The Weekly Mail.

TORONTO, FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 1873.

"A SIMPLETON."

The usual supply of advance sheets of "A Simpleton" has not yet arrived, and we are therefore unable to print the week's instalment of that story.

THE SURPLUS SCHEME.

Friday afternoon the Premier brought down the long-looked-for Surplus scheme, and we regret that we cannot describe it as creditable to "his best "consideration." We give its main principles:—

1. It reduces the Municipal debt by cancelling all the liabilities the interest of which *cannot* be paid on the five per cent. rule of the assessment of 1858.

2. A reduction is to be made in favour of those municipalities whose indebtedness to the Fund, even if they share in the above reduction, will require an assessment of more than two cents on the dollar, over and above their assessment for ordinary purposes.

3. The municipalities which contributed to the construction of the railroads built before the establishment of the Railway Act, will be credited with a grant of $2,000 per mile dating back to 1854, and allowing interest at 5 per cent thereon for the length of the several roads, provided that they are not indebted to the Fund or that they have received no benefit under the reductions.

4. But no allowance will be made to any municipality which contributed to a road subsidised out of the Treasury. For instance the contributions of Toronto and Simcoe to the Northern Railway are to be ignored, because that road received public aid to a much larger extent than $2,000 a mile.

5. Where legislation has injuriously affected an indebted municipality, special allowance will be made in its case. For instance, Prescott has been injured, so the Premier says, by the legislation in 1865, which permitted the first bondholders of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Railway to sell the road with its franchises, by which all creditors, except the first bondholders, were cut off, and among them Prescott.

6. The Clergy Reserve money kept from municipalities in default under the fund will be restored to them on their paying off the whole original debt and the arrears of interest except as reduced by the railway allowance.

7. After these reductions have been made, the municipalities still remaining indebted to the Fund will be required to issue new debentures to the amount of their liability, the said debentures to be payable at future periods, but in no case to extend beyond twenty years, and to bear interest at five per cent. The railway or other securities which municipalities may hold as against their loans to railway or other undertakings shall, in the discretion of the Governor in Council, be transferred to the Government, and held as security against the debentures.

8. A general distribution will then be made among those municipalities which have *not* fallen within the relief granted by the first, or five cent, reduction, at the rate of $2 *per capita* on the census of 1871. Those municipalities which have been relieved in any measure by any or all of the rules of the reduction will not be allowed to participate in this distribution.

9. The amount to which a municipality shall be entitled will be paid to it in the shape of the debentures taken by the Government from the indebted municipalities and issued at par. The Government will not endorse such bonds, the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the construction of permanent works, subject to the direction of the Township Councils and to the vote of the Townships.

The above are the main features of the scheme. The following are some of its practical results:—

1. Reductions which will be made under the first, or five cent, rule, the debt being estimated up to 1st January, 1873:—

	Debt.	Relief.	Remain due.
Brantford (Town)....$	882,549	688,531	194,018
Chatham	161,436	57,958	108,478
Elizabethtown	309,651	210,804	98,847
Goderich	155,508	53,685	101,823
Ops	165,159	127,943	37,216
Port Hope	1,928,662	1,761,702	166,960
Peterborough (Town)	145,167	72,737	72,430
Stratford	202,812	125,015	77,797
Lanark and Renfrew	1,560,047	1,237,978	322,069

2. The following are the municipalities which fall in under the two cent rule as well as under the five cent rule:—

	Debt.	Relief, 5 cent.	Relief, 2 cent.	Remain Due.
Brockville	$864,422	702,672	26,375	135,375
Cobourg	1,188,691	989,743	129,368	69,580
Chippawa	41,899	18,001	20,580	3,338
Dundas, Town	110,211	(Wiped out altogether.)		
London	778,149	212,260	80,831	486,058
Niagara	619,061	535,349	70,107	14,205
Prescott, Town	231,157	145,933	52,524	32,700

3. The following municipalities which have been affected by injurious legislation will be relieved of *all* their indebtedness:—Prescott, Simcoe Township, Windham, Woodhouse, Norwich, and Woodstock.

The Counties and Municipalities which will remain indebted to the Fund after enjoying the benefit of all the reductions, and for which indebtedness they will have to give their debentures to the Government, are as follows:—

	INDEBTEDNESS.
Brantford Town	$ 194,018
Brockville	135,375
Cobourg	69,580
Chippawa	3,338
Chatham	108,470
Elizabethtown	98,847
Goderich	101,823
Guelph	68,618
Hope Township	119,191
London	486,058
Lanark and Renfrew	322,069
Niagara Town	14,205
Ops	37,416
Port Hope	166,960
St. Catharines	231,860
Stratford	77,797
Belleville	6,663
Barrie	11,996
Bruce	5,151
Cornwall, Town	5,148
Essex	19,336
Grey	1,413
Hastings	69,642
Lincoln	12,438
Lambton	4,562
Middleton	1,604
Northumberland and Durham	350,775
Oxford	5,562
Ottawa, City	87,940
Perth	282,147
Peterboro', Town	72,430
Stanley	3,268

The Counties and Municipalities which will be entitled to refunds under the scheme are as follows:—

Bertie	$ 1,826
Brantford Township	33,284
Canboro'	988
Elizabethtown Township	9,639
Huron	94,242
Moncton and Sherbrooke	6,519
Paris	14,536
Wainfleet	9,342
Preston	17,549
Guelph Township	8,775
Hamilton	17,549
Middlesex	23,299
St. Thomas	9,899
Elgin Co.	23,534

The refunds to Preston, Guelph Township, and Hamilton, arise out of the Galt and Guelph Railway; the refunds to Middlesex, St. Thomas and Elgin out of the London and Port Stanley Railway.

Of course no allowance is made in any of the above lists for the share of any of the municipalities in the *per capita* distribution.

The sum and substance of this scheme is that the Municipal Loan Fund, which amounts in round number to $13,000,000, is reduced to $2,700,000, for which the indebted municipalities will give their debentures to the Government. According to the distribution principle, Mr. Mowat estimates that $2,700,000 will pay the grant of $2 *per capita* to the municipalities receiving no benefit from the reductions and which alone are entitled to it. The present Surplus is left intact. Municipal bonds, not cash, are to pay what has hitherto been known as "the share in the Surplus." And we imagine that the township Councils which succeed in negotiating the bonds of towns like Niagara, Port Hope and others, now treated as bankrupt beyond redemption, will be few and far between, unless they are prepared to make ruinous sacrifices. Instead of the millions of Bank of Montreal bills which Mr. Blake by his surplus scheme dangled before the public in 1871, the municipalities are put off with bonds of heavily taxed municipalities perhaps unmarketable, and told to rest and be thankful. The promised gold is the sorriest pinchbeck.

THE OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP AT OTTAWA.

And so it is not Mr. Blake after all! "Private and personal reasons" stand in the way of the member for South Bruce taking the lead of a Party of which he is certainly the most prominent man in Parliament. As it is a little family arrangement, we suppose the public has no right to enquire what these "private and personal" reasons are which have led to the elevation of a third class politician over the head of one who is infinitely his superior in every qualification for the position. But, we must confess, it is rather hard on the Party. At the very commencement of the election contest Mr. Blake's state of health required a visit to the old world long enough to cover the duration of the contest, and now, after the fulsome puffery of that gentleman indulged in at Grit banquets since the close of the election, after the loudly-proclaimed prophecies of what he, as leader of the Opposition, would do when Parliament met, after all "the vast "grant rhetoric of the recess," it is left for that respectable mediocrity, Alexander Mackenzie, to figure at the head of the discordant elements which constitute the Opposition in the House of Commons. Sir John will have to look to his laurels!

FARMERS AND RAILWAYS IN THE WEST.

Few people in Canada have any adequate idea of the magnitude and importance of the agitation which is now being carried on amongst the farmers in the North-western States, with the object of bringing about higher prices for grain at the farm, and lower rates for its transportation to the seaboard. Taking the average of the great grain-producing region in the West all through, the farmer gets for four bushels only what one bushel is worth in New York, so that three times as much is given for transportation as for production. If we take the European market, which is the ultimate destination of an immense quantity of Western produce, as the standard of comparison, the case appears still worse, and it may be said that it takes what the farmer gets for four bushels to carry one bushel to market. But even this does not convey a sufficient idea of the hardship of the case, for we must further take into account what it costs the farmer to produce the grain and carry it to the nearest railway station; and what we should fix our attention upon chiefly is not the price the farmer actually gets, but the margin, if any, which that price affords over the bare cost of production from year to year. A recent calculation makes the actual cost of producing a bushel of corn in Central Illinois, a most favourable location, and with a crop of 10,000 bushels, which cannot be called trying it on too small a scale, to be over 17 cents, the price at the nearest railway station being only 18 cents. In other words, between actual cost of production and cost of transportation, the margin between the two is reduced to a fraction, or disappears altogether.

Need we wonder, then, that the farmers of the West are, as we may say, up in arms for the redress of the transportation grievance; and that in over half a dozen States political and other issues have with them sunk into insignificance beside the one great question of how they are to live and pay their debts by the produce of the soil. To them, the fact that corn is worth only 15 cents on the farm, is of more importance than Credit Mobilier investigations, the inauguration of the President's second term, or anything else of a public nature. And so, while the important "Farmers' Grange Association" in Iowa has shewn itself a power not to be despised, the farmers in other States are moving with a determination to do something to help themselves. At Centralia, Earlville, Bloomington, and other places in Illinois, large and important meetings have been held within the last ten or twelve days, and permanent organizations have been formed. The existing law of Illinois, it was supposed, gave the State the power of limiting excessive railroad charges, both for passengers and freight, but by a decision of the Supreme Court the law has been pronounced unconstitutional, and inoperative as it stands, for the purpose in view. Immediately this was found to be the case, the Illinois Legislature set itself to remedy the defect, and on Saturday week a bill was introduced containing the most stringent provisions, and giving the people the benefit of every doubt that may arise, so that apparently evasion will be impossible. The Minnesota Legislature has before it a similar bill, which goes beyond the Illinois bill, however, inasmuch as it prohibits all discrimination, and imposes the "death penalty," or forfeiture of charter, for the first offence. That these bills will become law need not be doubted, for such is the popular feeling on the transportation question among the farmers that very few representatives will dare to vote nay. To do so would be political extinction, and the member who should vote nay might as well emigrate at once. To some people it may appear a question whether, under such laws, railroad business can be carried on at all. As to this a great deal will depend, we suppose, on the rates fixed, and the tone of popular and legislative discussion on the subject seems to indicate a disposition to allow fair, and perhaps even liberal rates, with prompt punishment for infractions.

THE ORANGE AND CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' INCORPORATION BILLS.

