

interest throughout the country; the "great guns" on both sides of politics entered on the canvass, and all parties regarded the election, no matter how it might end, as almost decisive of the general election. Mr. Gibbs was elected by a majority of 69, out of a gross vote of 2,515, and the victory was typical of the success which attended his party throughout the election. Mr. Gibbs has been an influential advocate of the "national policy;" he supports generally a moderate protection to all branches of Canadian industry, and was last year one of the most energetic opponents of the Hon. Mr. Rose's banking policy. He takes an active and intelligent part in the discussion of all questions bearing on the commerce and industry of the country; and for the comparatively short time he has been in Parliament has won a position of considerable influence in the House. As a speaker he is clear, vigorous, and logical; his experience in commercial and financial affairs adding additional weight to his opinions.

PRESENTATION PLATE.

In the Press and will shortly be distributed to all paid-up Subscribers for one year to the

"CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS,"

A Leggotyped Copy of LEFEVRE'S Splendid Engraving of CORREGGIO'S celebrated Painting (the original of which is now in the Dresden Gallery) entitled,

"THE NATIVITY."

It will be printed on a large sheet of fine plate paper, the exact size of the Engraving being 14 by 19 inches, and care will be taken to make it in every respect as attractive and artistic as the original. All parties subscribing to the *News*, and paying for one year, any time before the first of July next, will be entitled to a copy of this magnificent Plate, the value of which may be inferred from the fact that the Engraving, of which it is a *facsimile*, sells in New York at ten dollars per copy.

Montreal, 26th March, 1870.

CALENDAR FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 1870.

SUNDAY, April 24.—Low SUNDAY. Shakespeare died, 1616. Earl Cathcart, Governor-General, 1846.
MONDAY, " 25.— <i>St. Mark, Ev.</i> Oliver Cromwell born, 1599. Cowper born, 1800. Princess Alice of Hesse born, 1843.
TUESDAY, " 26.—Magellan killed, 1522. Bank of England founded, 1694. David Hume born, 1711. Riots in Montreal and Parliament House burnt, 1849.
WEDNESDAY, " 27.—Bruce, traveller, died, 1794. Toronto captured, battle of York, 1813.
THURSDAY, " 28.—Gibbon born, 1737. Battle of Sillery, Canada, 1760. Mutiny of the "Bounty," 1789.
FRIDAY, " 29.—Latimer born, 1470. War with France declared, 183.
SATURDAY, " 30.—New Moon. Cook entered Botany Bay, 1770. Washington first President of the United States, 1789. Steamer "Ocean Wave" burnt near Kingston, 28 lives lost, 1853. Montgomery died, 1854.

THE CANADIAN ILLUSTRATED NEWS.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1870.

Close upon the heels of the calling out of a large body of Volunteers the Government has seen fit to invite parliament to pass a *Habeas Corpus* Suspension Act. This at first sight implies a gravity in the situation which a closer examination shows not to exist, at least according to preconceived notions of that condition of the country which would warrant a resort to such an extreme measure. Comparisons with the state of society in England or in Ireland, which impels the Imperial Government to place the liberty of the subject at the will of the Executive, are as inapplicable to Canada as the moving causes to the step are dissimilar. When "the constitution is suspended" in Ireland it is because of grave internal disorders; because of plots and conspiracies to overthrow the constituted authorities; and because the constituted authorities cannot reach the persons of the conspirators by the ordinary processes of law with sufficient promptitude to enable them to protect the peace of society. Under such circumstances the suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* Act represents a very grave state of affairs, and places even peaceably disposed men in some degree of peril. But in Canada there is no internal disorder; no commotion of a political or other character threatening even the defiance of the ordinary municipal or police authorities; and therefore with respect to Canadian society there is not the slightest occasion for the exceptional measure adopted by parliament, on the 14th inst., and passed into law within an hour and a half after its introduction. When the same Act was passed in 1866, there were reasons for believing that we had, at the time, some enemies among our own population; but even then it was not because of internal disorder that the act was put in force; it was then, as now, because of a foreign foe who may enter our country by stealth; and at this time there is not even a suspicion of—what in 1866 was generally

accepted as a fact—the presence of enemies in our own camp, so that this Act of suspension, which has been spoken of as implying a serious state of affairs, has been adopted purely as a measure of defence against outside foes. It has nothing to do with "servile imitation of England;" nothing in it to do "damage to our good name, fame, and repute as a quiet, orderly, peace-loving people." On the contrary, it is solely for the purpose of sustaining that character, and for excluding from amongst us those who would rob us of it, that the Act of 1866 has again been placed upon the Statute book.

