

we could say to the people from Iceland, from other European States, and to the poor of our own kindred who daily reach our shores: 'Here is a country where the poor man may at once locate, make a living, and in time carve out an honest independence.' The promoters of those lines of railroad ought to be generously supported. The people of Ontario will stand by any Government granting subsidies, large in proportion to the wants of those enterprises, and to the importance of their early success and the general public interests of the Province; and we venture to say they will disapprove of any party who, in this regard, fail to come up to the measure of their public duty. Our railway policy has added vastly to the wealth and prosperity of the country. The question of the hour ought to be railway extension northward. Not a mile of road has yet penetrated any of our Free Grant Lands, though this was one, if not the primary, object in view in the creation of a railway fund."

A work of such importance will doubtless not be long delayed. It is to be hoped, too, that the Dominion and Ontario Governments will complete the good work they have begun, by taking measures for making known in Iceland the inducements we have to offer to the intending emigrant, and thus securing our share of the national emigration.

#### THE HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

Nothing of any general importance has occurred in the Dominion within the past week. The Governor-General, with Lady DUFFERIN and suite, left Ottawa for a fortnight's visit to New York, where they have been received with all the respect befitting their character and position. A New York paper regrets that the Municipality is so constituted that an appropriate public greeting was not tendered to their Excellencies. Major-General O'GRADY HALY, Commander of the Forces, was sworn in at Halifax as Administrator during the absence of the Governor-General. Major-General SELBY SMYTH has arrived by the "Hibernian," and proceeded directly to the capital, where he was duly installed as Adjutant-General and Commandant of the Militia Forces of the Dominion. The trial of LEMNE has been going on at Fort Garry, and naturally attracts a great deal of attention throughout the country.

In the United States, the incident of the most salient interest is the elections which took place in several of the most prominent Western States. While Iowa, Kansas, and some of the Territories returned Republican candidates, Ohio and Indiana went Democratic, the former by 25,000 and the latter by 15,000 majority. This result is regarded as likely to influence the forthcoming election in New York, where SAMUEL L. TILDEN, Democrat, and JOHN A. DIX, Republican, respectively present their claims. The agitation in the South is reported to have been grossly exaggerated. The White Leagues are not so blood-thirsty or lawless as they were pictured. The war of races is not so imminent as was expected. In Louisiana, more particularly, the spirit of compromise appears likely to prevail, both KELLOGG and McENERY manifesting a desire to have their dispute settled by arbitration.

Great Britain during the week has been quiescent. Prominent public men are going the usual autumn rounds, addressing their constituents on the chief topics of the day. Business is said to be fairly active, and the prospects for the winter are not unfavourable. On the 15th, the Duchess of EDINBURGH was safely delivered of a son. The mother and child are doing well, and the Czarina arrived from Russia just in time to assist her daughter at the trying hour. STANLEY, who lately started from London on his new expedition into Africa, has arrived at Zanzibar, where the Sultan accorded him a reception. Intelligence has just reached London that, on the 30th September, the Fiji Islands were unconditionally ceded to Great Britain by their king.

A number of elections for vacant seats in the National Assembly have taken place in France, the general result of which is favourable to the Republicans. M. THURUS is making a tour in Italy. In several speeches made by him, the distinguished statesman expressed his confidence in the ultimate triumph and permanence of the Republic.

The VON ARNIM case is still absorbing attention, above every other event, in Germany. The Count is held in strict confinement, and rigorously excluded from all communication with the outer world. The real cause of the difficulty is not yet positively known, but it must necessarily be something very serious, else the severity exercised against the invalid prisoner would be simply gratuitous cruelty. The trial is announced for December. An election for a member of the German Parliament was held in a Westphalia town on the 15th inst. The contest was between a Progressist and an Ultramontane, and resulted in the success of the former.

About a week ago, the news from Spain pointed to a gradual disruption of the forces under DON CARLOS, and the triumph of the Republican cause on the north of the Ebro. But later intelligence is not so clear on this head, and at the present writing, it is impossible to tell what the next move in the civil war will be. There is considerable excitement over the report that CECIL BUCKLAND, a correspondent of the New York *Times*, who was on his way to the Carlist head-quarters, and FRANCIS JERRARD, a representative of the English Carlist Committee, have been assassinated. Those two gentlemen started from Irun on the 18th inst., since which time nothing has been heard of them, and as two Englishmen are said to have been shot by the Republicans, it is believed that BUCKLAND and JERRARD are the persons referred to. The correspondence between Washington and Madrid relative to the "Virginius" case still continues, but with no prospect of a settlement by that means. It is, therefore, probable that the American claims for indemnity will become the subject of arbitration, according to the terms of Mr Fish's protocol. Permission has been granted ALPHONSO, Prince of the Asturias, and son of the ex-Queen ISABELLA, to study at Sandhurst.

The news from the Argentine Confederation continues warlike. The insurgent leaders have joined General MITRE; several vessels of the navy have gone over to the insurgents, and the Argentine Government has requested the authorities at Monte Video to prohibit enlistments and the export of arms for the rebel forces.

Mexico has enjoyed a period of repose under the wise administration of President LERDO. But now that his term of office has expired, and new elections are about to take place, symptoms of trouble are rising above the surface.

