THE ENGLISH MAIL.

Interesting Summary of News.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

The Glasgow *News* states that the Lord Chancellor is to be raised to a higher rank in the Peerage, and will henceforth be Earl Cairns.

HOURS OF POLLING.

The Select Committee on Hours of Polling report that the question does not call for any immediate solution, and in the face of the objections they indicate, they suggest its standing over until the time, not now a distant one, arrives for considering the continuance of the Ballot Act.

MR. GLADSTONE DONS THE PROPHET'S MANTLE.

It is expected that Mr. Gladstone will address his constituents at Greenwich during the first week in November. His article in the *North British Review* on the decay of England, and America's future glory, is eliciting very angry comment in London. For instance, the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—"He has to predict the decline of England to announce that the day is coming when she must give place to America, and become by the side of America what Venice or Genoa or Holland have long been by her side, and it is an American journal that he takes as the channel through which to convey his thoughts to his own countrymen. Had Lord Beaconsfield had been asked to choose in what country Mr. Gladstone's article should be first published the choice would have been less hard to understand. The jauntiness with which he expresses a conviction which ought to be enough to sober a more flippant politician than Mr. Gladstone, and the imprudence of stating what is only a possibility, as though it were for practical purposes a certainty, are unworthy—one of any man calling himself a patriot, the other of any man calling himself a statesman."

The *Daily News*, referring to Mr. Gladstone's article, thinks it is unfortunate he should have begun his essay by addressing the people of the United States as our destined and inevitable suppliantes in the commerce of the world. Prophecies of such magnitude are always rash. No human being has available data which would furnish them with a reliable basis. The prediction is not only rash, but is so sensational and astounding as to divert attention from what we take to be his main purpose. In America it seems to have usurped exclusive interest.

"No one," says the London *Globe*, "can have forgotten the readiness of certain Americans to fit out privateers for Russia when a war in the East seemed only too probable. In the event of any trouble with America an utterance like this of Mr. Gladstone would do enormous mischief. Mr. Gladstone probably looks forward to the time when the chief of our dependencies will have been snatched from us by a conqueror, and when we shall have no more to do with Australia or Canada. While he was in office one of the main objects of his policy seemed to be the permanent alienation of the colonies from the mother country, and since he left office he has strained every nerve to encourage Russia in a course whose inevitable issue, if she had her way, would be our expulsion from India."

FALL IN THE VALUE OF LAND.

The ordinary newspaper reader says the *North British Agriculturist* can scarcely have failed, to observe how frequently, during last year or two, landed property coming into the market did not find a purchaser at the upset price. Several years ago, as a rule the upset price was not only speedily realized, but often considerably exceeded. That has not been the case for two or three years back, notably for the last twelve months. Numerous properties, after being fully advertised, found no bidders at the upset price, which in not a few cases had to be reduced materially before a sale could be effected. In fact, the market value of landed property in England and Scotland has, during the last two years, principally the last twelve months, fallen three or four years' purchase. We have heard some people say that the fall has been about five years' purchase. This does not show a prosperous or cheering state of matters. The decline in the price of land need not have been quite so great. There has not been much reduction of rent; but the steady increase has undoubtedly sustained a check. That has, doubtless, not escaped the notice of intending purchasers of land, who may possibly have calculated on a considerable fall of land rents by and by. Be that as it may, there has not latterly been one applicant for landed property in the market for six that used to be. A similar remark applies to the tenancy of land. Farms have not been so easily let as they formerly were, and where rents were high before, previous rates have not been obtained; while inferior farms are now very little sought after, even at less money. Where the holdings, however, were not over-rented previously, and are good workable subjects, fully former rents are still got.

IMPORTATION OF LIVE FISH.

An experiment of considerable interest in pisciculture is intended to be tried, says the *Standard*, on one of the estates of the Marquis of Exeter—the naturalisation of the American black bass. A large number of this fish has been brought over from New York in the steamer Spain, of the National Line, and it is expected that they will take readily to their new home. They were placed, on the passage, in an improvised tank, the water of which was kept constantly fresh by the injection of air at intervals of ten minutes. The passengers and crew had an opportunity of witnessing an interesting exhibition of instinct on the part of the piscine emigrants. A large catfish having been caught was placed in the tank, whereupon the bass immediately combined their forces and commenced an attack on the intruder. They at first charged at his head, but, finding themselves becoming worsted, changed their tactics and took him in flank, and soon succeeded in vanquishing him, completing the victory by devouring him at leisure. It is stated that the bass is considered by some people as having the finest flavour of all the freshwater fish of America.