To those of us who remember well the "High Protestant Horse" which Mr. George Brown used to ride in Upper Canada, and the intensely Protestant character of the journal which he then, as now, conducted, there is something peculiarly striking in the death-like silence of the *Globe* respecting the bills before the Legislature of Ontario to incorporate the Orange Societies of Ontario and the Christian Brothers of this city. Well indeed may we say "the times have changed, "and we've changed with them." Was the Editor-in-Chief sincere in his love of Orangeism in those "good old days" when, with "Brother" Hugh Miller and others of that ilk, he used to stretch his legs under Orangemen's mahogany and drink their wine at Orange suppers on the 12th of July to the "Glorious, "Pious and Immortal memory?" Well, we must doubt it. For, our recollection carries us even further back, to that period when the same Mr. Brown railed bitterly at the same organization and appealed to his then good Liberal friend, Mr. Isaac Buchanan, if some steps could not be taken to put down an institution so inimical to the best interests of the country. The measure of Mr. Brown's light is the political necessity of the moment. He was anti-Orange when Orangeism was weak and struggling in Upper Canada. He was ultra-Orange when, by the help of Orangemen and ultra-Protestantism in this Province, he hoped to have snatched the reins of power from Mr. John A. Macdonald. Another turn of the kaleidoscope, and Mr. Brown appears in his original character, making terms with Catholic Bishops and their agents for the political support of the Catholic body. And, in virtue of this unholy alliance, as a consequence of this immoral compact, he is as silent as the grave now. Although there was an unusual hum of excitement in the Legislature and outside of it, by reason of the votes given in Committee and the speeches delivered in the House, and though the thronged galleries of the Chamber attested the highest degree of popular interest in the proceedings which going on, the organ was dumb. Sold body, bones and breeches to John O'Donohoe and the Catholic League, Mr. George Brown is not free enough to attempt even to defend the votes which he gave in Parliament in 1858 on this very question. "What a falling off is here, "my countrymen!"

If Mr. Brown thus affords to the world abundant evidence that, on this subject, his course is not guided by any principle whatever, what shall we say of the Government? Appealed to strongly by Mr. Boultbee, Mr. Mowat had to acknowledge that the Government were not prepared to adopt any line of policy for the guidance of members. With his own previous votes staring him in the face, he declared himself, after a very pretty piece of fence, as favourable to the bills before the House, leaving the other four members of the Government, Messrs. Crooks, McKellar, Pardee and Scott, to vote against them. "Shilly-Shally," under the auspices of Ministers, held the boards for the night so thoroughly that Charles Reade might fairly protest on the ground of infringement of copyright. The question is one on which the Government ought to have taken a decided stand one way or the other. Their policy should be either to incorporate all such organizations or to refuse their incorporation. Political considerations, however, outweighed all thought of principle. It would not do to offend the Catholics, so long as Mr. Scott in the Cabinet, and Mr. Fraser outside of it, were determined to oppose the bill of incorporation, *coûte que coûte*, and so good an Orangeman as Mr. William Robinson, of Kingston, was equally determined that they should pass. We are not aware by what kind of mathematical deduction Mr. Mowat's influence and vote on the one side are to be taken as an equipoise to the vote and influence of his four colleagues on the other. Mr. McKellar will probably "rise to explain" "at the proper time"—that limbo of uncertainties which is the everlasting refuge of the Commissioner of Public Works. The spectacle, at all events, is not one to command the admiration of either gods or men.

There is nothing truer than that the "whirligig of time brings about its own "revenges." Many Orangemen were led to look upon the Grit leaders as their best friends during the elections of 1871 and 1872. The murder of Thomas Scott at Fort Garry was worked up with an industry which awakened a little the old Protestant feeling of the country. "Bro." McKellar, though a big sinner in other respects, was considered deserving of Orangemen's confidence. "Bro." Alexander Mackenzie was regarded as entitled to a chief seat in the Grand Lodge. "Bro." George Brown had anew earned a right to canonization, while "Bro." Blake was a very angel of goodness. What think the Orangemen of Ontario to-day of McKellar, Pardee, Crooks, Brown and the entire brotherhood of Grits? Are they now convinced that the "Scott cry" was a mere political stalking-horse, useful enough about election times, but not to be mentioned when the occasion which called for its use had passed? We rather fancy the recent proceedings in the House have given them new light as to the real character of these political mountebanks.

It is useless deprecating the introduction of subjects of this character into the Legislature so long as there are Orangemen, who consider that, in belonging to the Orange order, they are acting a righteous and patriotic part, and others look upon the institution as an emanation of the Devil, and a standing menace to the Catholic religion. We believe the discussion in the House would have been exceedingly temperate but for the rabid assault made by the member for South Grenville upon the Orange Institution. Certainly the Opposition, with whom on this occasion voted a large number of Ministerialists, displayed great moderation, and did not make use of a single word which could be regarded as offensive. We might say, with Mr. Cameron, that the reason for the existence of Orange societies in Canada has never been made sufficiently apparent to people who are not prejudiced one way or the other; but no one can say that Orangemen are not loyal and patriotic, and it would be difficult to assert with truth that they have, in recent years at all events, manifested a spirit of aggressiveness towards their Roman Catholic fellow-subjects. If they choose to meet in their lodges—in many parts of the country the only clubs at which men old and young may meet together for chat and social converse—and have a liking for occasional parades upon the streets, that is their business, so long as they conduct themselves in a legal and proper manner. These are rights which every British subject ought to be permitted to enjoy without let or hindrance. Incorporation makes Orangemen no more numerous and Orangeism no more powerful, whether for good or not. It simply enables the Order to hold the property which it now possesses in a way to be more conveniently handled. For ourselves, we are free to confess that we would have been better pleased if no such demand had been made upon the Legislature; but having been made, it should not have called for bigoted opposition, particularly when the very men who have these bills for incorporation in charge had already given proof of a liberality which was never shown by the Grit Party in the old days, by voting to incorporate the Christian Brothers as a society capable of holding property. Say, if you will, that the Christian Brothers and the Orange Society do not stand on the same footing, is it not the fact that the so-called Reform Party of Upper Canada steadily refused for years to grant acts of incorporation to all organizations of the kind? The Liberal Conservatives were the true Reformers then, as they are the true Reformers now. The House will not make a mistake in passing all bills of incorporation before it. We have unfortunately but too good reasons for saying that, be the society what it may, religious, religio-political, charitable, organized for Temperance, or any other purpose, there will be men to endeavour to use it for their own selfish purposes. A few extremists and hot-heads may feel sore at the present liberality of the Legislature; but the people generally will be satisfied, having the consciousness that the welfare of society is not to be promoted by the oppression, or seeming oppression, of any large class of the population.

THE TERRIBLE PLOT!

We commend to the excited temper and jaundiced vision of the Grit organ in this city, which has endeavoured to establish so fearful a plot against the welfare and peace of the country, out of the correspondence which passed between the Interoceanic and Canada Pacific companies, the following remarks from the Montreal *Witness*, a paper in opposition to the Dominion Government:—

"On the whole the correspondence does not seem to possess much more than a merely historical interest, and it is not easy to see how it can *do* any harm to the Company now chartered to build the Canadian Pacific, for whose detriment it is understood its publication was undertaken. Sir Hugh Allan is simply proved to have stepped in at a point when the scheme threatened to pass almost entirely into American hands, and to have interested himself to make it a Canadian enterprise so far as its management is concerned. Where the capital may come from is a matter of no moment; and if Americans are willing to put their money into the undertaking there is no reason to prevent them. It shows, at least, a confidence on their part in the enterprise very re-assuring after the various articles that have appeared in U. S. papers trying to prove the impossibility of its execution. There is no doubt that the country, as a whole, confides in the ability and integrity of the new company to fulfil its obligations, and the Directors, composed as they are of members of both the former competing companies, should meet every encouragement in pushing on the construction of this great transcontinental highway. The delegation that left Bonaventure station last Friday *en route* to England to provide the means for this, may prove to be the most important mission that has ever been sent from Canada."

That the American bugaboo is a mere fancy of the organ's, is now so forcibly brought home to its own consciousness, that it has become ashamed and heartily sick of its silly rhodomontade. It is by such stupid mistakes that the Grit journal so frequently strengthens the hands of a Government it is unceasing in its efforts to weaken.

THE TRADE OF THE DOMINION.

A summary statement of the trade of Canada during the fiscal year ending 30th June last, made use of by Mr. James Young, M.P., in a brief article in the *Canadian Monthly* for the present month, affords convincing proof of the continually enlarging and expanding character of the business of the Dominion. It is a fact of striking significance that the trade of the year referred to was greater than that of the previous year by $29,223,558. The whole transactions of the twelve months amounted to $190,344,558, of which the imports were $107,704,875, and the exports $82,639,663. The following figures show the expansion in each of the three years named:—

1869-70	$20,510,878.
1870-71	16,310,607.
1871-72	29,223,558.

Of the large expansion of nearly thirty millions of dollars last year, by far the larger proportion is to be found under the head of imports. They show an increase in 1870-71 of $20,357,413, the increase of exports being $8,466,050. It is nothing new in Canadian trade that the imports have been largely in excess of the exports, and some economists and writers have, in consequence, been sorely puzzled over the "balance of trade," wondering how the difference was to be made up, and prophecying all sorts of financial difficulties as inevitable. It is a fact, however, that Canada has had no unusual or exceptional financial crises. The swells of monetary waves having their origin in other countries have reached her shores, and she has had a share in the suffering and depression which followed. Her own financial troubles have been but momentary, and like those of a portion of the winter just closed, but temporary. We leave it to the economists to endeavour to show how Canada has gone on from year to year importing many millions more than her exportations, and yet prospering wonderfully.

It may very well become a question whether our importations are not larger than required by the legitimate demands of a profitable trade. The rapid way in which the imports have increased since Confederation affords proof either that the substantial progress of the country is a matter for considerable astonishment, or that there has been some degree of overtrading. These were the imports for the several years named:—

1867-68	$71,985,306
1868-69	67,402,170
1869-70	74,814,339
1870-71	86,947,482
1871-72	107,704,895

Mr. Young does not venture to assert that there has been overtrading, but points to what must be its inevitable consequences if the fears of some persons should be realized. It is quite possible that the imports have been somewhat in excess of the necessities of a prudent trade; but it must be borne in mind that the purchasing power of the country by the natural increase of population, by large additions from emigration, by the fresh impetus given to public works of different kinds, and particularly of railways, and by the general prosperity of the whole Dominion, has been largely increased. We are not disposed to believe, even while counselling large importers against the possibility of making a mistake in this direction, that overtrading has taken place to any large extent. We are rather inclined to think that the country is in a high degree of prosperity, which is likely to be maintained for many years to come.

