

The County of Haldimand, Ont., has gained an unenviable notoriety in election matters. The Supreme Court has recently unseated Mr Coulter for the third or fourth time for corrupt practices, and his opponent, Dr. Montague, has also been unseated more than once. When a constituency develops so marked a tendency to unblushing venality, it may well become a question whether it be not a fit subject for punishment by temporary disfranchisement.

We notice a renewal of the endeavor to make the Canadian farmer believe that he is down-trodden and oppressed, and going fast to the "demnition bow-wows." Without attempting to penetrate the true inwardness of these passionate wails we can point out to the Nova Scotian farmer, at all events, one direction in which he might add a little to his means of livelihood, and that is by taking the trouble to make good butter. The general quality of the article at present supplied is a disgrace to our farming community, and the butter-makers never seem to consider that a better article will always command a higher price.

An event of considerable importance occurred on Sunday the 26th ult., in the opening of the C. P. R. telegraph line direct from Halifax to Vancouver. Naturally a good deal of ornamental, complimentary and mutually congratulatory telegraphy was indulged in by all sorts and conditions of men, of any pretence to be representative. This is all well enough for a start, but what the public look or at least hope for from the break of the monopoly of the Western Union, is some appreciable reduction in the rate for long distances. At present persons telegraphing, say to Calgary, N. W. T., have to pay \$1.45 for ten words, and a lady the other day paid sixty cents for wiring the single word "yes," to a point 100 miles north west of Brandon. One might almost cable to Great Britain for these amounts.

It would seem that effete old England has not yet fallen altogether behind the age even in electric contrivances. An electric indicator of the names of railway stations is coming into use in England. A magnetic apparatus turning a roller on which are printed the names of stations in good visible letters is fitted over the window of every carriage, with an electric bell to call the attention of passengers to the change. The instruments are connected in series, and are under the control of the guard, who changes the name by a simple touch of a button before the train stops. It is devoutly to be hoped that this arrangement may find its way into use in this country, and that it may come to pass that our ears may be spared the unearthly howls of brakemen announcing the names of stations in an idiom utterly unintelligible to the vulgar.

The *New Glasgow Eastern Chronicle* has the following:—"In conversation with an observing old lady in the country the other day, she remarked: 'We are always hearing of improvement in the towns, but of none in the country. Here it is the same, year after year.' The reply was made to her, 'Oh! but you surely have something new now and then, christenings for instance.' 'Indeed,' she said, 'there are very few of them in comparison with former years, and we that are left are not bothered much with christenings.' What she said is only too true of many districts, even in this county of Pictou." We were rather under the impression that marriages throughout Nova Scotia had been decidedly numerous for the last year or two, but we must suppose that Pictou is an exception to the law which leads us to believe that the marriage rate is a tolerable sure indication of national prosperity.

The *New York Marine Journal* has the following:—"Canada's little game is to get the first cable to the Sandwich Islands, arrange trade relations and put on a line of subsidized steamers. The grasping at the Pacific trade, which belongs by right to the United States, has long been a favorite policy with Great Britain, and Canada wants to have a large finger in the pie. The welfare of our shipping in the Pacific trade demands an American cable to the Sandwich Islands and Japan, and such legislation by Congress as will enable it to compete with British shipping now crowding ours to the wall." The *Marine Journal* should have kept this *morceau* until July or August, the coolness of its insolence would then be delightfully refreshing. "The Pacific trade belongs by right to the United States!" What about Australia? The Pacific trade, or at least a full share of it, will fall, as the *St. John Evening Gazette* justly observes, "to the country that has the most enterprise and possesses the best facilities for carrying it on," and in these requisites Canada will be found to be, to say the least of it, fully the equal of the United States.

It is rather a pity that the *Catholic Press* continues to vilify the memory of Giordano Bruno, to whom public honor was recently done at Rome. It would be much better to leave Bruno alone. The thinking and literary world is perfectly aware of the merits of a man who was centuries in advance of his age, and nothing that can be said by those short-sightedly interested in his defamation can alter the calmly rendered verdict of literary criticism. When it is said, as we have seen it written in a recent article, that "he had no friends when he was living and no admirers after his death," the assertion is simply a mis-statement. It is sufficient to know that he enjoyed the friendship of such a man as Sir Philip Sydney. Montaigne excepted, there is scarcely a philosopher of the 16th century who has been more frequently the subject of research and comment by modern scholars. He was a man of immense mental activity and boldness of thought, and the successors of those who, in the repression of mind, burned him at the stake with the customary cruelty and intolerance of the times in which he lived, would do wisely to let his memory rest for what research finds it to be worth.