FARM PRODUCE IN ENGLAND.

In a letter to the *Times* Mr. Mechi gives the produce of a farm of 457 acres, when the tenant was his own landlord. The capital was about £20 an acre.

Milk sold	£982 10 11
Butter sold	156 13 9
Calves sold	105 13 6
Pigs, &c., sold	4,031 4 2
Sheep sold	470 10 5
Sundry cows sold	239 13 6
Poultry and eggs, &c., sold	89 14 9
	£6,075 13 6

or about £13 6s. per acre in animal products, and also

Wheat	£1,099 16 0
Barley	1,343 19 0
Straw and sundries	392 17 3
	£2,837 12 3
Purchased food for live stock (without horses)	£2,215 12 8

Here, says Mr. Mechi, i a gross return of £20 per acre, or three times the average of the United Kingdom. What a margin it shows for home food production!

THE ARMIES OF THE INDIAN PRINCES.

The *Times* closes an article on the native Indian armies as follows:—"The military guardianship of India is the duty and the right of England. The military energy of the native Princes, need not be abruptly checked, but they should be invited themselves to suggest how it can be made to combine with, and play its proper part in, the general scheme of Indian defences. Scindiah is showing himself receptive of the fruitful idea by which Prussia fitted herself to renew her military vitality from the midst of political death. Good rather than harm both to England and to himself might result from the change if he would also in some shape or other incorporate his local soldiery in the Imperial army of India, which Great Britain leads. The final choice of the Feudatory States must be between no army and one which should be a wing of the confederate Indian forces. Officered jointly by natives and by Englishmen, and manœuvred on proper occasions as part of an Imperial army, native forces might, perhaps, be made a new source of internal strength to India. At present they are a motive and a nucleus for disturbing conjectures and delusions, which injure none more than the princes and populations whose resources are squandered upon them."

THE ENGLISH PRESS ON THE "GREY" ROUT.

The imaginative correspondent of the Toronto *Globe* who telegraphed from London a week or two ago to that journal, that the English Press were "unanimous in lamenting the advent to power of a Proteotionist Ministry," probably "dreamed" what he communicated like the fat boy in Pickwick according to Jingle's presentment, for in all the papers received by mail we do not find any editorial reference at all to our elections save in the *Times*, the *Standard*, and the Edinburgh *Courant*.

The *Times* says:—"Soon after their accession to office Mr. Mackenzie and his colleagues began to make blunders, and to excite resentments—in fact, to sow the crop of troubles which every Government that remains long in power, especially one that is too confident in its strength, has sooner or later to harvest. Such a rout as this has been rarely paralleled, and was scarcely surpassed even in France last year.

The Edinburgh *Courant*, one of the leading journals of Scotland, remarks:—"Mr. Mackenzie has been most unfortunate in the policy he introduced. A Free Trader himself, he tried to force these views on the country, and even went so far as to send an envoy to Washington to negotiate a treaty of reciprocity, a mission which ended in failure. In the face of a steadily falling revenue, no attempt was made to keep up the resources of the country by placing specific import duties on American importations. Higher import duties, without partaking of the nature of prohibition or protection, would have been very valuable to Canada during the past four years. The American manufacturers, finding no home market, were not long in flooding the Canadian market with their goods, glad to get the cost price, or even less than that, so long as their mills were kept at work—the loss being calculated more advantageous than the absolute idleness of the whole plant. Seeing the feeling of the country to be so dead against him, it has been an unfortunate policy that Mr. Mackenzie has pursued. It has done the Dominion a good deal of harm, and has been one of the causes of his loss of power. When in opposition the Liberal party always accused the Conservatives of extravagance in public expenditure, and want of adherence to party principles; consequently, when Mr. Mackenzie took the reins he had a bright future before him, and every one wished him well in his efforts to clear the political atmosphere. In this he was not successful, and his frequent retractions of principle shocked many of his most ardent supporters. The final act may be said to have been the whitewashing of Mr. Speaker Anglin, who, while a member and Speaker of the House of Commons, had a pecuniary interest in Government printing contract. Such a flagrant breach of Parliamentary privilege gave deep offence on all sides, and although the Government were sustained and their offence condoned by the vote of confidence of the House, Mr. Mackenzie again shocked public opinion by reinstating the same Speaker. The accession of Sir John Macdonald once more to power will be hailed with much pleasure by the Canadian public at large. As might have been expected, the present elections could not fail to call up a good deal of the old "Pacific railway scandal." But at that date neither party could boast of very clean hands, and the tactics resorted to by the Opposition were in every way as bad, morally, as Sir John's. They raised large sums of money for corrupting electors, and those who subscribed for such purposes were not forgotten when the party came into power. As a party leader Sir John stands out preeminently; he has those rare qualities—suavity and tact—qualities which were wanting in Mr. Mackenzie and his two-lieutenants, Messrs. Blake and Brown. Such moderate protection as the country may require to advance its prosperity and thwart the greed of its neighbour will not affect by-gones much. We cannot suppose for a moment that Sir John Macdonald has been committed to a hard-and-fast policy of Protection, and it would be misjudging his character to believe that he will force his views against the wishes of the country. Once before he was called to power during a period of great financial prostration, he then succeeded in bringing back a cycle of prosperity to the country, and we do not doubt but the same prescience and tact that guided him through the past will aid him in the future, in raising the credit and building up the trade of Canada, placing it on a firmer and safer basis, and encouraging those home manufactures which are now nearly all defunct.

