynn, of Lebe killed 63 snakes.

A convent is to be built at Montreal costing \$60,000.

Hamilton bicyclists are obliged to carry bell and lamps.

Woodstock will spend \$16,000 on its schools this year.

The bloomer craze has invested the Maritime Provinces.

Chatham has assumed control of its water-works system.

In June 2,328 cars of stock passed through St. Thomas.

Chatham's assessment has been reduced \$64,000 by appeals.

Some Sarnia citizens allow their horses to wander at night.

Midland will soon vote on a \$4,000 by-law to improve itself.

A fine Indian axe was recently dug up in Enniskillen township.

A new German Lutheran church has been opened at Lisbon.

Byron Burk was fatally hurt by falling from a barn at Rondeau.

It is proposed to teach German in the Public schools of Crediton.

Orillia promptly fines any one using profane language on the streets.

Rev. Dr. Jeffers, Belleville, recently celebrated his 81st birthday.

The late Joseph Hoodless, of Hamilton, left an estate worth \$76,000.

Stratford has a midget, weighing 45 pounds, who is 24 years old.

Knox church, London, will spend \$3,500 for enlarging the building.

The Indians of Walpole Island will have a Christian Endeavour Society.

Louis Foster, of Zurich, nearly asphyxiated himself in a London hotel.

The St. Thomas radial railway will be amalgamated with the city road.

A fine hotel is to arise from the ruins of the Mansion House at Simcoe.

The Oxford Mining Company, Norwich, is declared exempt from taxation.

A London thief was sent to the penitentiary four years for stealing \$10.

Two London boys, aged only 12 and 13, were found drunk the other day.

The creditors of the Manitoba Commercial Bank will get 37 per cent.

The M. C. R. will illuminate Niagara Falls with two powerful search lights.

A church is being built on the Mucoey Reserve for the Bear Creek Indians.

Alex. Wilson, arrested for robbery at Chatham, has been found to be insane.

A fine crystallized limestone quarry has been discovered near Sprucedale station.

San Francisco capitalists are trying to lease the Revelstoke smelting works.

An almanac 101 years old, the oldest in Canada, is owned by a Biddulph man.

The cornerstones of the new Methodist church at Westmount has just been laid.

Three hundred varieties of Canadian weeds will be exhibited at the Stratford Fair.

Six Brockville hotel men were recently summoned for selling liquor during the prescribed hours.

Three boys, aged 8, 11 and 13 recently committed robberies in Ingersoll on Sunday afternoon.

The tower of Sudbury's new Catholic church is being raised, and a new bell will be hung in it.

It is proposed to introduce singing and the kindergarten system into the Public schools of Woodstock.

Little Irene Towers, of Hamilton, contracted scarlet fever from a stray kitten and she died of it.

A large live tarantula was found by a Stratford merchant in some fruit he received from San Francisco.

Peter McArthur, a former student of the Strathroy Collegiate, has been appointed editor of the New York Truth.

A. Wherry, formerly principal of the Forest Public school, has been appointed inspector of the Peterboro' Public schools.

Mr. William Brick, principal of St. Mary's school, Kingston, has been appointed to a position in the Ottawa Normal School.

Two huge sticks of timber, 70 feet long and 3 feet square, reached Kingston last week from Hastings, B. C. The freight was \$88.

The T., H. and B. railway paid \$1,000 to the family of Thomas Davis, Hamilton, who was killed by an explosion while working on the road.

The ministers of Regina severely criticized the fair directors for keeping the exhibition open on Sunday.

A Shoal Lake hotelkeeper was recently fined \$175 and costs, at Portage la Prairie, for selling liquor without a license.