The Makololos, whom Serpa Pinto mowed down with his Gatling guns, are the representatives of the faithful few who accompanied Livingstone in his great journey across Africa—a journey which revealed to the Portuguese themselves the course of that Zambesi at whose mouth they have been seated for four centuries. The remnant of these Makololos, instead of returning to Livvanti, elected to settle on the Shire, where they finally thought they would be under the ægis of Britain; and there they carved out for themselves a State, and took under their protection many native tribes who were unable to defend themselves from their enemies. The British flag, which they have recently accepted, is merely the outward and visible sign of an actual allegiance which has lasted for years.

The *Manitoba Colonist* is authority for the statement that "the territories have a new set of policemen, who are likely to make things lively for a class of offenders, who have hitherto, to a great extent, escaped being interfered with. The Indian Department has appointed a number of the most reliable young men on the reserves as policemen, whose duty it is to preserve order on the reserves and generally to look after Indians and their doings. On the night following their appointment they made a big haul of their brethren on charges of being drunk and buying and having intoxicants in their possession, most of whom got a warning to be more careful in future. The system of having native policemen on the reservations in the United States has been found to work well, and will probably prove equally well adapted to this country. The native police wear the comfortable and showy uniform formerly issued to the headmen of the bands." We were not aware of this new departure, but, if the statement be correct, it is no doubt a good one—only that one part of it seems to illustrate the old proverb that new brooms sweep clean.

M. Pasteur has succeeded in inoculating the world with such a scare of the really very infrequent occurrence of rabies that it is with pleasure we quote the sensible utterance of a physician on the hasty slaughter of dogs:—"It is a great mistake, often a fatal one, to kill a dog that has bitten a person, until it is established that the dog is mad. Imagination causes more deaths by hydrophobia than neglect does. Once the dog is dead there is no chance of proving it had not rabies; the patient is predisposed to think it had. His fears get hold of his nerves and work on them until they induce the dread disease, visions of which are being constantly conjured up to the mind's eye. A dog after inflicting a wound should be caged and watched, and it were even well if some dissimulation were practiced to make the patient believe the dog was all right, even should it develop symptoms. If people only knew how powerful cauterization is as a remedial agent few would die of rabies." As a matter of fact known to those who have studied the details of the question, it has remained absolutely unknown whether, in the immense majority of the cases treated by M. Pasteur, the animal from whose bite the patients were supposed to be in danger of hydrophobia were mad or not, and the rational presumption has been that they were not. There is a miserable sort of cowardice in people who demand the summary despatch of a dog which, under some provocation or other, has bitten them. We have been bitten by dogs a dozen or so of times in our lifetime, and we should have been heartily ashamed of ourselves if we could have so far yielded to panic and revenge as to put an end to a poor brute's existence for a temporary ebullition of ferocity. In most cases of which we have had experience the savageness was more the result of fear than of any actual vice, though, of course, there are animals of exceptional dangerousness. We should even disdain to cauterize, unless the state of the animal was doubtful.

In continuation of the subject of the Portuguese difficulty we quote from the *London Free Press*, which thus sums up the position:—"In establishing the Mozambique tariff in 1877, the Portuguese publicly recognized that the confluence of the Shire with the Zambesi was the point beyond which they had no jurisdiction. At the instance of the British Government they established a custom house at this point, which marked the limit of their control. When the Congo treaty was negotiated a definite arrangement was incorporated as to the Portuguese boundary for the future. This was fixed at the confluence of the Ruo with the Shire. The treaty, owing to other circumstances, was not ratified, but the agreement arrived at as to the Portuguese boundary remains a tangible record of the views of the two Governments, and failing this agreement the Portuguese boundary should properly revert to its original point at the confluence of the Shire with the Zambesi. Portugal, therefore, never occupied or possessed the Shire-Nyassa region, and she has herself distinctly admitted the fact that her boundary is limited by the Ruo. On the other hand, Britain has the best of all possible titles to the occupation of a country to which nobody laid claim, by our missionary and trading stations. Religion and commerce have gone hand in hand in winning the people over to civilization. During the last twelve years alone, some £150,000 has been expended in developing the country, by establishing means of communication and by various other means, educational, industrial, religious or medical. Into this scene of peaceful, religious and civilizing work comes Major Serpa Pinto, with his army well furnished with Chassepots and Martinis, his armed steamer, and his Gatling guns, and proceeds to massacre all who stand in his way. It is stated from Lisbon that he was only engaged in surveying for a railway. That is the Portuguese excuse. It is utterly worthless. He had no right to invade the territory beyond the Ruo, either to make a railway or anything else. The Portuguese have no moral or legal right to lay a finger on the British mission and trading stations." Portugal receives but little encouragement from the other European powers, except France, which is just now very Anglophobic.