

The cry has gone up from the United States, "Give us a Cardinal!" The country—or at least that portion of the country represented by the New York *Herald*—seems suddenly to have awakened to the fact that without an American Cardinal existence in this neglected hemisphere is a burden and a mockery. And so the *Herald* sends forth a lugubrious wail, and dismisses the pilgrims to Rome with a benediction and a parting injunction to be sure to bring back a Cardinal's hat. What a spectacle is this for the shades of the Pilgrim Fathers to look upon! What a falling off from the spirit of the stern men of the War of Independence, who shook off the yoke of prince and potentate and proclaimed aloud their freedom! The descendants of Governor Winthrop and Cotton Mather lamenting the absence from these shores of an eldest son of the Scarlet Lady! The grandchildren of stern republicans like Washington and Jefferson inviting, nay, begging—the appointment of a live Prince, a Prince of the Church, to add lustre to their name, and raise them to the level of other peoples. Fortunately for the repose of the old Puritans and heroes of '76, the outcry does not come from the nation. To the people of the United States life is pleasant yet, cardinal or no cardinal. It is only the intellectual department of the *Herald* that laments for want of a red hat in the country.

The feeling which has of late been manifested among volunteers against the special privileges accorded to the Governor-General's Foot Guards is, all things considered, far from unreasonable. It is certainly a hard and an unfair thing that a corps which is kept up merely for show should be allowed to take precedence of other and long-established corps, many of which have had their efficiency put to the test under fire. We advise our volunteer friends, however, to possess their souls in patience. It is hardly likely that the anomaly of Dominion Household Troops will long be permitted to exist. The absurdity of such an institution is too patent, and the good sense of the people must soon rebel against its continuance. In the meantime they can afford to let these carpet warriors ruffle it while they may in all the gorgeousness of their borrowed plumage, and boast before their lady admirers of their adventures in flood and field—notably in that "beautiful shady grove on the Stewart estate," where for three days they underwent all the bitter hardships of a three days' camping out.

The Faraday is a new steamship built expressly for carrying and laying submarine cables. She is peculiarly constructed, with steering apparatus at each end and in the centre, with double screws and paying out machinery fore and aft. She is intended to supersede the Great Eastern which always proved a very expensive vessel. The Faraday left Gravesend on the 17th inst., with 6000 tons of cable on board. She goes direct to New Hampshire where she will make the shore connection at Rye Beach and there proceed gradually to Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. The Ambassador will accompany her with the shore ends. The whole work is expected to be completed in August. The new line, called the Direct United States Company Cable, has a capital of £1,300,000 owned entirely in England, France, Belgium and Germany. The Company proposes reducing the rates to a maximum of fifty cents a word. If it does this, a great boon will be conferred on the commercial communities of both sides the Atlantic.

In no case that has occurred for some time past has the unreliability of the memory been so satisfactorily proved as in the pending trial of the controverted election for Montreal Centre. The astonishing unanimity with which different witnesses "believed" that they had given money to so-and-so, and "thought" that they had seen such-and-such a one in such-and-such another's tavern, is a phenomenon only to be accounted for on the supposition of a gradual but steady increase of softening of the brain during the last year or two among the population of Montreal. We always understood that this was an age of hard-hearted unbelief and stiff-necked infidelity. But this is difficult to credit after reading the evidence before Mr. Justice Mackay. An age of blind, unreasoning belief would be nearer the mark.

An Ottawa despatch to the Montreal *Witness*, dated the 21st inst., says:—"The only difficulty in the way of an early close of the Session is the Senate, who threaten to take a week over the Government measures which have passed the Commons, but it is very unlikely that they will carry this out, as they are as anxious to go home as the Commons." Are we to understand that it was the intention of Senators to hurry over the measures submitted in the same way as—the above despatch seems to insinuate—the Commons have done?—like a parcel of schoolboys scrambling over their tasks in their eagerness to get out to play. Or is it merely a device to bring the Senate into disrepute?