The *Standard* after glancing at the American proclivities of the Mackenzie Administration, and their apparently latent desire for annexation to the States, says:—"Conservatism in the Canadian Dominion has little to struggle for of all that English Conservatism holds dear; what it has to struggle for, apart from mere local controversies, is, we are happy to believe, what the vast majority of English Liberals would struggle for as well. There are no considerable numbers of politicians in this country, any more than in Canada, who wish to break the Imperial connection between the Colonies and the Mother Country. Let us hope that Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. George Brown, and other leaders of the Canadian Liberals, will display more self-command in opposition than Mr. Gladstone has shown. An appeal to the Annexationist movements like Mr. Gladstone's letter on the Ashton-under-Lyne election might do inconceivable mischief in Canada."

The Canadian "Liberals" cannot claim the credit of thoroughgoing and consistent Freetraders. It has been shown during the last electoral campaign that several of their leading men in 1872 and 1873, when they were out of office, pledged themselves to principles which are not easily to be distinguished from those of their Protectionist opponents. Mr. Mackenzie himself admitted, some three years ago, that, "taking into account the Canadian frontier with regard to the United States, it was impossible to apply in practice the principles of Free Trade." And, most certainly, an uncompromising Freetrader of the school of Cobden would have been puzzled beyond measure if he had been told that the Mackenzie Ministry was a Free-trading Ministry. Its tariff, and the Ministerial explanations in defence of it, showed that the Free-trade Liberals were half-hearted and illogical, and that without rightly opening for their country the advantages of Free Trade, they succeeded in offending and alarming the Protectionists. An economical campaign was commenced, in which the Government did not score any remarkable successes. Mr. Mackenzie and his Ministers were unable to present themselves to the country as Free Traders of the strict type, and they were pressed with the unfortunate admissions which Mr. Mill made in his "Political Economy," though he qualified them afterwards in some of his published letters. They faltered and prevaricated, and exhibited themselves in a condition of intellectual destitution that must have excited the compassion even of their strongest party opponents. The Protectionist attack was conducted with uncompromising audacity, if with no other praiseworthy quality; the Liberal defence was weak, timorous, and inconsistent. It is scarcely surprising to find that the Liberal Government has been routed, and that the Protectionist Opposition, which calls itself Conservative, has obtained a large majority. There is, in fact, no doubt that Mr. Mackenzie's Administration has been thoroughly beaten, *and must resign without delay.* We are not sure, however, that the apparent revulsion of feeling is not greater than that which has really happened. Canada as a whole has always been "Conservative," that is to say, has been hostile to anything like an annexationist policy, and also, unluckily, to anything like a Free Trade policy. The political use which Sir John Macdonald's Government attempted to make of the Pacific railway contract was fatal to the strongest Ministry that Canada had ever seen. But the circumstances of that catastrophe should have been a warning to the lucky politicians who at once obtained possession of power. The warning was thrown away. Mr. Mackenzie's Administration has more than once fallen under the discredit of the same sort of scandal as that which ruined Sir John Macdonald's. Mr. Mackenzie, it is understood, will resign before Lord Dufferin leaves Canada, and the Marquis of Lorne will have to deal with a Conservative Administration under Sir John Macdonald, the most familiar figure in Canadian politics for the past quarter of a century, and the ablest man probably among Colonial politicians.