The following statement shows the value of the goods which entered into consumption last year throughout the Dominion, with the duties collected thereon:

	Imports.	Duties.
Dutiable Goods	$ 65,758,478	$12,626,979
Free Goods	34,405,428	
Coin and Bullion	2,753,749	
	$104,917,655	$12,626,979
British Columbia	1,767,068	342,400
Manitoba	1,020,172	46,839
	$107,704,895	$13,016,218

The new provinces of British Columbia and Manitoba make their appearance in the returns for the first time. We may say of them, in the words of the writer: "The result is creditable to "them, when their limited population "is considered, but we are warranted in "expecting, from the extent and variety "of their resources, that their annual "trade will greatly augment."

It is certainly a most gratifying proof of the commercial importance of Canada that its trade is now $200,000,000 a year. It is no depressing or restrictive kind of Government which has produced this result; and where the past and the present afford such unmistakable evidence of wisdom in the administration of our affairs we may confidently look forward to further material progress under auspices which have been already so highly favouring.

PRIVATE BILL LEGISLATION.

On the 5th instant the Committee on Private Bills had before them two bills—one for the incorporation of the Loyal Orange Association of Eastern Ontario, the other for the incorporation of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The Orange Association bill was strongly advocated by Messrs. Merrick, Macdonald, Deacon and others. Messrs. Scott (Ottawa) and Fraser held that if the Loyal Orange Association was a charitable society, it could take advantage of the General Act, without having recourse to the Legislature, but if it was a secret organization it was not right to give it a legal standing in the country. Mr. M. C. Cameron thought that the bill would do no harm to any portion of the community, and as they were about to incorporate the Christian Brothers, fair play should be dealt out to both sides. After considerable discussion, the Committee divided, and the bill was thrown out. Yeas 11, nays 13, on the following vote:—

Yeas.	Nays.
Cameron,	Scott (Ottawa),
Deacon,	Baxter,
McManus,	Boultbee,
Macdonald,	Clarke (Wellington),
Meredith,	Dawson,
Merrick,	Finlayson,
Monteith,	Fraser,
Monk,	Gibbons,
Rykert,	Oliver,
Scott (Grey),	Sexton,
Watterworth.	Sinclair,
	Smith,
	Snetzinger.

It will be seen that Mr. Watterworth was the only supporter of the Government who voted for the bill. Mr. Striker, who was opposed to it, paired with Mr. Giffard, who was in favour of it. Dr. Haney shirked the vote.

The Christian Brothers' bill, which was in charge of Mr. John O'Donohoe, was then taken up. Those who voted for the Orange Association bill said they were prepared to deal fairly by this measure, and it was passed unanimously. What thinks the reader of the two cases?

On the 6th instant the Private Bills Committee had under consideration the bill to incorporate the Loyal Orange Association of Western Ontario. Owing to the Party complexion which Messrs. Scott and Fraser gave to the discussion of the Eastern bill the day before, great interest was manifested in the proceedings. It was thought that Messrs. Scott and Fraser would not object to the passage of this bill, after the unanimity displayed by the Committee in passing the bill to incorporate the Christian Brothers. That was a mistake. Mr. Fraser, in a speech of some length and considerable vehemence, denounced the measure as improper and unjust. He produced the Orange oath, and contended that the oath proved the secret character of the organization, and that it was unfair to give a legal standing to a body of men sworn to oppose the interests of Roman Catholics, who number nearly one-fourth of the population of the Province. After some further discussion, the Committee divided, and the bill was passed. Yeas, 13; Nays, 11, on the following division:—

Yeas.	Nays.
Cameron,	Scott (Ottawa),
Barber,	Baxter,
Deacon,	Clarke (Wellington),
Haney,	Cook,
Lauder,	Dawson,
McManus,	Fraser,
Meredith,	Gibbons,
Macdonald,	Sexton,
Merrick,	Sinclair,
Monteith,	Smith,
Rykert,	Snetsinger.
Scott (Grey),	
Watterworth.	

Mr. Monk, who favoured the bill, paired with Mr. Boultbee. Dr. Haney was in favour of the Eastern bill also, and would have voted for it had he not understood that he was pairing with another member of the Committee. Mr. Crooks received notice of the discussion, but contrived to be absent when the Committee divided.

The subject came up again in the afternoon, upon a motion by Mr. Macdonald, to refer the Eastern bill back to Committee, with instruction to accept the preamble as proved. A long discussion ensued, and shortly before ten o'clock a vote was taken with the following result:—

Yeas.	Nays.
Barber,	Ardagh,
Bethune,	Baxter,
Boulter,	Christie,
Boultbee,	Clarke (Wellington),
Calvin,	Clemens,
Cameron,	Cook,
Clarke (Norfolk),	Craig (Glengarry),
Code,	Crooks,
Corby,	Crosby,
Craig (Russell),	Dawson,
Deacon,	Finlayson,
Deroche,	Fraser,
Fairbairn,	Gibbons,
Farewell,	Gibson,
Ferguson,	Gow,
Fitzsimmons,	McKellar,
Graham,	McKim,
Grange,	Oliver,
Guest,	Pardee,
Harrington,	Patterson,
Lauder,	Paxton,
McCall,	Prince,
Macdonald,	Scott (Ottawa),
McLeod,	Sexton,
McManus,	Sinclair,
McRae,	Smith,
Meredith,	Snetsinger,
Merrick,	Springer,
Monteith,	Striker,
Mowat,	Williams (Hamilton).
Robinson,	
Rykert,	
Scott (Grey),	
Tooley,	
Webb,	
Williams (Durham),	
Wood (Brant),	
Wood (Victoria).	

AN ENGLISH SUPREME COURT.

On the 13th of last month, Lord Chancellor Selborne introduced a most important measure of Law Reform. The general question of improvements in the Courts had been long before Parliament and the country. For four successive years Her Majesty's speeches had announced bills looking to the reorganization of the Courts of law and equity, but little had been effected of a practical character. The speech delivered at the opening of the present session was more definite upon the subject, for the Legislature was asked to deliberate on the formation of a Supreme Court of Judicature, including provisions for the trial of appeals. It is in fulfilment of the promise thus conveyed that Lord Selborne brought forward his measure. In the explanations which prefaced the introduction of the bill, he gave a history of the deliberations of the last few years, and which had led to four conclusions. The artificial separations of legal and equitable jurisdictions were such as in principle never did exist and do not now exist in any country in the world, except those that had adopted the English system. It was necessary to bring together the Superior Courts of Law and Equity by erecting a Supreme Court which, operating at various points, and with a number of judges, should still exercise an undivided jurisdiction, combining all the jurisdiction of the Superior Courts. It was, further, necessary to provide for the cheapness, simplicity and uniformity of procedure. And the fourth point of his argument affirmed in general terms the necessity for improvements in the courts of law.

A scheme which should realize all that the foregoing would imply, must be of a bold and sweeping nature, and that proposed by the Lord Chancellor is so. He takes as his basis the organic principle, that every Superior Court shall have full jurisdiction in Law and Equity. He then proposes to establish one Supreme Court of First Instance, with a staff of twenty-one judges, to supersede and absorb all the existing Courts of Common Law and Equity, as well as the Probate and Divorce Courts, the Admiralty Court and the Metropolitan Court of Bankruptcy. He retains the historical titles now borne by the Lord Chief Justice of England, the Lord Chief Baron, and the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, making them Presidents of Divisions within the High Court, with the Lord Chief Justice of England as its permanent head. All the judges will be competent, and bound to administer both Law and Equity, and will be called "Judges "of the High Court." The High Court is to be divided into four or five divisions, leaving one judge unattached. In addition to the establishment of this Supreme Court of Judicature, the Lord Chancellor proposes to create a Court of Appeal, confined, however, to England, no change being contemplated with regard to Scotland or Ireland. The Court would be the Lord Chancellor, Lord Chief Justice, Master of the Rolls, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Lord Chief Baron, and nine ordinary Judges, and the of decisions this Court are to be final; and it is to be the only Court of appeal in all English cases. Cases from the Colonies and India are, however, not to go to this new Court, but to be brought before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as at present, until, that is, it is seen how the new system will work. If it succeeds, Her Majesty in Council may transfer these latter cases to the new Court.

There are other minor details to which it is not necessary to refer, but the outline presented will give a general idea of the proposition laid before the English Parliament. Of course the resignation of Mr. Gladstone which has been since announced, and the accession to power of the Conservatives, will postpone the measure; but it is evident that long-contemplated changes are at length to be effected, and that they will be of sufficient importance to constitute a chief epoch in the history of English law.

THE CARROLL FRAUD.

Mr. John Carroll, late Crown Land Agent of Peterboro', is one of those who believe that the decalogue does not apply to individuals having transactions with Governments—and the present Ministry are of opinion that the power of supporting their supporters ought not to be trammelled by the requirements of the moral or civil law.

On 2nd April, 1867, Mr. Carroll received a circular from the Crown Lands Department, appointing him officer in charge of the works to be undertaken that season on the Burleigh colonization road. He was instructed to commence operations on the 1st June following. He immediately began to hire men. On the 8th May, in reply to his letter stating the difficulty of obtaining good men and board, he was instructed by Mr. Bridgland, Superintendent of Colonization Roads, to delay the work until the 1st June, the time specified in his first instructions. On the 10th May he replied that he would "delay operations "as directed, until further instructed." On the 14th May he was instructed by the Department to stop all operations, and was afterward told that no further work would be done on the road that season. He had spent just ten days in organizing his party and "blazing" along the line of the road. Nothing of importance was heard of Mr. Carroll until the 18th January, 1868, eight months after he had closed the work. He then sent in the following claim:—

Amount Pay List	$186 23
R. Romain, advertising	2 00
Stethem & Co., tools, &c	6 40
Allowances for postage and stationery	5 00
Loss on hay and oats provided for teams	30 00
Amount of boarding, and Contractor's claim for loss on provisions sold	193 03
Amount of salary from April to July, ninety-one days	455 00
	$877 66

There was fraud on the face of that bill. The Department returned it to him with the request that the pay-list, which was composed as follows, should be signed by the men:—

Pay List of Labouring Party No. 1, employed under John Carroll, Esq., overseer of certain works on the Burleigh Colonization Road, in the summer of 1867, for the period commencing May 8th, and ending July 6th.

