

THE FAVORITE

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'THE FAVORITE'

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IMMIGRATION SCANDAL.

We regret to notice the tardiness with which the Local Government is approaching the investigation of the serious charges made against the management of the Immigrants' home in Montreal; it is now more than a month since it was made public that charges of a very serious nature had been made against Col. Belle, and beyond appointing a commissioner to take evidence, which is to be forwarded to Quebec without comment, nothing has been done; the commissioner has taken no evidence and does not appear in a hurry to do so. The charge against Col. Belle, as near as can be ascertained, is that he made indecent proposals to a woman named Vancaster, an inmate of the home, whose husband had previously been sent out of the city by Belle; one Muller, who had been discharged by Belle from some subordinate position he held in the home appears to have induced the Vancasters to file affidavits against Belle, which he (Muller) says he took to Quebec himself. This was over two months ago, and yet it looks very much as if the whole thing would have been suppressed, had it not been for a personal encounter between Col. Belle and Mr. Barnard which led to a suit before the Recorder, and a subsequent inquiry before the Police Committee of the Council—not yet finished—into the conduct of chief Ponton and detective Lafon, who were charged with endeavoring to bribe the woman Vancaster to withdraw the affidavit against Belle. Now we have nothing to say about Col. Belle's guilt or innocence, that is a matter for the Government to determine and to determine at once; but, we do say that the delay in investigating the charges against a prominent agent is hurtful to immigration, and that the Local Government by its want of promptness is injuring not only the immigration to this Province but to the whole Dominion; for emigrants will be very careful about going to a country where there seems to be a doubt of the conduct of the local officials being promptly enquired into, when formal and proper complaint is made. The Marquis of Lorne in a recent speech at Glasgow deplored the ten-

dency to emigrate evinced by Scotchmen of late years, but hoped that if they did emigrate they would go to British Colonies in preference to the United States; when this immigration scandal comes to be known in Great Britain, and the tardiness of the Local Government in enquiring into it is shown, we scarcely think it will tend to increase the emigration to Canada.

AMERICAN NEUTRALITY.

The following telegram from New York is singularly expressive of the "neutrality" which the United States has observed in the war between Spain and the insurgents in Cuba—which is as nearly a parallel with the Southern Confederacy as can be found:—

"It is reported another Cuban expedition is organizing here under Col. Aguero. A reception is to be given on Sunday to Captain Aguero, by the Cubans of this city, in honor of the success of his recent expedition in the steamer *Edgar Stuart*."

The *Edgar Stuart* is a blockade runner which lately succeeded in landing a quantity of rifles, ammunition, &c., &c., in Cuba for the use of the insurgents, and the Captain in whose honor the "reception" was to be given boasts that he has taken *fourteen* cargoes into Cuba for the revolutionists. Now the United States are supposed to be at peace with Spain, but judging—as impartial spectators—by the telegrams, and newspaper accounts we receive from New York, we should say that that city was the headquarters of the Cuban insurgents; the sinews of war—i. e., money—seem to be raised mainly in New York; all the filibustering expeditions appear to be fitted out there, and, in fact, it is natural to suppose that the base of operation of the Cuban insurgents is in New York city. Now, when we come to consider how Brother Jonathan howled about his "feeling a being hurt" in the late American war by English sympathy for the South—he wanted to charge \$300,000,000 for it, but didn't get it—we can see how consistent the Americans are in aiding and abetting rebels against their lawful sovereign. Of course, Spain is a weak power and the United States is a strong one, which makes all the difference in the world if the case should be tried *vi et armis*; but should arbitration be resorted to we think that our American cousin would find themselves on the wrong side of the fence in contesting a case with Spain. There is no doubt that American money, American guns and ammunition, American citizens, and American sympathy have prolonged the struggle in Cuba at least one year, and if Spain should bring in a bill for "consequential damages," we think she would have a much better chance of recovering it than the United States ever had of recovering the same claim against England before the Geneva board.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

The Imperial Parliament was opened on 6th inst. Her Majesty not appearing in person, the speech from the throne was read by a commission consisting of the Lord Chancellor, Marquis of Ripon, Earl Kimberly, Earl of Cork, and Viscount Sydney. There were only eighteen peers present and but little interest was manifested. The moving of the address was made the occasion in the House of Lords, of an attack by Earl Derby on the action of the Government in the Alabama and San Juan boundary questions; and in the Commons Mr. Disraeli made a similar onslaught. The following is the full text of the speech:

My Lords and Gentlemen—

I greet you cordially on your reassembling for the discharge of your momentous duties. I have satisfaction in announcing the maintenance of relations of friendship with foreign powers throughout the world. You were informed when I last addressed you that steps had been taken to prepare the way for dealing more effectually with the slave trade on the East Coast of Africa. I have now despatched an envoy to Zanzibar furnished with such instructions as appear to me

best adapted for the attainment of the object in view. He recently reached his place of destination, and had entered into communication with the Sultan.

My ally, the Emperor of Germany, who had undertaken to pronounce judgment as arbitrator on the line of the water boundary so long in dispute under the terms of the Treaty of 1846, has decided, in conformity with the contention of the Government of the United States, that the Haro channel presents the line most in accordance with the true interpretation of that treaty. I have thought it a course most befitting the spirit of international friendship and the dignity of this country to give immediate execution of the award by withdrawing promptly from my partial occupation of the Island of San Juan.

The proceedings before the Tribunal of Arbitration at Geneva, which I was enabled to prosecute in consequence of the withdrawal of the indirect claims preferred on behalf of the Government of the United States, have terminated in an award which in part established and in part repelled the claims allowed to be relevant.

You will in due course of time be asked to provide for the payment of sums coming due to the United States under this award.

My acknowledgements are due to the German Emperor, likewise to the tribunal of Geneva, for the pains and care bestowed by them in the peaceful adjustment of the controversy, such as could not but impede the full prevalence of international good-will in a case where it was especially to be cherished.

In the prosecution of a well understood and established policy I have concluded a treaty for the extradition of criminals with my ally the King of the Belgians.

The Government of France during recess renewed its communications with my Government for the purpose of concluding a commercial treaty to replace that of 1860, which is about to expire. In prosecuting these communications, I have kept in view the double object of equal regard to existing circumstances and of securing a general provision more prominent in its character and resting on a reciprocal and equal basis for commercial and maritime relations of the two countries. I hope to be enabled within a short period to announce to you the final settlement.

It has been for some few years felt by the Governments of Russia and the United Kingdom respectively that it would be conducive to the tranquillity of Central Asia if the two Governments should arrive at an identity of view regarding the line which describes the northern frontier of the Dominion of Afghanistan. Accordingly correspondence has passed, of which this is the main subject. Its tenor, no less than its object, will, I trust, be approved by the public opinion of both nations.

The papers will be laid before you with relation to the awards delivered under the Treaty of Washington, to the commercial negotiations with France, and to the northern frontier dimensions of Afghanistan.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,—

The estimates for the coming financial year will be presented to you. They have been framed with a view to the efficient operation of our establishments under circumstances of inconvenience entailed by variations of an exceptional nature in the prices of some important commodities.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—

Although the harvest has been to some extent deficient, the condition of the three kingdoms, with reference to trade and commerce, to the sufficiency of revenue for meeting public charges, to the decrease of pauperism and to a relative amount of ordinary crime, may be pronounced generally satisfactory. A measure will be submitted to you at an early day for settling the question of University education in Ireland. It will have for its object the advancement of learning in that portion of my dominions, and will be framed with careful regard to rights of conscience. You will find ample occupation in dealing with other legislative subjects of importance, of which part have already been under your notice in various forms at different periods. Among these your attention will be speedily asked to the formation of a Supreme Court of Judicature, including provisions for the trial of appeals. Among measures which will be brought before you also are proposals for facilitating the transfer of land, for the amendment of our system of local taxation, and of certain provisions of the Education Act of 1870, and other general acts regulating railways and canals, together with various other bills for the improvement of the laws.

I earnestly commend your deliberations to the guidance and favor of the Almighty God.