THE NEW IDEALS OF MARRIAGE.

It is indubitable, remarks *Vanity Fair*, that the girl's ideal of marriage has of late years greatly changed, and the change has been produced in part by what she sees and in part by what she reads. We entertain no doubt that the female novelists who have followed in the wake of the late George Laurence have materially modified the idea of a suitable lover as entertained by many of their sex. "Ouida," Miss Broughton, Miss Annie Thomas, and others, have accustomed them to ferocious lovers—but we will not waste our time in repeating a description of the physical peculiarities of the Adonis of the Period according to the standard of the female three-volume novel. Everybody knows the sort of hero, half Ajax, half Paris, of their monotonous pages. Grown-up people may smile at such absurdities, but girls are very impressionable, and when once they have adopted such an ideal it is not easy to expel it from their minds. The person hardly exists in real life, the nearest approach to it being any or every unprincipled man who is prepared to make "fierce love" to any fool he meets. Obviously this is not a condition of things favourable to marriage; for while it makes girls more prompt, and indeed eager, to flirt, it indisposes them to appreciate attentions of a more delicate, but more practical kind. So much for the change produced in the ideals of women by what they read. The transformation is completed by what they see. While silly novels tell them that a lover, to be worth anything, must rail against heaven and bite the grass with his teeth, the whole arrangements of society keep daily telling them that a husband is no good at all unless he has a great deal of money. During the last twenty years the practice of luxurious self-indulgence has crept on apace. We are assured that trade is bad, and that everybody is poor. We can only reply, "Circumspice!" Splendour and spending are still the order of the day, and households vie with each other in the race of ostentation. People whose home is in the country must have a house in town. People who live in town must be able to take a house in the country or at the seaside, whenever they feel inclined to have a change. Extravagance, not economy, is the standard of domestic happiness at present in fashion. It is not a girl's idea, when she marries, that she should stay at home; but, on the contrary, that she should leave it perpetually. In a word, if you get at the heart of a great many girls, you discover that their ideal of life is that it should be one continual "spree."

ITEMS.

Mr. John Hilton, F. R. S., the eminent surgeon, is dead.

The Liverpool *Courier* says that private detectives constitute a growing nuisance and source of social peril.

The Queen has invested the Marquis of Lorne, K. T., as Knight Grand Cross of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The three absorbing topics of conversation in Australia, says a correspondent of a London journal, are the rabbit pest, the dry season, and politics.

Mr. Grant, in a letter to the *Times* denies that his house has been sold, and complains that his property is injured by such unfounded reports.

A Glasgow clerk, named Andrew Alexander, who had gone to Manchester on a holiday, and had been robbed of £6, was so affected by the loss that he committed suicide by throwing himself under a train at the Victoria railway station.

The Glasgow *News* says it is proposed to revive the idea of constructing an underground railway through Glasgow, and the plans are being prepared by Mr. Elder, C.E., St. Vincent street, under the direction of Mr. J. H. Tolmie, C.E., London

The Mancl ester *Guardian* reports a very great increase in the attendance of readers at the public libraries on Sunday. At the Chatham library there were 700, an increase of nearly 500 over the preceding Sunday. which was the first day of the new regulation.

It is feared in London that if war enaues with Afghanistan, the Eastern question will at once be reopened. Nobody believes either that the Russians will evacuate Bulgaria or that the Greeks will brook the refusal of the Porte to accede to their moderate demands.

The Earl of Rosebery has accepted the invitation to become a candidate for the Lord Rectorship of Aberdeen University. The contest will now be between the Earl of Aberdeen, the Conservative candidate, and Lord Rosebery, who is the nominee of the Liberal students.

Mr. Chinery, the editor of the *Times*, says a London correspondent, is away, like a sensible man, on his holidays. The editorship of the journal is, therefore, at present in the hands of Mr. Fred. Clifford, a young and very able gentleman, who not very long since was a reporter in the gallery.

Hobart Pasha, in a recently published letter, says:—"The Russians do not know how to rule, either at home or abroad, and it is (as time will prove) a pity to allow them to have the power to advance their wretched system of government over one single rood of territory more than has the misfortune to be in their hands now."

George Parkes Bidder, F.R.S., civil engineer, has died at his residence, Ravensbury, Dartmouth, after a short illness. He was one of the chief promoters of the Electric Telegraph Company from its establishment, and was President of the Institution of Civil Engineers for 1860-61. In early life he was known as the calculating boy."