Michael Purcell, foreman, 13 days	$1 75	$22 75
Lawrence Tallon, foreman, 13 days	1 50	19 50
Matthew McCue, labourer, 13 days	1 00	13 00
Edward McCue, labourer, 13 days	1 00	13 00
John Hogan, labourer, 13 days	1 00	13 00
John Collins, horse team, 16 days	3 50	56 00
Dan. McAulay, left in charge of camp, 49 days	1 00	49 00
		$186 25

Mr. Carroll was instructed, on the 8th May, 1867, that two foremen "would "not be allowed for a less number than "thirty men;" but he violated that order. However, that was not the beginning of the worst of it. Instead of getting the above list signed by his men—if they were Irishmen in the flesh, which is problematical—he returned the following list signed:—

Pay list of Labouring Party No. 1, employed under John Carroll, Esq., overseer of certain works on the Burleigh Colonization Road, in the summer of 1867, for the period commencing 8th May, and ending *July 4th*:—

Michael Purcell, foreman, 13 days	$1 50	$19 50
Lawrence Tallon, foreman, 13 days	1 50	19 50
Matthew McCue, labourer, 13 days	1 00	13 00
Edward McCue, labourer, 13 days	1 00	13 00
John Powers, labourer, 13 days	1 00	13 00
John Collins, Horse and team, 16 days	3 00	48 00
Dan. McAulay, left in charge, 49 days	1 00	49 00
		175 00

It will be seen that he here altered the bill very materially. He made a difference of two days in the duration of the work; knocked 25 cents a day off Michael Purcell's wages, altered the name "John "Hogan" to "John Powers," struck 50 cents a day off the teamster's account, and reduced the bill from $186.25 to $175. These alterations, together with the extraordinary character of the other items in his bill of $877.66, convinced the Department that the man was making a deliberate attempt at fraud. Moreover, it was very singular that Michael Purcell, Lawrence Tallon and their colleagues, waited from the middle of May to the middle of January before asking for their wages. It was a circumstance altogether at variance with the manners and customs of "navvies."

An examination of the other vouchers of his bill reveals a series of the grossest and yet most stupid endeavours to swindle. The $2, R. Romain advertising, is presumably correct, and so is the item of $6.40 for tools. The item for postage and stationery is 65 cents in excess of the bill rendered, and the item of $30 for loss on hay and oats is fraudulent. But Mr. Carroll's peculiar ability is best seen in the items of $193.03 and $455. The latter is manifestly fraudulent. He was ten days at work, and he must have known that he was only entitled to $50. The item of $193.02 is worthy of the Commissioner of Public Works.

Statement of the quantity and cost of provisions sent to the boarding camp on the Burleigh Road.

May, 1867.

10 bbls. mess pork at $22,	$220	
Paid for hauling do	30	
4 bbls. prime mess at $18,	72	
Hauling do	12	
		$334.00
12 bbls. flour at $9	108	
Hauling do	24	
		132.00
20 lbs. tea at 75 cents, carriage, 20 cents		15.20
1 bbl. salt, $2, carriage, $3		5.00
8 bush. beans at $1.50	12	
Hauling do	4.80	
		16.80
80 bush. potatoes at 40 cts.	32	
Hauling do	10	
		42.00
2,000 feet lumber for camps	14	
Hauling do	8	
		22.00
Nails		1.00
		$568.00

Mr. Carroll very unfortunately for himself attached to the above bill the affidavit of John Collins, the teamster, who swore that he hauled all the goods and provisions from Peterboro', except the potatoes and the lumber which he hauled from some point in the Burleigh settlement—and for such hauling he was set down in the pay list for $48. It follows, therefore, that the charges in the bill for "hauling" and "carriage," amounting in all to $92, were fraudulent. This gifted accountant then proceeds to manufacture the item of $193.05 in this way:—

Statement of Provisions sold.

9 bbls. of pork at $20	$180	loss $45
4 " prime mess at $16	64	" 20
11 " flour at $9	99	" 22
8 bus. beans at $1.25	10	" 6.80
65 " potatoes at 35c	22.75	" 11.25
		105.05
Lumber and nails		23
Cook's wages and board		30
Interest on $600 six months		30
Hauling provisions and attending sale		15
		$193.05

The quantity of provisions consumed therefore, from the 12th to the 17th May, by Mr. Carroll's seven men was one barrel pork, one barrel flour, and 15 bushels of potatoes, but singularly enough they appear to have eaten the potatoes without salt, the pork without beans, and the flour without the accompaniment of tea. How they managed to digest of the lumber and nails is inexplicable. The cook, Dan. McAulay, drew his wages in the pay-list. The interest on $600 for six months is also fraudulent. The item of $15 for "hauling" is, of course, covered by Collins' affidavit, and is also fraudulent—and to cap all, the addition of the bill is fraudulent, but, in this instance, Mr. Carroll actually defrauds himself.

He was troubled in conscience over the bill of $877.66, and subsequently forwarded the following:—

To amount of pay-list herewith	$186 25
R. Romain's account, advertising for labourers	2 00
G. Stethem & Co., for tools, &c	6 40
Postage and Stationery	5 00
Loss on three tons of hay and 200 bushels of oats	30 00
To amount of salary as superintendent of Works on the Burleigh Road from —— to ——	....

He knew he had done wrong, and he above reduced his pickings from $193.05 to $30, and included in the postage and stationery item goods which he had purchased a month before he received his preliminary instructions. He was afraid to put down the amount of his own salary after claiming $455 for ten days' work. He tried to recall his first attempt at fraud, but his effort, as will be seen, only amounted to ——.

Mr. Richards, then Commissioner of Crown Lands, was at once satisfied that he was dealing with a "beat" of the most brazen type, and after offering to pay him $5 a day for his ten days' services and his actual preliminary expenses, refused to have anything further to do with him. On the 31st January, 1868, thirteen days after the presentation of Carroll's claim for $877.66, Mr. Bridgeland reported against it, and so the matter stood when the Sandfield Macdonald Government went out of power. During the last election campaign Carroll worked like a Trojan for the Catholic League and the Grits, and on the 19th October he got his reward, receiving $684.75 from the Government in liquidation of his claim. The matter came up in the Public Accounts' Committee last week, and Mr. Crooks, when called on to explain, admitted that he did not know how that amount, $684.75, was arrived at. He remembers that he allowed Carroll $110 for his ten days' services; that he accepted the unsigned fraudulent pay list for $186.23 instead of the signed fraudulent pay list for $175; that he passed the fraudulent item of $193.05, and that he allowed Carroll interest on his fraudulent account from May, 1867, to October, 1872—without the proper Council formalities, and in spite of Mr. Bridgeland's report of 17th April, 1872, to the effect that the claim was fraudulent through and through.

Why did this "Reform" Government put $684.75 of the people's money into the pocket of one who deliberately attempted to rob the Treasury? The following is a complete answer to that conundrum:—

The within warrant or order I hereby assign, transfer and let over, and all my right, title and interest therein, and in the money therein, and in the money therein named, to John O'Donohoe, Esquire, of the city of Toronto, barrister-at-law, as advised, the sum of six hundred and eighty-four dollars and seventy-five cents, to be to him paid.

(Signed), JOHN CARROLL.

Toronto, 19th October, 1872.

Mr. O'Donohoe prevailed on the Government for the $684.75, and gave his receipt therefor. The League can now announce that they are prepared to enforce fraudulent claims upon the Treasury and choke off Orange bills at the shortest notice. This is a great country!

THE VOTE IN THE COMMONS.

The point at issue between the Government and the Opposition, in the discussion provoked by Mr. Blake on the West Peterborough case, was not whether Mr. Bertram or Mr. Cluxton is entitled to the seat. Sir John Macdonald studiously avoided passing any opinion upon the merits of the case, although the *ex cathedra* air so natural to the cynic from South Bruce provoked the reminder from the head of the Government that so eminent a legal authority as Mr. R. A. Harrison had given the opinion upon which the action of the Returning Officer was based. The question was, whether it was competent and proper for the House, in view of the extent to which it has divested itself of the power of deciding in respect of controverted elections, to say which party to the issue is in the right. In his argument, Mr. Blake laid stress upon the injustice done a constituency in being deprived of its representative for any length of time. "It ought to be the "wish and desire of the House," said this would-be tribune of the people, "that "every constituency should be represent-"ed before they proceeded to transact the "business of the country, and represented "by men who had been chosen by the "majority of the electors of their con-"stituencies." Sound though this may be as a matter of principle, it afforded Sir John Macdonald an opportunity to give Mr. Blake a stab in a vital part. If the principle were a good one, why had Mr. Blake failed to respect it on a very important occasion in Ontario? When eight constituencies in this Province were unrepresented at the opening of the session of 1871-2—seven of the representatives of these constituencies being favourable to the Sandfield Macdonald Government, Mr. Blake refused to grant the Administration of the day an adjournment until after the new elections had taken place, and, by *the bare majority of one*, ousted the Government and took its place. It did not lie in the mouth of a man who could be guilty of a trick of this kind to blubber sympathy over the non-representation or improper representation of a constituency of two in a House of 200 members, and to shed crocodile tears over the "injustice" which had been done by "a partizan returning "officer." We are strongly of the opinion that Mr. Blake will not wax indignant again on this point during the present session at least. He will be far better engaged in endeavouring to reconcile his views with those of the nominal leader of the Grit Party, Mr. Alexander Mackenzie, instead of the two appearing on different sides of the same question. Chang and Eng ought to be more in harmony; and they will need to be before they can delude the House of Commons into accepting them as twin leaders in any cause.

Our information from Ottawa reports the utmost degree of satisfaction among the Government's supporters at the result of the division. The motions of Mr. Blake and Mr. Mackenzie were framed with a special view to catching votes. There are many questions on which Governments cannot rely upon carrying with them their whole and undivided parliamentary following. This was a question on which some members of the House who may be depended upon to give a liberal support to Sir John Macdonald's Administration were induced, by violations of the English practice in Canada, to follow the violations rather than the correct mode of procedure. Making allowance for the men who were thus influenced, as well as for the number of Government supporters who were absent from the House, it is as certain as anything human can be that there is a majority of at least 30 in the present House of Commons in favour of the general policy of the Government. In this majority we have a fair measure of the value of Grit estimates of the relative strength of parties in the Lower House of Parliament, as well as of the worth of the political prophecies of the organ of the Party. We venture to say now what we said when the elections had just ended, that the country has amply sustained Sir John Macdonald and his Government, and that the time is distant when the sectionalists will have an opportunity of mismanaging affairs at Ottawa as they have done and are so palpably doing now in Toronto. Indeed, if there were anything needed to warn the House of Commons against paying heed to the Grit leaders in that Chamber, it would be the recklessness, the extravagance, and the shameless corruptions of the Grit Government of Ontario. These politicians have not shown themselves worthy and capable enough in the smaller arena to be entrusted with the destinies of our great and growing Dominion.

A FISH THAT WON'T BITE.

