

moral prosperity have improved greatly. We are glad to find that the health of Her Majesty has so far improved that she has been holding Drawing Rooms, and was about to set out on a visit to Ireland. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has joined the Carragh Camp in Ireland for military instruction, and was received with immense enthusiasm by the Irish people.

The Great Eastern has conveyed with perfect success some 3000 troops from England to Canada. It is said that she will be placed regularly on the route between Liverpool and New York.

An event of some interest to Nova Scotians is the successful launch of the new Cunard steamer "Scotia," being the largest commercial vessel in the world after the Great Eastern. This great company now possesses 33 steamships, most of them of great size, measuring altogether between 50 and 60,000 tons, a tonnage exceeding the whole commercial marine of Scotland, 80 years ago, and greater than the navies of several powerful European nations.

A great fire, the most destructive which has happened for many years, took place last month in London. The loss is variously estimated at from 2 to 4 millions, and was accompanied we grieve to learn with the death of Mr. Braidwood, superintendent of the Fire Brigade—a man universally esteemed for his high character and undaunted courage.

A Scotch Education Bill considerably increasing the emoluments and raising the status of Schoolmasters, is likely to pass through parliament, and though possessing one or two objectionable features is hailed with general satisfaction.

A comet of large size has suddenly made its appearance in the heavens, taking both astronomers and the world in general altogether by surprise, and proving that we have yet a good deal to learn concerning the laws which govern the motions of these erratic bodies.

On this side of the Atlantic, by far the most absorbing event of the day is the disastrous and apparently disgraceful defeat of the main body of the Northern army at a place called Manassas Junction. The accounts as yet received are so unreliable and contradictory, that it is impossible to give anything like a satisfactory account of this engagement. The only facts as yet ascertained beyond doubt being that the two armies met on Sunday the 21st ult., and after fighting most of the day the Federalists retreated in the greatest possible disorder, leaving behind them their artillery and camp equipage and suffering a loss which the newspapers put down from 200 to 20,000. The moral effect of this victory upon the South will no doubt be immense and render nearly impossible the idea of bringing it back into the

Union. The combined imbecility and bluster of the North are fast destroying all sympathy for them everywhere, and more especially in these British Provinces.

In the meantime, trade is in a state of utter stagnation. The North suffers intensely, and if public opinion were allowed a voice, would be only too glad to find a peaceable solution to this unnatural struggle, even by acknowledging the independence of the Southern States. But liberty of speech both in North and South is kept in fetters, and a man declares his opinion at the peril of his life—a most disgraceful state of things in a republic.

Nova Scotia continues to share in the general prostration, there is scarcely any export trade, and money has become an exceedingly scarce commodity. As a partial counterpart to this, gold continues to be found in considerable quantities at Tangier and Lunenburg, and we have great hopes may yet be the means of bringing back a tide of prosperity to Nova Scotia stronger than ever set in upon it.

The Synods of the various Churches have concluded their deliberations which, upon the whole, have been characterised by great harmony and good feeling. The question of Union has been disposed for the present, and seeing that the Synod have come unanimously to the conclusion that it is altogether unpracticable, we trust that all agitation on this hitherto vexed question will henceforth cease, and that our energies will be directed to the fostering of the interests of our Church by every means in our power—by creating and perfecting a thorough organization for the various schemes, and doing all that in us lies to advance both at home and abroad the cause of the Redeemer.

The retiring Moderator's sermon arrived too late for insertion in our present issue. It will appear in September.

We have been obliged to leave out several articles, including editorial matter this month to make room for Reports of Ecclesiastical proceedings.

We are willing to allow agents a commission to the extent of forwarding six copies for the price of five; or we will send ten copies for 5 dollars. Single copies, 3s. 1-2d.

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