Under the new supplemental charter of the University of London, empowering the senate to admit women to graduate in its several faculties, the Senate has passed a resolution, which has been approved by the Home Secretary, making all the existing regulations, relating not only to graduation, but also to the various honours and rewards granted at the several examinations, open to females as well as male candidates.

The London correspondent of the *Scotsman* writes:—"Although much anxiety continues to be felt with respect to Cabul, I learn on good authority that Sir Neville Chamberlain's personal views are opposed to an intermeddling policy in Afghanistan. Hitherto he has had no fear of the Russian advance in Central Asia, but has considered it an advantage that the wild and predatory tribes occupying this territory should be brought under some kind of civilised rule."

A calculation has just been published by the Russian War Department of the expenditure of ammunition in the late war with Turkey. The artillery, it is stated, fired in all 504,923 shot and shell, while the infantry and cavalry expended no fewer than 10,057,764 cartridges. The artillery numbered 1,268 field guns and 150 heavy ordnance of the siege train. The number of rifles and carbines employed was 325,098.

The *Times* Calcutta correspondent says that as a measure of the passionate animosity towards the British which it will be his duty to endeavour to convert to feelings of goodwill, it may be sufficient to quote the following extract from Shere Ali's speech publicly uttered in open Durbar:—"I have seven crores of rupees by me, every rupee of which I will hurl at the head of the British Government, and I will roll the border tribes against them like blasts of fire."

Bishop Wordsworth, in delivering his annual charge at the Perth Diocesan Synod, complained that certain "Presbyterian brethren" had so far given way to "unbrotherly jealousy" of the bishops of the Episcopal Church as to hold up their protest of the establishment of a Roman Catholic hierarchy in Scotland "to contempt and scorn." He deprecated attempts to introduce confusion and hostility in ranks which ought to be united in a common cause, and rejoiced to find that the efforts of the Scotch bishops in defence of the "liberties of the universal Church" had been approved by the Lambeth Conference.

Mr. Gladstone, writing to the workingmen of St. Colomb, Cornwall, in response to their address to the workingmen of Truro, where an election is pending, says:—"I hope that attention may be given to the cause of Greece. After declaring on the 8th June that her claims would deserve careful consideration, the British Government exerted itself in the Congress with too much effect to defeat those claims. There is no question here of Russia, for the Greeks are opposed to Russia. They, more than any other nation, represent the cause of freedom in the East, and in their persons, according to all the intelligence we possess, that cause has been not only abandoned, but I must even say betrayed."

We read in the *Mark Lane Express*:—"The Toronto *Globe* declares that 'the Canadian Government does not meddle with the immigration policies of the Provinces, and does not give any premiums to immigrants, and therefore cannot easily do away with the system of giving such premiums, as the *Express* is anxious it should do.' Does our contemporary mean by this statement that the Dominion Government does not give pecuniary support directly or indirectly to the immigration policy? If it does, its assertion is contradicted point blank by other Canadian papers and by many other witnesses who are commonly regarded as authorities upon Canadian affairs; if it does not, the reply above quoted is a mere quibble."

A correspondent of a daily paper writes:—"I know from practical experience, that any person, man or woman, can float without any difficulty. If a man finds himself suddenly immersed, not knowing how to swim, he will escape drowning provided he has the presence of mind to lie at full length flat on his back, clasp his hands across his chest or behind his back, or they may be placed upon his hips, his face turned towards the zenith, his head well back in the water, his feet together and under water, except his toes, and keep perpetually looking at the sky right over him. In this position he may float for hours at ease and in perfect safety; but stir or thrust up one of his hands, and down he goes. The buoyancy of the human frame (derived almost entirely from the chest) is far greater than is generally supposed."

Mr. Pollock, the well-known Quaker, writes to the *Times*:—"*Apropos* of your article on the management of tobacco smoking in Germany, I may mention that while travelling last month on a Danish steamer I had much conversation on various subjects with a Belgian medical man, who informed me that he was then engaged, at the request of the Belgian Government, on a journey of observation and inquiry as to the causes of colour-blindness, an ocular affection which, he says, is occasioning increasing anxiety, not only in his own country, but especially in Germany, from its influence upon railway and other accidents, and also, to some extent, upon military inefficiency. I asked the question—"What, so far as your investigations have proceeded, appears to be the main cause of this colour-blindness?" He replied—"The too general and excessive use of tobacco."