We should not have considered it necessary to refer to the personal considerations to which attention has been directed by the publication of the correspondence which passed between the Interoceanic and the Canada Pacific Railway Companies, but for what we believe to have been an unguarded article which appeared in the Montreal *Gazette*, and which has been grossly misstated, as is its fashion, by the Grit organ of this city, and also because the subject was alluded to Friday in the Senate. We have to express our regret that our excellent contemporary, the *Gazette*, ordinarily so free from everything that is objectionable, should have seen fit to assail Mr. Macpherson personally instead of expressing difference from his views and showing their incorrectness. There was "verge and scope "enough" in the public aspects of the issues involved for criticism without those personal references to one of the chief negotiators for the construction of the Pacific Railway, which we feel satisfied would not have been made if due consideration had been given to the question. If we have to express regret as to the course of the *Gazette*, we must not lose sight of the amusement which the *Globe's* frantic efforts to draw Mr. Macpherson over to the Grit camp have caused. *That* bait will catch no fish. Many years of bitter personal attack are not to be condoned by a little pleasant rubbing down at a time when large bids are being made for political support. Mr. Macpherson is too well versed in the ways of the world to be affected by awkward attempts to pander to his vanity, which he values at their true price. He has no ground of complaint against the Government. They did all they could to bring about an amalgamation of the two companies; and it was clearly impossible for them to give the work to the Interoceanic alone. Mr. Macpherson failed to see that half a loaf was better than no bread. The worst his friends will say of him is, that to assuage his disappointment he has allowed the American bugaboo to frighten him out of his usual sound judgment and practical common sense; and there is not one of them who will do him the injustice of supposing that he would allow a personal disappointment, which the Government were unable to prevent, to affect his political course. If the Grits suppose that Mr. Macpherson's objections to uniting with Sir Hugh Allan to construct the Pacific Railway will in the slightest degree affect his political predilections, affinities and associations, they will find that they have grievously missed their mark. He may be naturally expected to give some opposition to the company chartered by the Government; but that is a different matter to giving aid and comfort to his political opponents. The Grits have in this instance played another losing card, and at the same time exposed the weakness of their hand. Suppose they try a new deal!

A MARKED OVERSIGHT.

In its foundationless assaults upon the Government over the correspondence which took place between the Canada Pacific and the Intercolonial Railway Companies, the Grit organ has laid especial stress upon the visit of a member of the Government to Montreal, and his intimation to Sir Hugh Allan that certain American gentlemen had made propositions to the Government to build the road. It is true the Government Minute of Council of Oct. 16, 1872, admits this visit. It is also true that "it was after, "and in consequence of this conversation "that Sir Hugh Allan put himself in "communication with the American "gentlemen referred to." This, too, is stated in the same Minute. But this the Grit organ, in its eagerness to make a point against the Government, omits; and it then proceeds to argue as though the member of the Government referred to had requested or desired Sir Hugh Allan to continue the negotiations with these American gentlemen—had, in fact, brought them together. Does the Minute itself prove or disprove this allegation? Let the reader judge:—

"HE (the member of the Government "referred to) EXPRESSED TO SIR "HUGH ALLAN HIS REGRET "THAT SUCH A WORK SHOULD "BE ALLOWED TO FALL INTO "THE HANDS OF FOREIGNERS, "OWING TO THE APATHY OF CA-"NADIAN CAPITALISTS."

Not only does the *Globe* push these words out of sight in its comments on the correspondence, but it asserts the very opposite. We need not dwell upon such a style of Party warfare. It is simply journalistic ruffianism, and must injure rather than help those whose weak cause requires that they should have recourse to it. Beyond all peradventure, the engineer will be hoist by his own petard.

TWO ELECTIONS.

Mr. E. B. Wood having accepted the nomination of the Reform Convention of West Durham, elections will soon take place for that Riding for the House of Commons, and for South Brant for the Ontario Legislature. We hope that steps will be at once taken by our friends to bring out candidates in both Ridings.

Had Mr. E. B. Wood not deserted his colleagues when, by the enforced absence of several of the supporters of the Government, Mr. Blake succeeded in springing a mine upon them, and had not the famous "Speak Now" missive passed between Mr. Blake and Mr. Wood at a moment suspiciously close to the Treasurer's desertion of his friends, we may be certain Mr. Wood would not be to-day the nominee of the Grits in West Durham. Mr. Blake was under obligation to pay him for his services to the Party, and Mr. Mowat, having accepted all of Mr. Blake's Governmental obligations, feels bound to send Mr. Wood to England on the arbitration matter. The English mission would be at least inconvenient did Mr. Wood continue to be a member of the Legislature of the Province. Should he get to the House of Commons, Mr. Mowat will be at liberty to fee him to his heart's content. This is the secret of the nomination in West Durham.

We are quite sure the electors of South Brant will be delighted at being rid of "Big Thunder" now and forever. He is no credit to any constituency. Without the smallest particle of principle, ready to sell himself to the highest bidder, as fully prepared to speak upon one side of a question as another, his opinion upon any subject may invariably be estimated by the associations or influences of the moment. He has ability, but it is of a reckless kind. A loose screw in his head is always deranging his mental machinery. His apple-cart may be very pretty, but he is sure to kick it over at some time. If West Durham is willing to accept him, it must be because the electors of the Riding do not know him. We can hardly believe that some local man, closely identified with the Riding, cannot be easily found who will be more acceptable to its people. Indeed, we believe such a man will contest Mr. Wood's right to foist himself upon the constituency in order that a corrupt bargain between him and the leaders of the Grit Party may be carried out.

The Liberal Conservative Association of South Brant, we are quite satisfied, will be ready to offer a man to the electors of that Riding at the proper time. If they are prepared to endorse the corruptions and extravagances of the Ontario Government, they will send to the Legislature a man bound hand and foot to support Mr. Mowat's Administration; which means endorsing the Proton iniquity, condoning the Elgin frauds, sharing in the responsibility of the Agricultural Farm outrage, acknowledging the propriety of adding $900,000 to the annual expenditure of the Government, besides many other similar acts, some of which yet remain to be laid bare, but of which the public will hear before long. We look to South Brant to shake itself loose of the fetters which have for some time bound it to a bad cause, and to return to the Legislature a man who will manfully expose and lay bare the rottenness of the present administration of affairs in Ontario.

THE SESSIONAL MAIL.

Persons wishing to be supplied with *The Daily Mail*, containing full, impartial and accurate reports of the Parliamentary proceedings at Ottawa, can have it sent by post for the Sessional term for One Dollar, on application to this Office.

Members and others residing at the seat of Government can, if they choose, procure it through the agency of Mr. Perry, Bookseller, a few doors south of the Post Office, Ottawa.

Hon. Dr. Robitaille gave a dinner to a number of French members last evening in one of the Parliamentary dining rooms. Hon. Mr. Langevin in the same place is entertaining about thirty of the same class. Evidently Mr. Langevin's case is getting desperate when he has found it necessary to take to dining as a means of keeping together the Cartier Party. It is clearly a case of the utmost emergency, when Sunday has to be sacrificed to such a purpose.—*Globe's Ottawa Correspondence.*

Key-hole correspondents are, we rejoice to say, peculiar to the Grit organs in this country. We shall not venture to defend Dr. Robitaille and M. Langevin for the enormity of their crime in entertaining their fellow-members. We were not aware before that these social gatherings, which are the especial property of no political Party, were regarded as proper subjects for newspaper comment. Should a different rule be established now, we are quite sure the Grit journal will be able to claim a monopoly of its application. But, then, Dr. Robitaille and M. Langevin entertained their friends on Sunday! There are many Protestants, no doubt, who feel a conscientious objection to devoting any part of the Sunday to gatherings of this kind; but, particularly in view of his newformed love for the Roman Catholics, Mr. Brown ought not to lose sight of the fact that their idea of Sunday is not his. At all events, they but act out their professions, which is more than can be said of him. Good Presbyterian that he is, he formed his Cabinet in 1858 on a Sunday; in his case the political event not having the relief which social surroundings would have given it. Even were Messrs. Robitaille and Langevin not Catholics, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Globe* ought to remember the proverbial advice tendered to those who live in glass houses.

A terrible explosion occurred a few days ago in a cartridge manufactory at Fort Mont Valerien, France Twenty-eight persons were injured, twelve of whom it is stated cannot possibly recover.

THE FIRST VOTE.

The sectional fever is so strong upon the Grit organ that it cannot even state correctly the votes by Provinces as they were cast in the first division in the House of Commons. Of nearly every one of the Provinces its analysis is wrong. That is not a question of much consequence, however. We have but to deal with the result as an unit. It matters not where the majority comes from so long as it exists. A vote in the English House of Commons, whether the question at issue be English, Irish, Scotch or Welsh, is never canvassed in the light of sectional minorities or majorities. How voted Parliament as a whole? That is the question there; and that must now be the question here, unless we want to break up Confederation, as we did the old Union. And there is no Party, however small, which looks forward to a dissolution of the Dominion, much less makes it a political issue.

"The majority for Government was "therefore but sixteen instead of the "promised forty of which we have heard "so much for months past at home and "abroad. Had eight of the gentlemen "who voted for the Government voted "the other way, the end would have been "reached then and there." So says the organ with an air of mingled glee and wisdom. The glee is but affected, and the wisdom is more owl-like than real. Slightly changing the language of the Grit sheet, we would say: "The ma-"jority for the Government was sixteen, "instead of the promised minority of "which we have heard so much for "months past, at home and abroad." And we would add, as the calculation may be of interest: "Had eight of the "gentlemen who voted for the Opposi-"tion voted the other way, the Govern-"ment majority would have been thirty-"two!"

That quality of mind which is somewhat slangily designated as "dying "game" is commendable enough when the operation is not accompanied by a misrepresentation of facts. The *Globe's* case has been marked by misrepresentation throughout; and, now, when it knows full well that the chances of the Grit Party coming into power at Ottawa are of the slimmest possible kind, it attempts such a manipulation of the absent members as would indicate a breaking down of the Government's majority on the first vote. We hope no person will allow himself to be deceived by the organ's figuring. The Government has a majority large enough for all practical purposes, and should it not be quite forty on every division, it will be near enough to it to satisfy the sectionalists that their glowing anticipations have had the sandiest of all bases to rest upon.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

According to understanding, the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne came on Tuesday. Mr. Tobin, of Halifax, moved, and Mr. Palmer, of St. John, seconded the Address. Mr. Mackenzie, acting in his new position as leader of the Opposition, made a running commentary upon the various subjects referred to in it, as well as to what he considered to be omissions, and intimated that the Opposition did not propose to move any amendments. This is the second occasion on which Mr. Mackenzie and his friends have let pass a "legitimate opportunity of testing the "strength of parties in the House. Avoiding a good square count of those who are prepared to vote confidence or non-confidence in the Government, they have rather sought to select questions which, though not necessarily of that character, would be generally accepted as tantamount to a fair test of opposing sides in the Commons. The tactics may appear to be good to the twin leaders of the Opposition; but, crow they ever so loudly, they will not be able to get over the stubborn fact that they have slunk from putting to the test their loud boast of the recess, so faithfully mirrored in their organ, that they would oust the Government on the assembling of Parliament. They are fully conscious that it is only by some sort of a side wind that they can preserve appearances; and so they shrink from divisions in the House which would only serve to show their weakness. Sir John Macdonald replied to Mr. Mackenzie in an able and vigorous speech, which had a telling effect; and after several other members had spoken the Address was passed.

