

NOTES OF THE WEEK.

THE strike among the telegraph operators is the event of the week on this Continent. Fifteen thousand persons, male and female, have withdrawn from their posts, and have declared their intention to refuse duty until certain demands for higher pay and less work which they have made are acceded to. How long this state of things will continue it is not yet possible to conjecture, but the loss to the business men of the country by the strike must hasten some arrangement between the parties. Whether the company or the operators are in the wrong we are scarcely able to decide. We believe, however, that an agreement can only be reached by concessions on both sides.

OUR Canadian riflemen at Wimbledon this year, although winning a number of prizes, have lost the Kolipore Cup by 19 points. Four teams competed, and our men came second, the English team carrying off the prize. It is greatly to the credit of our volunteer and militia soldiery that they have done so well, although, of course, it would have been extremely gratifying to their fellow-countrymen to have had the cup once more brought over to Canada. However, better luck next time.

WITH commendable patriotism and pluck the American riflemen have again this year sent over to England a team to compete with a picked English team for the International trophy and the championship of the world. The match has just been concluded, and victory has once more remained with the Englishmen, although the shooting was very close to the finish, at times the Americans being ahead.

THREE disturbing elements in the British Parliament seem likely to hasten the overthrow of the Gladstone Government. First; there is the growing Parnellite party. Second; the rapid rise of Radicalism under the young leader Mr. Chamberlain. Third; the strong feeling aroused in the House concerning the construction of the Second Suez Canal.

CAUTIOUS politicians are slow to predict, but it would be safe to say that the Parnellite following will soon muster seventy or eighty members. In 1868, the Irish constituents returned ten Home Rulers. In 1874, the number increased to sixty Home Rulers, and late elections show that the sacred confines of Ulster have at last opened their borders to the Parnellite faction. The numbers go on steadily increasing and the solid vote of the Home Rulers is likely to embarrass the government and dictate its own terms.

FORCE is certainly no remedy when grievous social agitation is troublesome. Government candidates are placed in the field, but thousands of electors show their disapprobation by electing the very men imprisoned by the Government. Three such elections have taken place during the present year. Mr. Healy, just returned from prison, is returned for Monaghan. Mr. Harrington intimidated farmers, was sent to prison, and was immediately sent to Parliament. Mr. O'Brien was subjected to persecution and forthwith conquers the Solicitor-General in an electoral battle. It seems that the shortest and safest road to a seat in Parliament is to be successful in incurring the displeasure of "the powers that be" in Ireland.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN is a member of the Government, and certainly the foremost man in the rising

Radical Section. He has broken through the cautious reserve which has hitherto been the characteristic virtue of government members, and is consequently being over-much lectured on the incompatibility of office with the free expression of individual opinions. But Mr. Chamberlain is firm and says, "If there be any persons so unreasonable, as to suppose that Radicals will be bribed by office, to be unfaithful to their principles, and that they will purchase place at the price of all that should lead honest men to covet it, let that delusion be dispelled." This means that Radicalism is to be a thorn in the side of the Whig and of the steady Liberals, and is soon likely to prove as irritating as the insatiable Parnellite faction.

ENGLAND demands increased facilities of transit through Egypt. The present Canal is utterly inadequate for present needs and monopoly has failed to keep pace with the demands of trade. The question is, who shall build and control the new canal? Eight ships in every ten that pass through the canal are owned in England, and consequently there is a strong determination in England to put the new Canal under an administration in which the British Shipowners would be the controlling power.

THE chief obstacle in the way is found in the opposition of France to such a scheme. The French Government maintain that the present proposal conflicts with the concession granted by Egypt to M. de Lesseps, in 1854, which gave him exclusive power to cut a canal between the two seas. The English view of the matter is that no concession must make any Frenchman feel that he has a right to the Isthmus; that a profitable monopoly has already recouped France for the outlay; that the canal has failed to keep pace with the requirements of the trade, and that the particular concession of 1854, has not been expressly confirmed by the Sultan.