There is a provision respecting the use of alkaline salts in the manufacture of snuff which will take effect on the 1st proximo. By the Customs and Inland Revenue Act (41 Vict., c. 15), it is declared to be expedient to prohibit the use of certain salts in the manufacture of snuff, and to limit the amount of certain other salts which may be used in such manufacture. It provides that from and after the 1st of October the term "salt" and "alkaline salts" shall be construed to mean and include only the carbonates, chlorides, and sulphates of potassium and sodium and the carbonate of ammonium. "If after the said 1st of Obtober any person, being a manufacturer of, dealer in, or retailer of tobacco or snuff, shall have in his custody or possession, or shall sell or offer for sale, any snuff which, after having been dried at a temperature of 212 deg. as denoted by Fahrenheit's thermometer, shall be found to contain a per centage of more than 26 per cent. of the carbonates, chlorides, and sulphates of potassium, sodium, and ammonium, he shall forfeit £50, and also the said snuff, and in calculating the said per centage the salts of potassium, sodium, and ammonium of every description naturally present in the tobacco shall be included."

Eccentricities of the Swordfish.

Visitors at New London, Block Island, or other of our fishing ports, have no doubt noticed that at the end of the bowsprit of the larger-sized fishing boats there is often an iron cage or frame so made as to be safe for a man to stand on it. This is the place from which the fisherman throws the harpoon to capture the swordfish, and the swordfish is just now the subject of considerable discussion. Its ways have at least as much mystery as those of the shad, salmon, herring or any other unaccountables that we have.

Professor G. R. Goode is studying up the matter, preparatory to a report to the Government. Some of the interesting features of the fish are these: It is found here and there from spring to fall in the ocean on our coast, lying "asleep" the sailors call it, on the very surface of the water. Nobody on the American coast, so far as reported, ever saw a little swordfish. The smallest recorded by a correspondent of the *Forest and Stream* weighed forty-six pounds. They run up to 600 pounds. Their only known breeding ground is in the Mediterranean. There the same fish are found weighing half a pound; from that they go up to very heavy measurement. It is naturally inferred from this that all our swordfish are Mediterranean products. What mysterious ocean current guides them over here? Or is it an instinct that teaches them that here they will find the mackerel and menhaden that they feed on? One can almost imagine that the game of flight and pursuit kept up by these two species starts at Gibraltar, and is run to Block Island every day.

The swordfish darts upon a school of its prey, and by skilful use of its sword wounds those that it afterward captures and eats. Until this season nobody ever thought of catching it except by harpoons. This year, however, it has taken the baits of the trawls—bottom lines—of the Cape Ann codfishermen, and many swordfish have been caught in that novel way. What they come up and "sleep" for is one of the puzzles of their nature. They come and go as the mackerel and menhaden do, and from that it is naturally concluded that they spend their time chasing these small fish. What with sharks, swordfish, porpoises, bluefish, sea gulls, eagles, and seins, and all the rest after them, the fish of the herring tribes have led such lives of flight and terror that it is no longer a wonder that the movements of any school of them seem always guided by an inherent idiocy. It is less strange of them that they are all the while victims than that being caught by millions yearly, they should steadily increase. There were never more menhaden on our coast than this year.—*Hartford Courant.*

Elder Moses Howe, of New Bedford, Mass., now nearly ninety years of age, preached his eight thousandth sermon on Sunday last.

AFGHANISTAN.

The Probability of War.