NEW BRUNSWICK FINANCES.

The Public Accounts of New Brunswick for 1872 have just been published. Thanks to an exceptional item of revenue last year, the Treasurer of the Province was able to pay his way; but, there is good reason to incline to the opinion that, with a very rigid economy in existing Departments of the Government, and without entering upon any new works, the prospect of a satisfactory balance sheet in future years is not promising. We formulate the following credit table from the contents of the Accounts:—

Cr.	
Dominion Subsidies	$355,111 20
Emigration Fund from Dominion Government	107,000 00
Compensation for railroad iron supplied Intercolonial Railroad	45,157 05
Export Duty on Timber	67,110 38
Land and Timber	75,728 55
Supreme Court fees	1,600 00
Fees Provincial Secretary's Office	6,360 97
Refunds	21,314 35
Sundries	3,722 10
Total	$586,104 60

We have not before us a detailed list of the Dr. side of the Account, but the items amount in all to $558,501 68, to which have to be added $35,000 due for the year on bridge contracts and railway debentures. It was only by the exceptional sum received for railway iron supplied the Intercolonial that a favourable balance is made to appear in the accounts; so that in reality, on the ordinary items of receipts and expenditures the Province expended $52,000 more than it received.

We have already taken occasion to point out many desirable changes which may be made in dealing with financial matters in New Brunswick; but with these figures before us it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the "Better "Terms" demands of its people have a solid substratum of fact to rest upon, and that it must before long be carefully considered by the Government.

THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

It now fully appears that we were in the right when, some weeks ago, we declined giving credit to sensational despatches announcing that M. Schouvaloff's mission to London had failed, and maintained the probability that a pacific understanding had been arrived at. Details of the negotiations, which have since come to hand, give the impression that British diplomacy has really been successful for once; to the great chagrin, doubtless, of that uncomfortable class of people who believe that it is John Bull's destiny to be always worsted in affairs of this kind, and to have to submit to an endless series of "humiliations," brought about by the bunglers to whom he entrusts his business. Behold! it is said, how costly wars at one time, and loss of national dignity at another time, might have been avoided by just a little firmness at first—by plain intimation, conveyed at the right time, that Old England was not to be trifled with. Well, it so happens that this is exactly what Earl Granville has done in the present instance, but the grumblers refuse to view it in this light, and insist upon it that the British lion's tail has been trodden upon, and that the noble animal suffered unspeakable indignity. Even though vanquished, they can argue still, strong in that peculiar mental gratification to fight against which, it has been said, even the gods themselves are powerless.

The chief interest of the correspondence alluded to centres in a portion of a despatch from Earl Granville to Gortschakoff, in which the former, apparently placing no reliance on the glittering generalities of diplomacy, or the endless "having the honour to be," which Carlyle so contemptuously denounces, went straight to the point, and in a few brief sentences, but with something approaching the precision of a surveyor's description, laid down "the "territories and boundaries which Her "Majesty's Government considered as "fully belonging to the Ameer of "Cabul;" in other words, the particular countries which England was determined should remain independent. In reply, the Russian Chancellor stated his objections to the English view, his aim being to narrow down to the smallest possible limits the independent territory which England wished to preserve intact. To this Granville again replies, fairly maintaining the ground already taken, and promptly comes the Russian answer, accepting the line of boundary laid down by England.

On the face of the correspondence the victory appears to be clearly on our own side, however unusual such a result may appear to some people. It may, of course, be said that Russia was merely trying how far she would be allowed to go, and that her apparent concession consisted merely in relinquishing what she never expected to be able to maintain, unless England proved excessively accommodating. But this is a theory of the situation that may be advanced to depreciate the merit of any diplomatic success whatever, and only by putting a forced construction upon events can it be made to wear any appearance of plausibility in the present case at all. The present result is—a certain position laid down by England, and with great definiteness, too, as regards geographical boundaries, objected to by Russia, but finally accepted. The case appears a very clear one of a firm stand taken by England, with a successful result; and we may despair of seeing any diplomatic results whatever to please those who are dissatisfied with this one.

DEFEAT OF THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.

The doom of the Gladstone Administration, so long rendered only a question of a very short time by the continued defeats of their candidates at the polls, has at length been sealed. They were defeated last night on their Irish University bill by a majority of three. Distasteful alike to the Protestant and Irish representatives from Ireland, as the bill is; denounced alike by Cardinal Cullen and the warm friends of that old seat of learning, Trinity College, Dublin, no other result could have been looked for. The defeat will not be widely regretted in Britain. It remains to be seen whether Mr. Gladstone will appeal to the country. Immediately after the vote he asked for an adjournment until to-morrow, which was granted.

THE AGRICULTURAL FARM.

One of the most interesting debates of the present session of the Local Legislature took place Tuesday afternoon and evening, and away into the small hours the morning. We regret that owing to the great pressure upon our space, a report of the speeches is necessarily omitted. Our readers are, however, sufficiently familiar with the subject to render this of less consequence. If possible a synopsis of the report shall appear in next week's issue. No Government ever stood in a more humiliating position than that of Mr. Mowat. Supporter after supporter rose up to condemn its conduct in proposing to remove the Farm and College from Mimico. The limping arguments of Ministers and their friends were effectually demolished by the facts and figures produced by those who were opposed to the Governments' policy. We have no space to-day to refer at length to the debate. We can but say briefly that on Mr. McKellar proposing his motion to move the College to Stone's farm, Guelph, Dr. Boulter moved an amendment to the effect that the scheme should be abandoned altogether. In amendment to this amendment, Mr. Cameron moved that the Mimico site should be adhered to. On this amendment a division was taken at half-past 12 this morning, and the Government was sustained by the bare majority of nine!

Condemnation more thorough was never passed upon any Government. Sustained throughout the session by a majority of thirty, the corrupt character of their conduct in this matter was so transparent that many of their usual followers declined to be dragged through the mire, and they now stand before the country denounced and repudiated by their own Party friends.

And how was this majority of nine obtained? Mr. Moses Springer, who was denouncing the Government scheme openly during the day, jumped round in the evening by the promise of additional aid in the distribution of the Surplus, for Berlin! By the traitorous conduct of Mr. Ketchum Graham in adhering to his Party opponents even when their own friends refused to go with them! By the absence of Mr. Williams, of Durham, which we feel confident must have been unavoidable. And by Messrs. Merrick and Deroché, pulled forward to the division by Mr. R. W. Scott, with the aid of significant telegrams from Ottawa!

The Opposition may claim the vote on Mr. Cameron's amendment as a great triumph, which will hereafter bear much fruit in the House and the country.

The following are the motions and the vote:—

Hon. Mr. McKellar moved that this House will, on Tuesday next, resolve itself into a Committee to consider the following Resolution:—

"That careful examination has been made during the past year with respect to the lands acquired by the Province in the Township of Etobicoke for the purposes of an Agricultural Farm and College, and that such examinations were made as well by practical, as scientific persons, competent to judge of the adaptability and fitness of these lands for the purposes intended, and that such persons have in their reports pronounced against the adaptability or fitness of such lands, and have recommended that the said Agricultural Farm and College be not established on said lands.

"That instead of the said lands, the farm of Mr. F. W. Stone, near the Town of Guelph, containing five hundred and fifty acres of land, can be acquired, and the said farm is altogether suitable for the hereinbefore mentioned purpose.

"That it is expedient to purchase the said farm for an amount not to exceed the sum of seventy thousand dollars."

Dr. Boulter moved in amendment that all the words in the motion after "that" be struck out, and the following words substituted therefor, "it is the opinion of this House, it is not desirable that at the present time the Provincial Treasury should be burdened with the cost of the construction and maintenance of an Agricultural Farm and College."

Mr. Cameron moved in amendment to the amendment that all the words in the proposed amendment after the word "House" be struck out, and the following words substituted therefor: "notwithstanding the reports made respecting the lands acquired by the Province for an Agricultural Farm and College in the township of Etobicoke, in view of the very favourable statement and representations of the capabilities of said lands by Messrs. Noble, E Stock and W. Burgess, practical farmers living in the neighbourhood of said lands, and thoroughly acquainted therewith, as with their productive character in the past, and in view of the great loss and expense that will be entailed upon the country, estimated at not less than $30,000, by a change of site, this House would not be justified in sanctioning any change in the location for such College and Farm from the site selected by the Administration of the late Honourable John Sandfield Macdonald."

The House divided on the amendment to the amendment, which was lost. Yeas, 31; nays, 40.

Yeas—Messrs. Ardagh, Barber, Boulter, Boultbee, Calvin, Cameron, Code, Corby, Coyne, Craig (Glengarry,) Craig (Russell), Crosby, Deacon, Ferguson, Fitzsimmons, Gibbons, Gifford, Grange, Guest, Hamilton, Lauder, McCall, Macdonald, Meredith, Merrick, Monteith, Patterson, Read, Richards, Rykert, Scott (Grey), Tooley.—31.

Nays—Messrs. Baxter, Caldwell, Christie, Clarke (Norfolk), Clarke (Wellington), Clemens, Cook, Crooks, Deroche, Fairbairn, Farewell, Finlayson, Gibbons, Gibson, Gow, Graham, Haney, Harrington, Hodgins, McKellar, McKim, McLeod, Monk, Mowat, Oliver, Pardee, Paxton, Robinson, Scott (Ottawa), Sexton, Sinclair, Smith, Snetsinger, Springer, Striker, Watterworth, Webb, Wells, Williams (Hamilton), Wilson.—40.

Mr. Farewell moved that the Whitby site be chosen. The motion was ruled out of order. Mr. Rykert moved that if the College is not built at Mimico, Woodstock be selected. This was also ruled out of order, and Mr. Rykert then altered the motion so as to make it in order. It was lost. Nays, 10, yeas 57. Mr. Merrick moved in favour of Ottawa. Lost, 5 to 56. Mr. Rykert moved that the radius of ten miles from Toronto be affirmed. Lost, 34 to 43. Mr. Patterson moved for a committee to investigate the subject with respect to Mimico. Lost, 26 to 39. Dr. Boulter then withdrew his amendment, and the original motion was carried.

CURRENT TOPICS.