A THEATRICAL NOVELTY.—On Thursday evening, says a New York paper, a curious and startling scene occurred at the Grand Opera House, near the end of the last act of "The Cataract of the Ganges." One of the horses, becoming unruly, began a series of plunges and gyrations, which ended in his first balancing himself upon his hind feet and finally performing a somerset, which landed him in the middle of the orchestra, to the terror of the instrumentalists and the damage of the violoncello. An uproar was instantly created in the house. Men rose en masse, boys shouted and women screamed and fainted. The orchestra players vanished like mice through the doors beneath the footlights, and the rider of the steed managed to

escape unhurt. The horse meanwhile remained the sole occupant of the orchestra, and, after being somewhat quieted, lent refreshment to the remainder of the performance by a series of sounds that were probably the expression of equine amazement and dismay, and would be more intelligible to Mr. Bergh or Mr. Darwin than to any one else. When the curtain fell there was a unanimous "wait" on the part of the audience, and an obstinate disposition was evinced not to budge until curiosity was satisfied as to how the animal would be removed. The audience last night was very large, owing, doubtless, to the public's desire to learn whether the orchestra had been improvised into a stable. The leader, however, sat at his usual desk; around him were ranged his melodious satellites, and how that horse was got out of the orchestra remains as much a mystery as how the apple gets into the pudding.

PASSING EVENTS.

THE postmen of Madrid are on strike.

CALIFORNIA has been visited by a rain storm of unusual severity.

GERMANY will strengthen several of her important fortifications.

THE Peruvian Embassy to China and Japan sailed on the 1st inst.

PREPARATIONS were being made at St Petersburg for the reception of the Shah of Persia.

SIR NARCISSE BELLEAU, it is said, has refused a seat in the Senate, and goes into private life.

BISMARCK has introduced a bill in the Federal Council taxing all sales of stocks at the Exchange.

THE Council of the County of Peterboro' has voted a grant of \$150,000 to the Ontario and Quebec Railroad.

THE seat of the member for Quebec Centre will be contested before the Parliamentary Committee at Ottawa.

A DEPUTY in the Cortes has started the very original idea of indemnifying the slaves in Cuba instead of their masters.

THE British sloop of war *Basilisk* has seized three vessels which were engaged in kidnapping Polynesians to be sold into slavery.

A QUEBEC paper says the Gosford woollen railroad is about to change hands, and that a part of the line will be relaid with iron.

THE weather has been so cold in England that in three days one hundred persons are reported to have perished from its effects.

HON. JUSTICE CARON has been appointed Lieut.-Governor of Quebec, and is to receive a judge's pension after the expiration of his term of office.

It was proposed to import Chinese laborers to work in the coal mines of the south of Wales, and the miners on strike threatened vengeance.

THE editor of a Posen newspaper was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for publishing an article entitled "The Battle with God's Church."

THE Roman Catholic Bishops have transmitted to the Emperor of Germany a memorial, protesting against the ecclesiastical affairs bill now before the House.

THE American National Regatta will come off in September on the Schuylkill River at Philadelphia, when very valuable prizes will be offered for competition.

It was rumored at Ottawa that Mr. Gibbs, the member for South Ontario, is about to enter the Cabinet, and that the Hon. Mr. Tilley would succeed Sir Francis Hincks as Minister of Finance.

THE master and some of the crew of the steamer *Murillo*, which ran into the *Northfleet*, have been arrested at Cadiz, and the deposition of the engineer has been taken before the British Consul.

PRESIDENT THIERS has examined the project submitted for his acceptance by the Commission of Thirty, and declares that the constitutional changes proposed would make the authority left him contemptible.

It is intended to re-organize the German army by extending the period of service over twelve years. Conscripts will thus be required to serve three years with the colours, four years in the reserves and five in the Landwehr.

MR. ROBERT BOWLES, who was arrested and held for trial in London, has been acquitted. He was accused of a misdemeanor in connection with certain securities deposited with the Paris banking house of Bowles, Bros & Co., in which he is a partner.

THE council of the new King of the Sandwich Islands is composed chiefly of Americans. On taking the oath of office his Majesty said that the Islands were capable of great development, and that he would endeavour to maintain their credit and reputation with other nations.

ITALY.—It is said that the Pope has stated that he would leave Rome if the establishments of heads of religious orders were suppressed by the Italian Government.—A Royal decree was promulgated whereby the State takes possession formally of sixteen convents in Rome.

A slight eruption from Mount Vesuvius has been in progress during the past few days. No damage has been done, but the residents of the villages at the foot of the volcano are greatly alarmed.