"I shall then—" said Alnaschar, but just as Alnaschar was in the act of spurning his wife and relations, that were to be, he kicked over his crockery basket, and there was an end to his dreams of future greatness. We Canadians are not by any means averse to indulging in day-dreams of future greatness which may or may not share the fate of Alnaschar's. Just now some of the Western papers are building up astonishing castles in the air *à propos* of the cession of the 50,000 miles of territory acquired from the Cree and Salteaux Indians by the recent Qu'Appelle treaty. There can be no question as to the desirability of the acquisition, but its present importance hardly warrants the supposition put forward by a Toronto paper that "in addition to the portion which will no doubt be attached to Manitoba, a new province, bearing the name of Saskatchewan, will soon be created out of it." This is taking time by the forelock with a vengeance. Before we begin to talk of forming new provinces it will be well to do something with those we have. Manitoba is only thinly populated as yet, and the older provinces, the back regions of which are but sparsely settled, offer more ample inducements to intending colonists than the wild and almost unexplored North-west. When the population of Manitoba shall have increased some tenfold, and the limits of the province have been extended, it will be time enough to talk of creating another province. Until then the Lieutenant-Governor of Saskatchewan might exclaim, with ALEXANDER SELKIRK,

"I am monarch of all I survey,  
My right there is none to dispute."

The London *Times* has had one of its good-natured fits lately and patronizingly pats Canada on the back. We are now told that "it is impossible to take a gloomy view of the future of a country in which vast natural resources are being developed by an energetic population proud of their opportunities and determined to make the most of them." It is not so very long ago that the Thunderer could not for the life of it see wherein lay these vast natural opportunities. Canada was a vast waste, whose principal productions were millions of acres of snow and impenetrable forests of pine trees among which its inhabitants eked out a precarious existence. Now all is *couleur de rose*. Now, "nothing can be more satisfactory than the development of material resources, the accumulation of capital, the growth of new activities, industrial and intellectual, and the corresponding elevation of the people in mental culture and in moral tone." Whence comes the change of opinion? We fear the editor has finally become ashamed of the ignorance of Canadian matters displayed in the *Times* and has set one of his subordinates to read up our blue books. The following passage seems to warrant the supposition. "The trade statistics, as shown in the Customs Returns both of the Mother Country and of the Colonies, are indisputable testimony, and this branch of the subject has acquired a special interest from the proposed renewal of the Treaty of Reciprocity between the Domi-

nion and the United States." We fear such careful enquiry into Canadian matters is too good to last. Another change of weather and the wind will be "in the east."

In speaking of Canadian Mechanics' Institutes and Literary Societies we omitted in our last number to draw attention to a novel feature lately introduced by the Ottawa Literary Society, viz., the establishment of practical classes during the coming winter, for the gratuitous instruction of mechanics in arithmetic, book keeping, etc. This a step in the right direction and one that reflects the greatest credit upon the council of the Society. It is thereby doing a real benefit to the cause of education and we sincerely hope that its good example will be followed throughout the country by kindred societies that 'mean business.' There are hundreds of partially educated men who would gladly seize such an opportunity of increasing their stock of learning and improving their mental culture. The harvest is indeed plenteous, but the labourers are few. A little self-denial on the part of members of literary societies in our cities and larger towns would be fully appreciated by the working-men, and the result could not fail to be satisfactory.

In the interest of a long suffering public—of the male persuasion—we would respectfully suggest to the lessees and managers of theatres and opera houses that measures should be at once taken to lessen the nuisance of the towering feminine head-gear now in vogue. It is no easy matter to concentrate one's attention upon a performance of which only a limited and constantly changing view may be obtained from a pair of feminine heads decked out in holiday panoply of rats, mice, braids, frizzettes and ringlets, the whole overtopped with a broad brimmed, sugar-loaf hat, and feather to correspond. The nuisance might easily be abated by arranging the seats of the parquette in tiers, and by insisting upon full dress in this part of the house. Until the latest fashions in hair-dressing—which absolutely forbid the three-story style of architecture—reach this part of the world, it is hopeless to look for any help in this matter except from the authorities of the 'house.'

There is an old saying applied to a man who has copiously imbibed, which represents him as having swallowed enough to float a seventy-four, *i. e.* a 74 gun ship. According to a Pittsburg contemporary the Dominion Government is about to turn to account the appetite of Canadian imbibers to a similar purpose. "Canada," says the journal in question, "proposes to utilize the appetite of its people for stimulants in a somewhat novel way, by setting apart the distillery revenues of the Dominion, amounting to about three millions of dollars a year, as an annual fund to defray the expense of enlarging the Canadian canals sufficiently to float the average size of sea going vessels." This is certainly news of home from abroad. The enlargement of the canals by this means would be a queer achievement for whiskey to effect, but what would the Temperance Societies say to its being impressed in this manner into the public service.

The portrait of the Hon. WILLIAM ROSS which appeared in a late number of the NEWS has provoked a certain amount of criticism of a novel sort. As usual the critics are divided in their opinions. The Toronto *Sun* says that it is satisfactory in every way but one—the neck-tie is not drawn tight enough. Forcibly, but pleasantly put. The Halifax *Express*, on the other hand, declares that it is outrageously flattering, and that Mr. Ross should at once forward us a thousand dollars. To the latter proposition we have no objection whatever to offer. We would also be happy to insert the portrait—outrageously flattered—of the editor of the *Express*, on the same terms. The portrait of Mr. Ross was copied in pen and ink from an ordinary cabinet photograph—the original drawing, four times the size of the cut, being reduced by photography to the size required.

Mr. Justice BURTON is to be congratulated. In pronouncing sentence in the *Mail* libel case he deplored the frequency of libellous attacks in the newspapers, and declared his intention of inflicting, in such cases as may be brought before him in the future, imprisonment in lieu of or in addition to a fine, when the libel is brought home personally to the accused. The party journals will henceforth have to be more careful in their statements and language; or to imitate the Continental papers that are represented in such cases by a "prison editor," whose duty is to be personally responsible for infraction of the law.