The *Saturday Review* writes:—The Indian Government seems still to intend or expect an Afghan war; and the balance of public opinion in India perhaps inclines to a policy of aggressive precaution. If such an enterprise as the occupation of Cabul and Herat is undertaken, there is reason to suppose that it will be successful. The disaster of forty years ago was caused by the incapacity of a general appointed without exclusive regard to his family connexion, and by the misconduct of other military and civil officials. One serious danger which then threatened the invading army, though it was averted by good fortune, is no longer to be feared. When the English army marched on Cabul, Runjeet Singh was on its eastern flank with the most formidable force that has in modern times been organized by any Indian prince. If he had not, about the time when the English troops surrendered to Akbar Khan, himself suffered heavy losses in a mountain campaign, the fidelity which he actually displayed might perhaps have been shaken. The subsequent recapture of Cabul by General Pollock sufficiently proved the comparative insignificance of the Afghan military power; and the friendly relations which Dost Mahomed afterwards maintained with the Indian Government were founded on his knowledge that hostility would have been imprudent. English officers understand their business better in 1878 than in 1839; and modern arms of precision are more formidable than the old-fashioned cannon and muskets, which had not been improved since the days of the great French war. On the other hand, the Afghans in case of war would be encouraged and backed by a Power which was then separated by several hundreds of miles from Cabul, while it now possesses the adjoining territories. The last Afghan war was undertaken by Lord Palmerston for the purpose of baffling Russian intrigues; but during the struggle the enemy received no material aid from Russia. The same malignant influence again predominates at Cabul; and, in any negotiation which may be instituted, threats and promises will not be spared to urge the ruler of Afghanistan into a policy hostile to England. Nevertheless it is scarcely probable that in case of war Shere Ali would be joined by a Russian contingent; and it is indeed mainly in the hope of dealing separately with the Afghans that the warlike party urges on the Viceroy vigorous and immediate action.

Whether it will be expedient to prosecute a not unlawful quarrel is a question to be determined on military, political and financial grounds. The strategical issue has on many occasions been fully stated; and civilians must depend on professional authority for a solution. The military officers who have devoted their attention to the means of defending the North-West frontier are unable to agree. Some of them urge, with much plausibility, that it is most prudent, as it is unquestionably most economical, to compel an invader to traverse the longest possible distance before he encounters the defending army. They add that the Russians could only reach Peshawar after occupying Afghanistan, with the certain result of incurring the animosity of the natives. On the other hand it is contended that the Russians ought not to be allowed to prepare for the invasion of India by first converting the neighbouring tribes into dependent allies. It is also said, and on this point there seems to be no difference of opinion among military men, that the further and not the hither end of a mountain pass is the true point of defence. The occupier of the pass can choose his own time, and, if he has more than one line of advance, his own route, for debouching into the plain. Students of military history allege that such attempts have rarely been defeated; and many instances of such movements as that of Napoleon over the Simplon will occur to the general reader. The establishment of a garrison at Quettah indicates the leaning of the Indian Government to the bolder policy. If the same system were adopted on a larger scale by the occupation of Cabul and Herat, the English army would hold an indisputably strong position; and Russia would have no ostensible ground of objection, though the advance would be in some degree an act of defiance. It would not lead to an open rupture, unless Russia was prepared for war in Europe as well as Asia; and national interest, if not popular feeling, recommends peace for the present.

The main objection to the policy, which apparently finds favour at Simla, is that it would involve an increase of the army, and a heavy additional charge on the Budget. Afghanistah would not be a remunerative conquest; and its warlike population could be held in check only by strategistible force. The wild tribes, which have never submitted either to the Indian Government or the Ameer, would more than ever need vigilant repression when their chiefs would probably be in the pay of Russia. If, indeed, there were no danger, except on the frontier, the army would not necessarily require an increase o numbers because it held a more advanced position; but it is necessary both to maintain the obedience of English subjects, and to watch the large armies which are maintained in a high state of discipline at Gwalior, at Hyderabad, and in other native States. There can be no doubt that Russian agents will be, and probably are already, employed at several of the native Courts. The present garrison of India cannot safely be reduced, nor can the proportion between native and English troops be prudently altered. Additional territory will therefore involve the increase of the army. The recruiting ground is inexhaustible; and the prospect of active service would excite the martial spirit of that part of the population of which the army is composed; but an increase in numbers would be expensive, and it is in the highest degree inexpectient to resort to fresh taxation. The question is, therefore, not whether the North-Western border of Aghanistan is more defensible than the present frontier, but whether the benefit to be derived from a movement in advance would be worth its cost. It is only in deference to Indian judgment that English opinion will at any time approve of armed interference in Afghanistan. By far the best solution of existing difficulties would be a friendly understanding with Russia, if only it were possible to effect such an object. It is neither courteous nor profitable to impute perfidy to a neighbour or a rival, and Russian statesmen would both form and keep engagements if they could be persuaded that it was for their interest to avoid conflicts with England. The preliminary difficulty of negotiation is that one party has the means of annoyance at its disposal, and that on the other side there is no purpose or opportunity of offensive action to surrender. Russia well knows that the English Government will not foster insurrections in Turkestan, while there is no corresponding security for India. A Russian envoy at Cabul has nothing to do but to intrigue against the Indian Government. An English officer in the same post would use all his exertions for the maintenance of peace. It is not pleasant to await impending aggression without efforts to avert the danger, and yet it is not impossible that the easiest and cheapest course may also be the safest.