Whether the external danger is such as to justify the Act, is a question which must of course be left for the Government of the day to determine. But so long as its operation does not affect the freedom of the members of our own community, few will be disposed to regret that the Government should have armed itself with such a power, the very knowledge of the existence of which is sufficient to put a wholesome restraint on the movements of vagabonds. It has been stated by the Premier that the Government had most positive information, which it could not with safety disregard, of a contemplated Fenian movement against Canada; and it is generally known that the United States Government has taken extra precautions to prevent the violation of its neutrality laws. The Fenians have held one Congress in Chicago, and they are holding another in New York. Their case is becoming so desperate that they must, per force, strike or perish for want of funds. Now, it is quite reasonable to suppose that presidents, secretaries, senators, and generals, would rather have a few of their dupes run the risk of being shot down on Canadian soil than see the fountains of the Fenian treasury dried up forever. A raid by O'Neil, if only of a few days, on Canadian soil, with a safe retreat for all but the stragglers, might be calculated upon to raise a fresh burst of enthusiasm. The alleged storing of arms and ammunition along the frontier is in keeping with declared Fenian intentions, so that without knowing anything about the specific information of which the Government is in possession, there is room enough for the supposition that the Fenians really have planned a movement against Canada, which they intend to carry out, if they can, during the present spring.

Nor can it be possible that the Red River trouble has escaped the attention of the Fenian leaders. It is reported that O'Donoghue, one of Riel's right-hand men, has been in constant correspondence with the Fenians, and the *New Nation* certainly did count the Fenian body among the elements of the force upon which the Winnipeg insurgents relied in case of "war with Canada." But the Red River country is not very much more accessible to the Fenians than it is to the Canadians. Our difficulties begin at Fort William, assuming that the Sault Ste. Marie Canal may be traversed; theirs at St. Paul. From the former there is a journey of over 400 miles, from the latter of more than 500, to reach Fort Garry. But as the Fenians would have few facilities for the transport of supplies, they are not likely to advance a very large force to Riel's assistance. The country would be uncongenial, and perhaps the society not much to their liking; so, instead of going to Fort Garry, they may count upon attacking Canada while the Canadian force is gone to the North-West, making "Canada's difficulty" their "opportunity."

These considerations warrant the conclusion that the Government has been fully justified in adopting timely precautions, so that, at the worst, the country will not be found unprepared. And the admitted necessity for these preparations is suggestive of a long-neglected diplomatic duty, the performance of which England owes to Canada and to her own dignity. The present would surely be a favourable opportunity to represent to the Washington Government the injustice of tolerating, within its jurisdiction, an organized conspiracy against a friendly neighbour. The Fenians, who claim and are accorded all the rights of American citizenship, also claim the right, in the name of the "Irish Republic," of making war upon Canada. They make their preparations openly for this purpose; enlist and drill soldiers, purchase and store arms and ammunition, and hold assemblies among their leaders, at which the plans for the invasion of this country are discussed and adopted. All this must be known to the American Government, at least as well as to the world at large; and the time has come when Great Britain should ascertain whether the authorities at Washington hold the toleration of such proceedings consistent with international obligations. If they do, they must have changed their views wonderfully within a few years; but, indeed, were the case reversed: were Montreal or Toronto the headquarters of a conspiracy for making periodical plundering and murdering raids into some one of the United States; were a Klu-Klux, or other society of discontented Southerners to make Canada their base of operations for the purpose, let us say, of plundering and laying waste the State of Maine, because of the tyranny of the Washington Government (real or imaginary) at the south—how long

would it take that Government to represent its grievances at the court of St. James? To complete the parallel; let us say further that the *Leader* and *Globe*, the *Gazette*, *Herald*, &c., should deride the poor "Maine-lacs," as the American papers deride the "Kanucks," by telling them—"Your only safety against these raids is in annexation. Bring your State of Maine into the Dominion, and you will no longer be persecuted because of the crimes of the 'bloated Republic against the south!' *Mutatis mutandis*, this is precisely the case of Canada against the American Government with respect to the Fenians; surely it furnishes grounds for a strong representation to the proper quarter.

