

Truth's Contributors.

LIVE OTTAWA TOPICS.

The Jesuits' Estate Act—The Gaelic Language Motion in the Senate—The Nykert Case Temporarily Shelved—The Deceased Wife's Sister's Daughter's Bill Passed by the Senate—A Personal Paragraph—A Lively Prof. in the House—Adam Brown's "Dicky-bird" Bill.

The return of the documents in connection with the reference of the Jesuit Estates' Act to the Law officers of the Crown shows that these legal gentlemen were asked to give their opinion upon a memorandum prepared by Sir John Thompson. That was far more an argument for the support of the government's position than a fair and full statement of the facts in the case. It was an attorney's "brief," not a judge's report. It is not to be wondered at that the English law officers thought the act constitutional with this document, and this document alone, before them. The case will now come up in the Commons on motion by Mr. Charlton, and the House asked to condemn the government for not referring the Act to the courts.

The Senate put in two hours of its meagre and yet mildly valuable time in discussing Senator McInnes' bill proposing to make Gaelic an official language. Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, the shrewd business man who wastes his time leading that body, termed it "a far-fetched practical joke," and expressed the hope that no member of the House will imperil his reputation and standing as a public man by voting for it. To Senator McInnes it was by no means a joke and for one hour and a half he read a wearisome essay to his drowsy colleagues in praise of the Scotch and their ancient tongue. The bill is a prominent bit of evidence that a Scotchman's sense of humor is deeply buried.

The Rykert case has been sent to the Committee on Privileges and Elections, with the promise of the Government that it will very soon come back to the House. The motion referring the case to this Committee was carried unanimously, although it was more a matter of mercy than principle or even justice with the Opposition. The closing debate was an interesting one. The Government put up Messrs. Kirkpatrick and White—two of the most independent and generally respected members in the House—to make and defend the official proposition that the charges be referred to committee. Hon. Peter Mitchell, the only Third Party man that has ever succeeded in getting a seat in Parliament, was secured as seconder; and a more influential trio could not well have been gathered behind any resolution. Hon. Mr. Laurier declared the mind of the Liberals firmly made up against delay of any kind. They were satisfied that Mr. Rykert could put in no further defence. He had had all ready every one of his, and had failed most miserably. Mr. Laurier demanded his im- rank the yells of cation by this highest court ernr nas boxes and u. The lesser guns of the in But I think in the Neale in tion until Mr. light and He in utter over on rain shot a shun gain U-till the there he was the thomind which had found the

admitting that up to the present Mr. Rykert had made no adequate defence. The Opposition bowed to the plea for justice and allowed the motion for reference to carry without a division. The case is now before the Committee which at the present writing is proceeding with a promptness that promises an early report to the House.

The Senate passed the other day, in spite of the protests of the French Canadian Catholics, Senator Almon's bill, legalizing marriage with one's deceased wife's sister's daughter. This statement reads suspiciously like a conundrum, and one wonders a good deal before he can understand just how a man could get into a position where he would wish to marry his deceased wife's sister's daughter, but this proposition has received the consent of one branch of Parliament to become sober, effective law. The protest of the French Canadian Catholics is significant. The Catholic church has long been the zealous guardian of the sanctity of the marriage vow. To her, it is not a bargain and sale contract; it is a holy sacrament. Hence when she raises her voice against a measure of this character, it is *prima facie* evidence that the biblical circle of marriage is being invaded. By the way, how do the people of Ontario like the reflection that her unchosen representatives in the Senate carry a breach of the sanctity of marriage over the protests of the people of Quebec?