Speaking of the pilgrims who lately sailed from New York en route for Rome, the New York *Herald* waxed pathetic. "These men and women," it says, "do not travel by land through countries ripe and inviting with the vine, the olive, and the myrtle, but over raging seas for thousands of miles." This is all very pretty, but the *Herald* might have added that though the pilgrims do not travel by land through countries ripe and inviting, &c., their voyage over raging seas for thousands of miles is accomplished in a comfortable and roomy steamship, in first-class quarters, with four square meals a day, the only drawback to their enjoyment being some unexpressed doubts as to the perfect wisdom of entrusting their lives to a French Transatlantic steamer.

The utmost indignation has been expressed by foreigners present at San José de Guatemala at the time of the outrage on Consul Magee, at the backwardness of the American Consul, James, in interfering to save Magee. James' conduct certainly will not bear comparison with Sir Lambton Lorraine's behaviour at Santiago de Cuba. But perhaps the American Consul had not forgotten the fact that his Government cannot compare with the British Government in the disposition to protect their countrymen abroad; and thus a fear for his own skin prevented him from acting with the promptitude he would have shown had he been sure of support from home.

We beg to call the attention of the Minister of Justice to a most flagrant miscarriage of justice in Toronto, which we hope to see made the subject of an early investigation. One WARREN, the publisher of a "dead-beat directory" in which he had inserted the names of several highly respected and honourable persons having been arrested on a charge of libel, was, for some unaccountable reason, released on his own recognizances. Of course he has never been seen since. We trust that Mr. DORION will cause to be set on foot a strict enquiry into the matter—and that without delay.

A despatch from London states that on Monday, at the celebration of the Queen's birthday, the title of Duke of Connaught was conferred on Prince Arthur. It also adds that this is the first Royal title ever associated with Ireland. Such is not the case, Irish titles being borne by several members of the Royal Family. The Prince of Wales is Earl of Carrick and Dublin; the Duke of Edinburgh Earl of Ulster; the ex-King of Hanover, Earl of Armagh, and the Duke of Cambridge Earl of Tipperary.

FROM THE CAPITAL.

OTTAWA, May 28, 1874.

REPORT OF THE NORTH-WEST COMMITTEE.—THE NORTHERN RAILWAY.—THE MINISTER OF MILITIA.—MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

Mr. GEOFFRION presented the report of the North-West Committee, which said that as to the causes of the North-West difficulty they had obtained much valuable information, but had not been able to complete their enquiry, owing to the absence in Europe and the North-West of several important witnesses. The Committee had also enquired into the subject whether or not a direct or implied promise of amnesty had been made. The Committee had examined a number of witnesses and examined many important documents, and had not as yet found any evidence of a distinct promise of amnesty. They concluded by leaving it to the House to determine whether their proceedings should terminate or be continued until the whole matter be thoroughly sifted.

On motion of Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE, the House went into Committee on the resolutions respecting the Government lien on the Northern Railway. Hon. Mr. Mackenzie explained that upon the resolutions it was intended to base a bill to reorganize the Northern Railway. That company was largely indebted to the country. Last Session Government introduced a bill to accept a settlement of \$400,000, but it had not been proceeded with. There were certain private rights in this company. Toronto and the County of Simcoe each held \$50,000, and other stockholders \$69,000, some of it held at as low a sum as a cent on the dollar. Government was to hold third preference bonds at their market value. Now, Government proposed that these bonds should hold their relative priority, and that the interest on them, \$60,000, should be paid under any organization of the company that might take place. Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said there was a bill now before the House, upon which the mover proposed to graft certain provisions arising out of these resolutions. There were really no private rights in the matter, unless Government receded from their claim.

Mr. MOSS said the resolutions sufficiently explained themselves. The company was labouring under difficulties, and there was no question that some of those difficulties would be removed by the proposed bill. The proposed scheme would enable the company to go into the market and obtain a sufficient sum of money to pay off the Government and improve the road. This legislation, he asserted, would be in the interest of the country in every respect.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE said no interest had ever been paid

on the first claim; about £4,000 had been paid on the second preference bonds, but none on the third. The claim Government had for interest was about £120,000.

Mr. CAMERON said the Government's claim was about £400,000 sterling. These resolutions had simply to do with that, but nothing with reference to the relative position of the shareholders and bondholders. He perfectly approved of these resolutions so far as the money arrangement was concerned.