A School of Hygiene has been instituted at Battle Creek College, Mich.

The Grand Duke Nicholas Constantinovitch, who was several months ago exiled from St. Petersburg to Orenburg for theft, and placed in the civil service under orders of the Governor of that city, has incurred a new disgrace by secretly marrying the daughter of the Chief of Police of Orenburg without permission, either of his parents or the Governor. He has, consequently, lost his position in the civil service, and his title as honorary commander of the regiment which had borne his insignia since his birth. As certain formalities of the marriage of a royal personage were not observed in connection with the ceremony, it was not strictly valid, and may be annulled.

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.

A Few Words on Canada.

In his farewell address to the electors of Argyleshire delivered at Inverary, the Marquis of Lorne thus referred to the Dominion:—

"Many of you know well, because many of your relatives are settled there, the great British Colonies of North America. The Dominion now stretches from ocean to ocean across the vast continent, embracing land of every nature, some valuable for corn, some for pasture, for forest, or for the treasures which will, in future centuries, make the country one of the richest on the earth for coal and minerals. As your former member is about to join those of your friends who are already there, you will allow him to say a good word for those provinces of the Dominion, the threshold of which civilization has already passed, and whose fair vacant chambers tempt the settlers from the old world to enter further and to occupy. Some years ago at a public meeting in Glasgow I took the opportunity to describe the temptations offered by the Canadian Government to men employed in agriculture here to settle in Manitoba, and since that day, as before it, hundreds of happy homesteads have risen, and the energies of the Dominion have been directed towards the construction of railways which will make Manitoba considerably more accessible than is Inverary now. Let me again invite attention to this great province, and to the vast territories beyond. In Argyleshire we have too few men, and we want more to settle with us; but Canada is a formidable competitor even to this fair county. In the towns of this land there are plenty of men who would do well if they could hold the plough to follow the gallant example of their countrymen who have done glory to the old land in the forming of another great British nation; and instead of an unhealthy city life, to take to the life-giving work of a settler in the agricultural regions of Western Canada, where they are likely to live longer, and to be happier than is the lot of the great majority of mankind. Here is an account fresh from the borders of the North-West provinces:—'It would surprise you to see the amount of traffic carried on from Winnipeg (the great wholesale house for the West and North-West) for a thousand miles into the interior. Trains after trains of carts are passing and re-passing, down with furs, robes and pemmican, and up into the interior with previsions and general merchandise for the Mounted Police, the Hudson's Bay posts, and the Indians. Besides this, explorers, pleasure-seekers, tourists, Government officials, and Mounted Police, may be seen driving along in light gigs, each on his own errand of pleasure or business. While working near where the trail crosses Bird's Tail creek, I counted fifty-five carts in one train as they started off, leaving many more still camped in the valley. Many people object to this part of the Dominion on account of the inclemency of the winter weather, great distance from market, want of timber, and destitution of schools, churches, and other luxuries of civilization. These I will answer in turn. That the mercury descends lower at Winnipeg than in the old country is quite true, but it is the unvarying testimony of all with whom I have conversed on the subject that although the weather is colder, they do not feel any more inconvenience from it than they did in Ontario, 600 miles further south, and the people when travelling in the north-west will lie out at nights during the coldest weather. I certainly would not advise anyone to do that in Argyleshire. I have also been informed that native horses will live out all winter and be still fat in spring. Now the question is, are we to believe the experience of the inhabitants or be led away by a mere speculative theory? Again, with respect to markets, Manitoba is as well off as any new portion of the country. There will be a good market for many years to come (at least, the farmer must be built) to supply labor to immigrants. The outlying settlers will, in particular, have an advantage of this kind. Wheat at 50 cents per bushel, growing in Manitoba, will pay as well as at one dollar in the county of Perth, because twice as much to the acre can be produced, and that with less labour. Besides all this, before a great many years communication will be opened out through Hudson's Bay, thereby bringing Winnipeg within as direct intercourse with Liverpool as Toronto is, to accomplish which a railroad of only 375 miles is required to connect Port Nelson on Hudson's Bay with Lake Winnipeg, and Port Nelson is some sixty miles nearer to Liverpool than New York is. It is an acknowledged fact (except by persons having a contrary interest) that