Notwithstanding a slight hitch at the beginning, for the want of a sufficient supply of Canadian silver and fractional currency to take the place of the American coinage, the measures of the Finance Minister for the displacement of American silver have had something more than a partial success. In some of the western towns the business community took the matter up in earnest, and after the 15th, refused American silver except at the discount fixed by proclamation, at which rate, of course, nobody would care to circulate it. In Montreal, merchants generally reduced the large silver four, and the small silver ten per cent.; and in the meantime an intimation has been given that silver will be received by the banks, on Government account, at the rate of 5 per cent. discount, up to the 25th, after which it will be taken at 5½. If the merchants support the scheme by paying in all the silver they receive to the banks for exportation, the difficulty will soon be got rid of; but so long as they sell to the brokers at 4, and the latter can dispose of it at 4, there is a temptation to keep it aloft. The interest of the business community, as well as of the public at large, would be promoted by the complete success of the scheme; and if the proper arrangements have been made for a supply of Canadian small coins, the temporary inconvenience resulting from the disappearance of the American dimes and half dimes will soon be got over. It cannot be expected that these coins will remain in circulation at a rate so much below their value, as the discount of ten and twenty per cent. respectively places them.

M. Pamphile Lemay, Librarian to the Legislative Assembly of Quebec, has made himself unenviably notorious by writing some verses on Riel and his victim, Scott. The sentiment to which Lemay gives expression is infamous. His "poem" is a sort of compound of blasphemy and bombast, falsehood and treason; and the wonder is that any one but his bitterest enemy would have given him the chance of seeing it in print. "Fame" is dear to the heart of the poet, but such as it has been to the Librarian of the Assembly, he need hardly desire more than he has already acquired. The composition which has excited so much indignation among the British, and regret and disgust among the French Canadian people, should never have seen the light. In so far as it is not an outrage upon law and order, it is superlatively silly, and instead of arousing indignation, is only deserving of contempt. It makes Riel a lawful ruler, endowed with all the kingly and Christian virtues—the British—"vile hypocrites,"—"barbarous murderers of the Aylwards," &c., who wish to "crucify" Riel; and Scott—"ignoble wretch," a "vile spy," who tried to murder his sovereign! Such venacious trash is only calculated to harm its author, and already a petition has been prepared and signed by some of the members of the Legislative Assembly, asking for Lemay's dismissal on account of "the atrocious insult wantonly offered to the whole British population." It is doubtful whether the game is worth the candle; but no officer of the Government, in whatever capacity, should be permitted to propagate treason.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

PARLIAMENTARY.

OTTAWA, April 18, 1870.

On Monday, a week ago, the following extraordinary petition was presented to the House:—Of M. Middlemiss, and others, of Elora and vicinity; praying for the passing of an Act declaring that the locks on all Canals shall be closed to traffic; that no Railway Train or Engine shall be permitted to run; and that no vessel shall leave any Inland Port from midnight on Saturdays till midnight on Sundays. What a comfortable world it would be if governed by Middlemisses! Who, after this, would be surprised were the same enlightened and tolerant noodles to petition that the sun be prohibited from shining, water from running, or grass from growing; that all nature be dormant, while the Malagrowthers rant and growl. The blessed institution of Sunday is in no danger from its avowed enemies; had the Middlemisses full sway its blessings would soon disappear from among mankind. In my last I said a few words as to the impolicy of the proposed high duty on Rice; it is gratifying to perceive that Mr. Oliver has given notice that when concurrence in the estimates is asked he will move that the word "Rice" be struck out. For this he will assuredly have the prayers of the poor and the needy. Sir A. T. Galt's Want of Confidence motion came off on Tuesday. It amounted to very little indeed. The speeches were short and tame; there was a very evident absence of earnestness, and a trial of strength of parties is certainly yet to come. The Government were supported by an overwhelming majority in a not very full House, among which were a large number of members who are ordinarily found in direct opposition. In the debate on the Easter adjournment, Mr. Wood made a strange statement as to Good Friday in England, viz: that the Courts of law sat and ordinary business was transacted. Nothing of