Worthy of Note.—Spring is coming, but there are certain winter items not proper to be forgotten. Minnesota, for example, has been and is "cracked up" as a paradise for European emigrants, whereas its winter experiences are simply terrible. The fact should be iterated and reiterated by those who in Europe represent Canada by voice or pen. We have often referred to this necessity and now add another item to the available budget of information upon the subject. The New York *Express* says:—"One consequence of the terribly severe weather in Minnesota is likely to be a rather extensive emigration of its inhabitants in search of a milder climate. The *Abendpost*, a San Francisco paper, lately contained a portion of a letter from the well known German settlement, New Ulm, in Minnesota, in which the writer said, 'As I and many of my friends think of leaving cold Minnesota next spring, to seek a better climate in California, we ask for further information.' The writer then makes inquiries about land for a little colony of from twenty-five to thirty families, chiefly German. About seven of these families propose to emigrate in the spring, while the rest must wait until they can sell their farms. The hard winter, with loss of men and cattle, is the reason given for leaving the State. Of fifty inhabitants of the settlement forty wish to emigrate." This, from an American source too, speaks volumes. The *Express* might have added that drought is the particular inconvenience of much of California, so that the New Ulm people may not be any better off, unless, indeed, it is better to be dried up than to be frozen stiff. Canada, on the other hand, does not present this pleasing choice, but offers a climate in which emigrants may be healthy, and wealthy, and which they will prefer if they are wise.

England and Germany.—An article appeared in *Macmillan's Magazine* in November of last year, entitled "Saalburg and Saarbrücken." Its leading idea is that there is a natural unity between English and German interests, which, however, has been much ignored in England of late years. The German *Militair Wochenblatt* draws special attention to the article, and concludes by saying:—"It is the more desirable to direct attention to this article since during the last ten years there has been often manifest, even in military circles, a certain antipathy against the mercantile policy of England—a policy seemingly guided by reference only to its material interests. Though of late years England has avoided entanglement in almost every conflict, it has yet to be seen whether she will also give way when her own interests are at stake. In no case ought we to forget that England has been for nearly two centuries our most trusted ally—an alliance based upon identity of race, religion, and interests, which are very unlikely to come into collision. In politics, as on the chess-board, squares (Felder) bear the same colour which are not immediately contiguous." Whether the *Wochenblatt* represents the prevailing sentiment in Germany or not it is difficult to say. The *North German Gazette*, Prince Bismarck's organ, copies the *Wochenblatt's* article, however, and therefore he may wish the view expressed to bear his *quasi* endorsation. At all events he is probably of the opinion that England would *not* give way where her life interests were at stake, especially as recent events have shown that the national spirit is not yet extinguished, and that peace-at-any-price doctrines are not paramount.

One's Own Bushel.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* recently called the attention of British garotters to certain exercises of the cat upon the backs of prisoners at Wilmington, Delaware, as an interesting study for that class of offenders. Simultaneously almost, the New York *Tribune* adverts to the flogging of garotters, at Newgate, which with a fine affectation of horror it calls a "noble chastisement," adding, "it may be necessary to remind the reader that this is the year of our Lord 1873, and that this cheering intelligence comes from enlightened and merry England." Perhaps it was as well for the *Tribune* to specify the locality from whence emanated this "cheering intelligence," because otherwise it might have been supposed to come from "Little Delaware," which, all things considered, would be a pity. There is a difference in the cases which the *Tribune* may like to be informed of. The Newgate culprits were lashed, and others like them will continue to be lashed, for cowardly, brutal, and murderous assaults upon helpless and aged persons. There is no ruffian worse than the garotter. On the other hand, the Delaware criminals received their punishment for offences scarcely worse than petty larceny. The subject, however, is scarcely worth alluding to, except as a curious instance of how some folks measure other people's corn with their own bushel.

Blind Benevolence.—One of the last acts of the United States House of Representatives, was to vote a gratuity of $5,000—calling it back pay—to each of the members. It was generous and disinterested. The total sum involved was only $1,640,000, which was a mere flea-bite compared with what is alleged to be annually gained by indirect means. The New York *Times* calls it shameful robbery, it is true, but then these are enlightened times. Besides, there is a huge joke at the back of it all, for a despatch to the *Tribune* says that the members of Congress who voted for the salary steal are far from happy. It seems that in their eagerness to get $5,000 each of Uncle Sam's cash, they were not careful enough in wording their bill to make it open the Treasury vaults. The Controller has decided that the salary amendment to the Legislative Appropriation bill was so loosely worded that it actually does not appropriate any money out of which to pay the extra allowance to members of the XLIId Congress. The United States Treasury will be saved $1,600,000, for the new Congress will never vote the money to pay the last the extra $5,000 to each member, and those who voted for the swindle will have the odium of it without the money. So that the benevolence of these members towards themselves was but blind, and has only led them into a Legislative Slough of Despond. Sad, but funny; funny, but sad!

Fremont at Paris.—The exposures at Paris of the Memphis and El Paso railroad bonds fraud is variously commented upon by American papers, and but little is said in its defence. General Fremont, the celebrated explorer of the Rocky Mountains—the "Path-finder"—is regarded by them as more sinned against than sinning, since it is alleged that he was not fully aware of the character of the enterprise. Still he ought to have known better, and most likely did. The scheme was artfully contrived. When the sale of these bonds upon an unbuilt road was effected in Paris during the summer of 1869, the advertisements set forth that they were a first mortgage upon all the lands ceded to the road, amounting to about 10,240 acres per mile, or 300 acres for every $1,000 bond. They were offered at 410 francs for every $100 bond, payable at 515 francs in 1890, with six per cent. interest guaranteed by the American Government. The names of plenipotentiaries and other supposed trustworthy persons were shrewdly woven into fascinating prospectuses, and on such representations $5,000,000 of these bonds were speedily sold at 60 per cent., netting the well-planned speculation $4,800,000. The whole affair was a swindle, and Gen. Fremont did his best for its success, whether he believed in it or not. The Press had been subsidized, and though many Americans knew the real character of the transaction it was impossible to make an *exposé*. It is a mild judgment to say, says the New York *Express*, "that American credit has been materially impaired by the revelations concerning these proceedings, and it is a deplorable commentary upon this country that the courts of America, England and France are filled with investigations into the corruption of those accepted abroad as its representative men."

A Useful Invention.—Baron Munchausen is generally thought to have been more expert in drawing the long bow than veracious in the history of his adventures. The truth may be that he was simply in advance of his time, especially in regard to sundry surgical operations which he performed, such as mending his horse when it was cut in two, planting a cherry tree in a stag's head, and so on. For what do we find in *Virchow's Archives*, a medical journal published at Berlin? Professor Wiessnicht has been experimenting upon the human brain, to show that a couple of men can exchange that organ—have their skulls cut open, and the transfer effected—and yet live. The performance took place at the Leipsic Hospital. A soldier condemned to death, and an innkeeper just dead, were placed on the operating table. "Two surgeons, with assistants, proceeded alike in both cases to divide the scalp over the summit of the skull from ear to ear, turn back the divisions, and remove the skull-cap by incisions passing around the skull like a crown. In the soldier, whose carotid arteries had been prepared for compression, these vessels were clamped so as to prevent hemorrhage, and but a few drops of blood were lost during the entire operation. In each the dura mater was incised, and the hemispheres of the brain were removed by an incision with a sharp, thin-bladed knife passing above the cerebellum, or a narrow portion of about two inches in diameter called the crura cerebri. The brain of the saloon-keeper, which was sound, the heart disease having left it intact, he having been sensible to the last, was transferred to the skull of the soldier, and by an ingenious contrivance, fully detailed in the *Gazette*, the continuity of the arterial and venous tubes was established. The greatest care was taken in securing the natural adaptation of the parts to a fraction of a line, and the skull, having been replaced simply, was held down and in position by the scalp, which was drawn over, and its edges confined by strips of adhesive plaster, and over all was placed a bandage." We pass over the description of how the soldier, after a fortnight's sleep, poor man, recovered—to a certain extent. He was blind, but could speak, and if was found that he had forgotten all about being the soldier, and had become mentally the innkeeper, both as to occupation and disposition—knew the latter's trade, friends and history, and had changed from a sullen fierce person to a pleasant and friendly one, like his deceased fellow patient. The circumstance opens up a wide field of conjectural possibilities, educational among others. It may be added that the facts are set forth *as* facts, and so accepted by the French *Gazette Hebdomaire*.

Curious Divorce Suit.—A curious suit, brought by a husband for judicial separation from his wife on account of her cruel treatment of him, was lately argued in Liverpool. The complainant was one George Phillips, head of a wealthy firm of stationers. His marriage to the obnoxious woman of whom he wished to be free took place in 1864, since which time his home had been a scene of constant conjugal violence, but he had always been the victim. They had had two children, one of which died, and the other was sickly because Mrs. Phillips discharged nurses so often. Her spasmodic diablerie the aggrieved husband thought was brought on by her habit of using intoxicating liquors too freely, on which occasions she would revile him, insult his friends and alienate all whose acquaintance he considered most desirable. Even four years ago, upon reaching home after a long absence, she locked him in the dining-room, struck him, and tore his clothes. On another occasion she attacked him with a carving-knife, and when it was taken from her she hurled upon his devoted head the contents of the crockery cupboard. Once he was locked out at night and had to effect an entrance by climbing in at the dining-room, while his wife sat at the bedroom window and jeered at him. When he gained an entrance to the dining-room he found all the other doors locked and had to sleep all night on the floor. She often tore his clothes after he was dressed, and habitually locked the rooms and secreted the keys. Perhaps a more marvellous or amusing story of a man's patience, or the inconvenience of living with a chronically frantic woman never was told, and yet the court was opposed to granting the separation

The German Government has appropriated eighty millions of thalers for the construction of ships and ship yards.

DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

Summary of Proceedings.

Friday, March 7, 1873

SENATE.