Sir John Macdonald, in spite of the immense amount of work required of him, is taking marvellously good care of his physical self this session. He has a cosy private room just off the Library corridor, and he takes a great many half hours from the duller times in the House to rest quietly in that chamber. At times, when Parliament is spending the evening in supply or other routine business, he does not come down from Ernscliffe at all, but recuperates at his own fireside. This is in contrast to Messrs. Howell and Langevin, who are very seldom out of the House, but who sit patiently at their desks through the long hours of the night sessions. The two most faithful legislators among the Liberals are Sir Richard Cartwright and Mr. Mills, both of whom work very persistently through complicated matters in which there cannot be an ounce of party profit but only benefit to the country. Those who are in the habit of heaping cheap abuse upon the politicians would be surprised to know how much hard work these men do where party is not at all interested.

Prof. Weldon, of Albert, is beginning to let the House know of his presence. He led in a stinging speech the revolt of a few of the party against the Rykert abomination, and the other evening he undertook to castigate Blake for his severe handling of a junior member. It is not every one who could hit at Blake without presenting a ridiculous appearance of puny inability, but Prof. Weldon's attack was not at all ineffective. He is a master of terse, telling sentences that launch his thoughts into the mental world clothed most picturesquely. Tall, large headed, intense and masculine in countenance, he is a striking figure in the House, and he never speaks without displaying at once the scholar and the thinker. The maritime provinces have produced On our remarkable specimens of manhood, and hence you need be taken by surprise if the old, though of a different region proves to be the burster of Albert.

The rejection of Adam Brown's Bird Bill is a triumph of the betting fraternity over good sense and common humanity. It is only fair to the bill to say that Mr. Brown was not the best promoter it could have had. He is immensely unpopular among his fellow partizans, and it is exceedingly difficult for the whole House to take him seriously. He had the support of the leading men of both parties—Sir John, Mr. Blake, Mr. Laurier, Mr. Bowell, Mr. Foster, Mr. Mills; all rose in favor of the bill on its second reading, but they were absent at the hour of its greatest need. Even the clever, scholastic oration of Nicholas Flood Davin failed to move the House. The smaller men, who dislike Brown and cater to the sporting class, were in a majority, and the passage of the bill was delayed another year.

The investigation of the charges made by Mr. Lister, M. P., against General Middleton and Mr. Hayter Reid in connection with the disappearance of the half breed Brenner's furs during the North-West rebellion, promises to be fairly interesting. The charge is simply that of "looting" which, while common enough in war, is certainly not allowable during the suppression of a domestic rebellion among our own people. Having vindicated the majesty of the law, the errand of the troops to the North-west was one of peace; and if the commander of these forces gravely imperilled that peace by robbing a helpless half breed of his property, the conduct was very serious indeed. Until the committee has heard evidence and returned a verdict, it will be both fair and wise to suspend judgment on the matter. The committee is an able and just one, not likely to be either short sighted or slow of tongue.

A. R. C.

French Fashions.

French fashions like French novels, literally translated, are somewhat shocking to the sensibilities of a really womanly woman. Thus the Empire styles, in modified arrangements, have inaugurated an era of picturesque, artistic, quaint, and unique dressing, for which we are indeed grateful, but the Empire gown in its fullest signification has possibilities only equalled by a ballet girl's conventional costume. Not only is the neck distressingly décolleté to the very verge of indecency, but the tight skirt worn over scanty petticoats, reveals every outline of the figure from the waist downward. In front and at the sides the skirt is cut without the slightest fulness. Standing motionless a modest woman, it she be modelled after the Grecian goddesses in slenderness of figure and purity of outline, may feel at peace with the world clad in the caressing folds of the little skirt to which Empress Josephine clung, and which clung to her so closely, but once the woman moves, sits, or walks she would be grateful for the ballet girl's tarletane to cover her confusion, and her personality as well. While it is only embarrassing to the graceful woman to wear this expressive, ingenuous little scant gown, its artless revelations are exasperating to the woman of more rotund and matronly proportions. Can any one imagine a more trying and unbecoming style of dress for a "plump and pleasing" little woman who has lost the delicacy of outline peculiar to youth: while for the angular, excessively thin individual the fashion is quite as apt to make life not worth living. There are, of course, many women who refuse to submit to the extreme of this mode, which is slowly but surely gaining ground; but there are many more whose devotion to fashion is greater than their critical acumen, appreciation of absurdity, or sense of the eternal harmony and fitness of unities.