Mr. WOOD said the company was not in bad circumstances; it was the best road in Canada, and yet the people said they were in bad circumstances. A company that earned a million of dollars a year was not assuredly in bad circumstances. The road had not paid any interest, because they had not made any claim for it, and the interest which should have been given to Government was expended on the road.

Mr. PLUMB said the question was not now about the positions of bondholders and shareholders, but it was whether it was the policy of the Government to relinquish any part of its claims. He understood that the road was now in a good condition.

Mr. CURRIER said that he had that much confidence in the company that rather than give up the Government claim he would stick to it. He held that the Government claim was worth more than what was offered. He would rather see the road taken and run by Government.

Mr. O'DONOHUE was glad that the Prime Minister had taken up the subject as he had on the present occasion. He did not see that by this measure the bondholders were in any way benefited; it would be the shareholders who would be benefited in the proposition that Government reduced the lien. He was satisfied that the lien was worth no more than the value set upon it, and that in a year from now the claim might not be worth as much as now.

The Ross incident has reached probably its last phase. The Minister of Militia was charged by Mr. McDonald, of Cape Breton, with having written the following letter to a postmaster during the elections:

"Ball's Creek, Feb. 5th, 1874.

"Mr. Dennis Egan, North Bar.

"Dear Sir,—I must inform you that the Government expects every man in its employ to vote for its supporters. This being the case, I wish you to proceed to the Sydney Mills and poll your vote for N. L. MacKay.

"Yours,

"(Signed) WILLIAM ROSS,
"Minister of Militia."

At the moment Mr. Ross kept an obstinate silence, which looked like a confession of guilt, and which, I had reason to know, created considerable agitation in Ministerial ranks, but on the fourth day he rose to a question of privilege in the House, and denied point blank having written the letter. A production of the original is the only way of clearing up the matter.

Rumours of Ministerial changes are so pertinaciously rife that it seems safe to conclude that there is some foundation for them. Unquestionably there are four or five very weak men in the Cabinet, who ought to be removed in the best interests of the country and of the Government itself.

The House was prorogued to-day. The following is the Speaker's address:—

May it please your Excellency:

In the name of the Commons, I present to your Excellency a bill intitled: "An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money required for defraying certain expenses of the public service for the financial years ending respectively the 30th June, 1874, and the 30th June, 1875, and the other purposes relating to the public service, to which I humbly request your Excellency's assent.

To this bill the Royal assent was signified in the following terms:—

"In Her Majesty's name, his Excellency, the Governor-General, thanks her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence and assents to this bill;" after which his Excellency the Governor-General was pleased to close the first Session of the third Parliament of the Dominion with the following speech:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate:—
Gentlemen of the House of Commons.

I am glad that at a comparatively early period of the season I am able to relieve you from further attendance in Parliament. I thank you for the devotion you have shown to the public interests in the earnest prosecution of the work of the session.

I congratulate you on having passed an election law adapted to the requirements of the respective Provinces, and I trust that this law, with the amended Act for the trial of controverted elections, will result in securing, for the future, pure and peaceable elections.

The measure you have passed providing for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway will enable my Government to proceed as soon as practicable with such portions of the work as are necessary to secure communication with the interior and with British Columbia.

I hope that the law for the establishment of a military college will be found to fulfil its design in securing a class of thoroughly educated officers for the Militia service.

I trust that the other measures you have adopted with so much unanimity will likewise prove beneficial to the country.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the readiness with which you have made provision for an anticipated deficiency and granted the supplies for the public service.

Honourable Gentleman of the Senate:—

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:—

I trust that the measures I have caused to be taken for the preservation of the peace in the North-West Territories will be effectual in preventing the spirit of lawlessness so much to be feared in these vast, unsettled regions, and in maintaining friendly relations with the Indian tribes.

The negotiations in progress relative to the compensation due to Canada under the Treaty of Washington, will, I hope, realize our just expectations.

We have reason to rejoice that within our borders are peace and prosperity, and I pray that the country may continuously enjoy these invaluable blessings.

CHARRIÈRE,