It was decided to postpone the consideration of the speech from the throne until Monday. The Hon. Mr. Macpherson rose to explain a personal matter and referred to what he termed the "coarse attack" made upon him in the Montreal *Gazette*. He held Sir Hugh Allan responsible for what appeared in that paper. He had declined to act with Sir Hugh in the construction of the Pacific Railway because he regarded the scheme of Sir Hugh Allan more as a conspiracy against the interest of Canada than as a scheme to build the railway.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 3.15 o clock. Mr. Blake rose to call the attention of the House to one of those questions of privilege which he yesterday had intimated his intention of submitting to the consideration of the House. He proposed to direct attention to the case of the West Peterborough election, in the first instance, and to move a resolution which was framed on a precedent which fortunately existed in the records of the Parliament of the old Province of Canada; the purpose of which resolution was to declare that Mr Bertram ought to have been returned by the returning officer as duly elected. There were some general observations which must present themselves to the mind of every member of the House under whatever law he might have been elected. They were representatives of the people, met there because they were the choice of the people, to debate upon the affairs of the people, and no doubt it should be the wish of every man that there should be a full representation of the people; that every constituency should be represented before they proceeded to transact the business of the country, and represented by men who had been chosen by a majority of the electors of their constituencies, and where there was no difficulty upon any question of fact in regard to the elections. Where there were no issues raised which demanded the examination of witnesses, or an investigation into contested facts, there existed neither in theory nor in practice any inconvenience in accomplishing that national and laudable desire which they all entertained, that the whole country should be represented. The last Parliament in its wisdom had seen fit to refuse an election law under which these cases might have been tried and disposed of by the Judges during the recess, and this Parliament must be all the more anxious, therefore, if it was within its power to do it, that no unnecessary delay should take place in its action in according justice to the people of West Peterboro'. There was yet another reason, of general application, why Parliament should be prompt to act in such a matter as this. A change had been made in the electoral law by the same wise and judicious Parliament, as applied to Ontario and Quebec, and the provision with reference to *ex-officio* returning officers, who under the former law were men of a certain standing in the country, being holders of various descriptions of public offices, had been swept away. The Government, in the unlimited confidence which the late Parliament had in it, had been entrusted with the choice and nomination of returning officers, who, if his motion were rejected to-day, would by this House be declared to be not merely Ministerial officers appointed to declare the will of the people, but the arbitrators of the doctrines of the people, the men who elected instead of returning members of Parliament. Such legislation as he had referred to having been refused by the last Parliament, they came to the consideration of this question, and it would be adding wrong to the wrongs already inflicted upon the country if the House, in a case so clear as this, were to refuse to assert its proper authority, and not admit the gentleman who stood without the bar to his proper place within it. He (Mr. Blake) went on to quote precedents in support of his argument, and proposed that the House should act summarily upon the acknowledged fact of the case—the acknowledged fact that there was a majority for one of the candidates. His motion was in terms as follows:—That it appears by the poll books and other papers transmitted by George Burnham, the returning officer appointed to conduct the last election for West Peterboro', that two candidates, John Bertram and William Cluxton were nominated; that a poll was demanded, granted and taken; that at the close of the poll the said Mr. Bertram had the largest number of votes, having received 743 votes while the said Wm. Cluxton received only 705 votes; that notwithstanding the said returning officer has not returned the said John Bertram as duly elected, but has returned as duly elected the said Wm. Cluxton; that the said Wm. Cluxton has not taken his seat in the House; that the said John Bertram ought to have been returned as member for West Peterboro' in this Parliament, and that the said John Bertram has a right to take his seat in this House as member for West Peterboro', saving, however, to all candidates and electors their right to contest the said election, if they think proper, in such a manner as may appertain to law and justice and according to the usages of Parliament.

Hon. John Hillyard Cameron said it should be the desire of the House, as it was his desire, to discuss questions of this kind, without any reference to party feelings, in order that they might come to that calm and just conclusion which, as representatives of the people, they ought to arrive at in matters of so much importance. In introducing his motion, his hon. friend had not dwelt upon a point which, in his judgment, it was most important for the House to consider, namely, the position in which it was placed with regard to the controverted election law of the old Province of Canada. It was quite true the hon. gentleman had alluded to that, but he did not think he had carried the consideration of it as far as the nature of the subject required. The old law as they all knew was to leave all these matters to be determined by the House, but so many abuses had risen that the law was at length repealed, and the Grenville Act was passed. Could his hon. friend bring forward a precedent even before the passage of the Grenville Act or since its passage, where upon a motion in Parliament an alteration had been made in the return without a petition. There was not a single case of the kind, (hear, hear,) even in the olden time when election petitions were either tried at the bar of the House or by a general committee of elections. The hon. gentleman could not refer to a single case where the House had amended a return without a petition, or if he could the hon. gentleman's reading was of a much deeper and more extensive character than his own. He (Mr. Cameron) then detailed the action of the British Parliament in the Sligo case and others, as controverting the arguments of Mr. Blake, and concluded by saying that he was not disposed to say that after an express facts might not be reported by the committees upon which the House might properly act, but in the common element of our career as a Dominion Parliament, with the first case of this kind brought before us in the character in which the hon. gentleman had placed it, whatever authority we might have had in this country on the subject in the olden time was not now extant as regards the whole country. We ought not to adopt the proposed precedent and place ourselves in the position recommended without reference as to what our position may be hereafter. We should decline to act at once, or before the case was referred to a committee and all the facts were ascertained. On these grounds he contended that Mr. Blake's motion should not prevail, and that the House was not in a position to declare in accordance with this resolution that one party's name ought to be erased from the rolls of this House and the others therein substituted. (Cheers)

Hon. Mr. Dorion said the precedents quoted by the hon. member for Cardwell were not applicable to the present case, but were those appertaining to the investigations of cases of bribery. In the present case great delay would ensue if this were referred to a committee whose sittings would not be of any use till the beginning of next session. There was nothing to go before the committee at all. The question was one for the House to decide, and that was that the returning officer had not done his duty. The electors would still have the right to petition.

Hon. Mr. O'Connor contended that jurisdiction in these cases had been taken from the body of the House.

Mr. Jette (in French) supported the resolution.

Sir John Macdonald said the real point to be decided was whether the House had jurisdiction to deal with the case, not whether the returning officer had made a mistake. The question was simply whether the argument of the hon. member for Cardwell was well founded, and whether the House should interfere or not. If it was a fact that this House was the proper tribunal to try questions of undue returns, then they might set aside the hope of being able to address itself within any reasonable period to the real business of the country. For the very purpose of enabling Parliament to avoid such questions, and the high object of depriving such matters of the right to be decided by party votes, the law provided another and a specific tribunal—a tribunal surrounded by all that sanctifies the highest courts of law—a tribunal upon which rested all the obligations that were imposed upon the judges of the land, a tribunal, upon which the wisdom of Parliament, both in England and Canada, had cast the duty of trying these questions, and a tribunal, the members of which took a solemn oath to try the questions submitted to them with the impartiality of a judge. (Hear, hear.) It would be a matter of double regret if the time of the House was to be occupied by trying all disputed elections. For if this motion were carried, and the precedent established that the House had jurisdiction to interfere, no member of the House would have any protection against his seat being disputed in the same way, not only at the present time, but at any time during the existing Parliament. Under the controverted elections law if a petition was not presented against the sitting member within fourteen days after the meeting of Parliament, his right to the seat could not afterwards be impugned, but if the doctrine of the hon. gentleman was to be assumed as a correct doctrine there was no limit, for Parliament could at any time during its existence exercise its jurisdiction, remove a member from his place, and declare his seat vacant, just as well as on the first day of its meeting. It was in order to prevent this great wrong, and to give members an assurance that they had a right to vote and speak for their constituents without fear of being attacked, that the law had been passed, which declared that these questions should not be dealt with as party questions in Parliament, nor made the cause of party struggles. The unseemly spectacle

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be duly protected." (Chee
After recess Mr. Carter re
He contended that the Hous
deal with the question, but
be referred to a Committee
the course that ought to be
Hon. Mr. Huntington
the House had a right to
case, and said that the atte
members with the idea
might be attacked in the
have no effect when it was
it was only when the f
showed that there was an i
the House had a right to in
Mr. Blain argued that th
in the controverted election
the House dealing with it.
Mr. Scatcherd support
resolution.
Mr. Mackenzie, as a lay
ty, thought the Returning O
to return the defeated as t
didate. He moved, se
Dorion, to leave out
after "substituted," and
House deems it prope
upon the return of West Pe
upon the precedents of the
Province of Canada in t
Beauharnois, Bagot and Le
ton cases, and in conformit
cedents to assert its juris
tain its privileges, to fort
flagrant violation of law
on the papers which has b
the return of the defeat
candidate; and this House
Bertram should have the
seat, Mr. Cluxton having
test his election."
Mr. Palmer, of St. John
in his view it ought to
Committee.
Sir Francis Hincks
speak on this subject,
after the imputation,
undoubtedly by the pres
he had tried to seat hi
1848. He wrote to a f
distinguished member o
of Commons, asking hi
course was and he replie
go to an election commit
left the matter in the h
and Mr. Baldwin and Mr.
with the Ministry. In
proper course would be
to a committee, who w
House what course they
After the report came do
then for any member to
attempted to be taken,
any steps, they wanted
port of the committee w
posed of the highest leg
sides of the House. T
also to decide whether t
tion of privilege or not.
Mr. Bodwell thought
the resolution of the me
was representing the vi
ents.
Hon. J. Howe was
other gentleman who
House, but he would take a
of the question. Engli
dents had been quoted b
the hon. member for Dur
Mr. Prevost, of T
French, supported Mr.
ment to the amendm
the Government was tr
the question by side iss
Mr. Mathieu, of Ric
were several doubtful q
sidered, and before decid
he desired to have the o
tee.
Mr. Cauchon saw no
under discussion, and
a similar character,
with by the House
envolved no questi
there were other case
thought, be referred
Under these circumstan
he had done twenty-fiv
Mr. Blake, replying
against his motion, cha
ber for Vancouver
and concluded by insi
of this House to act
the security of membe
constituents.
Sir John Macdonald
member for Lambt
amendment inconsiste
the hon. member for
dicating that he at a
low where that hon.
ed to lead. He thoug
titled to know who
the Opposition, that h
upon which Parliame
mation as the leaders
(Hear, hear). The h
ton had gone out of
attack upon the
had lately been his
Minister. He (Sir
tolled the chara
of that gentleman,
hon. member o
years hence held as h
mation of the people
as brilliant a reput
now held and posses
would have earned a
reward for twenty-fi
vice. (Loud cheers.
on to argue with mu
quent cheers, that the
hon. gentleman o
to this question
boro' return,
alluded to the abus
upon the returning
was a very respectab
that if his characte
men opposite repres
as unsafe and impro
as to the votes poll
cept his return to w
jected. If he was
worthy of only cens
was just as likely to
in the other, and th
accepting either of h
He then discusse
dents that had
they were preced
view of the matter,
against Parliament
arbitrary tribunal f
of cases which the l
mode of trying.
South Bruce had d
wrong done to the c
ing to the transacti
til it was
House, but he
gentleman's attenti
bunal that had tak
Legislature of th
(Hear, hear.) H
Sandfield Macdona
ment of that Hous
were vacant, one-
sentation of the P
had been filled, w
jority, but the he
and his friendsha
(Cheers.) They
interests of the
did not wring th
tuencies robbed
right of every fr
Parliament. (Ch
and the absence of
and they forced
Government and
Cheers). It did
be in the months
very much of the
tuency might suf
at most. (Hear,
argument in su