For indigestion or dyspepsia, Adam's Tutti Frutti Gum, recommended by R. Ogden Doremus, M. D., LL. D. and Dr. Cyrus Edson. Sold by all Druggists and Confectioners. 5 cents.

HIS MAJESTY NEAR CATCHING IT.

Fifty Beggars Come Within One of Trouncing the Emperor of China

A few weeks ago the young Emperor of China had a narrow escape from a thorough trouncing, if not worse at the hands of a party of beggars in his capital. It is a favorite pastime of the young Emperor to wander in ordinary Chinese clothes through the streets of Peking, to loange around the corners, and to drink his tea in the most crowded restaurants in order that he may learn what his subjects think of him and his Government. He runs no risk of having his identity discovered while he is thus doing the town, for in Peking the art of photography is not practiced, and consequently the people at large have no idea of the personal appearance of their sovereign.

The Emperor had got but a short distance from his palace on one of these trips of investigation into one afternoon of last month, when he saw a Chinese beggar picking the pocket of a respectable merchant. The Emperor promptly caught the beggar by the back of his blouse, cuffed his ears, and forced him to return the merchant the stuff stolen from his pocket. Now this performance of the Emperor was much more remarkable in Peking, than it would have been in any other big city of the world. For in Peking beggars and pickpockets are protected by a kind of unwritten law. Beggary is recognised as a perfectly legitimate employment, and the beggars constitute a guild which has for its prime object the mutual protection of all members of the craft. Any one who interferes with a beggar in the prosecution of his employment exposes himself to the vengeance of the guild. This vengeance generally takes the rough-and-ready form of the flogging of the interloper at the hands of as many beggars as the beggar who has been interfered with can immediately summon to his assistance.

Of course the young Emperor knew nothing about this abuse, which obtained many decades ago in his big capital. After cuffing the beggar's ears he went his way quite unapprehensive, and brought up in a restaurant but a few rods from the scene of the row. He had hardly taken the first sip of his cup of tea when everyone in the restaurant was startled by a wild hullahaloo. The landlord went to the door. He found fifty beggars before his house under the leadership of the fellow whose ears the Emperor had boxed. They ordered the landlord to hand over immediately to them the young man who had offended against all the unwritten laws and precedents of the Peking guild of beggars. The landlord recognized their demand as perfectly legitimate, and hurried to quell the disturbance by delivering up the offender. The young Emperor, however, objected very strenuously to being delivered up, and while making his remonstrances spoke such superfluous Chinese that the landlord perceived he had to do with the son of some big-wig. As a special favor, therefore, he offered to parley with the band of beggars till their intended victim could summon some of his friends to his assistance.

The Emperor gladly accepted the suggestion. He despatched a messenger at once to the Governor of the palace commanding him to hurry to the spot with two companies of soldiers. The Governor and the soldiers came, rescued their Emperor and lugged the five beggars off to jail. The landlord goes for his consideration. The leader of the beggars and three of his comrades, who helped him demand the Emperor from the landlord, were executed the next day. The rest of the rioters were imprisoned for terms between five and ten years each. The Emperor has given orders to the Peking officers that the authorized system of begging must go.

About Sleep.

How many hours' sleep do you require? No rule can be laid down. Jeremy Taylor thrived on three hours, and so does Cardinal Newman. Many centenarians are contented with five hours; but some of them require eight or nine. But there are two rules of sleeping which everybody may adopt without hesitation. 1. Never let yourself be awakened by anybody else, but wait until you have slept out your sleep. 2. Get up as soon as you are awake. If you follow these two rules, the hours of sleep will very soon regulate themselves. If you read yourself to sleep, you should read a heavy book, not a light one. A dull book is good, a stupid one is better. Some persons recommend a cup of beef-tea—just to amuse the digestion.