LATEST reports show that the British Government has come to some amicable arrangement with M. De Lesseps, and has offered capital to further the scheme of cutting a second Canal. But the new Canal will be retained under the old management. Such an arrangement is causing much dissatisfaction in England, and a lively parliamentary fight may be expected when the complete papers on the subject are laid on the table of the House. The Leader of the opposition will oppose the scheme, and move a vote of want of confidence on the ground that nothing can satisfy the claims of England but the creation of a new Canal in the administration of which the British Shipowners shall have that preponderating influence which they can legitimately claim.

THE Transvaal gold fields seem to bloom with the rosiest of golden reports. Four ounces to the ton, and nuggets containing twenty and thirty ounces are said to have been picked up. Old Portuguese workings, forgotten for centuries, have been discovered, and are said to be very rich. Deposits of alluvial soil have been proved to consist of half pure gold. The Boers, stolid old fellows, detest anything like a rush on their farms. But if the reports are true, the Boer will be carried away with the stream of gold seekers. There is nothing like a gold excitement for populating a barren country!

THERE are societies now-a-days for everything. A society has just been formed in Paris, and already \$150,000 have been subscribed for the purpose of dredging the Red Sea and Bilita

Lakes in search of the treasures Pharaoh's host left behind them. The quest seems rather an absurd one, but men have found kingdoms when looking for asses, and doubtless some important archaeological discoveries may result from this extravagant folly.

ANOTHER instance of religious eccentricity comes across the border. It is said that the Adventists, in the States, contemplate an universal deluge at the end of the present year. The chief of the sect starts a joint stock company for the purpose of making a mammoth ark. Twenty-dollar bonds (the mighty dollar,) entitle the holders to secure seats under cover. A fifty-dollar bond gives right to select state-rooms. Animals must be paid for extra. Foolish speculation and dishonest stock-jobbing seem to demand strong legislative checks, but perhaps, after all, it would be best to leave people to make fools of themselves.

THE painful accounts of the Cholera outbreak in Egypt are sufficiently alarming at this season of the year. The question is a grave one but panic is itself almost as deadly an element as actual contagion. There is no doubt that the disease is spread, if not engendered, by dirt and poverty; remembering this, there is much common sense in Lord Palmerston's famous rebuke in 1853 to the Presbytery of Edinburgh which had suggested a national fast, "when a man has done his utmost for his own safety then is the time to invoke the blessing of heaven to give effect to his exertions."

EXTRA precautions have been taken by the proper authorities to check the spread of the dread disease. All vessels from Egypt and the Red Sea will be detained in quarantine at Malta for twenty-one days. Indian troop ships will not be allowed to pass through the Suez Canal this season, but will go round the Cape. Sir William Gull, the eminent Physician, thinks that there is not much ground for alarm, and his opinion is based on the sudden and local appearance of the outbreak without premonitory symptoms.

ELSEWHERE we refer to the proposed British school of Archaeological and Classical studies at Athens. The object of the school is to advance the knowledge of Hellenic history, literature and art from the earliest age to the present day. The fact that such illustrious names as H. R. H., the Prince of Wales, Mr. Gladstone, Sir Stafford Northcote, Earl Granville, and others are its promoters will suffice to secure for the movement the success which it deserves.

THE subject of Imperial Federation is every little while cropping up. At one time we hear it advocated by Colonists residing in England, at others in the columns of a colonial paper, and again being discussed at some public meeting in Canada or elsewhere. Recently the *Australian* had the following to say on this question:—"The day is not very far distant when the population of the self-governing colonies will exceed that of the mother country, and when a federate empire would wield such vast resources, and would have such a reserve of men and money to draw upon, that no power in Europe, and no combination of European powers, would dare to embark in hostilities against it; whilst, by allying itself with its kindred in the United States, it could impose peace upon the whole world." If the Colonies are to remain a part of the Empire we are convinced that ultimately such a Federation must become an accomplished fact.