

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

"SOMEONE has blundered," but the cry has become so common in Egypt that it fails to arouse the slightest interest. Blundering is the natural state of affairs there. The whole political complexion of the country needs re-organizing, for at present Egypt tries to govern (or rather mis-govern) a vast country with the exhausted resources of a single province. The Soudan is in open rebellion; loyal troops and helpless people are placed in danger in the Soudan towns; vacillation reigns at headquarters, and at last the Government decide to evacuate the Soudan. But alas! the decision was made too late, and evacuation meant annihilation in the attempt. The day of grace had gone; the soldiers of Pasha Baker were worse than nothing, and were cut down like slaves, Pasha Baker and suite just escaped with their lives, El Mahdi remained conqueror in the field.

GENERAL GORDON is pushing forward with all rapidity and his remark concerning the difficulty of Baker's attempt was only too true. "It is doomed to certain and disastrous failure" said he; and General Gordon thinks that his own attempt almost as desperate. The General has great faith in his influence over the different tribes in the Soudan and believes that he can wean them away from their tardy allegiance to El Madhi, and then form them into another "ever-victorious army" for the good of Egypt.

AMMONIAPHONE is the name of a remarkable invention of Dr. Carter Moffat. The instrument contains an absorbent material saturated with peroxide of hydrogen combined with condensed ammonia, through which a current of air is drawn into the lungs. It is said to be a condensed Italianized air, which is wonderfully useful in expanding the chest, and giving almost abnormal power to the voice. Experiments have been made upon choirs in Scotland with very favourable results. Ammoniaphone, if really successful, ought to be obtained as quickly as possible, on this side of the Atlantic, for the use of choirs and public speakers.

THE congregation of Trinity Church, Bermuda, has sustained a great loss in the destruction by fire of their magnificent edifice. The church was consecrated by the late Bishop Feild, and cost £22,000 stg. There seems to be no doubt that the fire was the work of incendiaries. The government offer a reward of \$2,500 for the conviction of the incendiary and the wardens also offer a large reward. We hope that the rascal will soon be brought to justice.

FACTION begets division and disunion just as surely in the State as in the Church. Measures are now being taken to organize an Orange vote in England to oppose Home Rule vote, and for the next year or two we shall probably hear of valuable parliamentary time wasted in useless factional squabbings, and of a revival of the bitter Orange and Irish Catholic feeling.

CHICAGO wheat gamblers have been prettily trapped this year. They gave out that the American crop for 1883 would be below 400,000 bushels, and that a deficit in the world's supply of not less than 80,000 bushels was certain. So farmers held on to their products expecting better prices. But English dealers, alarmed by these reports, brought up all they could from India and

the Black Sea Region, and the English market was well supplied. Then the gamblers brought up the wheat of the terrified farmers on this side of the Atlantic at a great discount. But the enormous quantities imported by England from the other countries completely checked the flow from the States, and both farmer and gambler are paying dearly for their risk of waiting for a higher price. Farmers are safe in calculating that in the long run it pays best to sell at once for a moderate price, and thus avoid the risk and rascalities of market jobbers.

THE Government of Canada are not likely to sing rapturously of the "beautiful snow." On the track of the Intercolonial Railway in 1883, this "beautiful" subject cost the government as follows:

Clearing track.....	\$33,974.20
Repairs to ploughs and flangers.....	12,588.69
Building and repairing snow sheds.....	11,413.59
"    "    snow fences.....	7,309.16

Total cost of fighting snow..... \$65,292.04  
Quite a small fortune for keeping one line clear of snowflakes.

THE Imperial Parliament opened last week. The subject of most interest to Canadians, announced in the Queen's Speech, is the one that the Government in conjunction with the President of the United States had appointed a commission to discuss the regulations of the Newfoundland Fisheries. The commission is now sitting in Paris. A remarkable incident took place at the very beginning of the session. The parliamentary whips had failed to bring their orators up in time to continue the debate on the amendment to the address, and all at once there was a sudden collapse of the debate, the Speaker putting the question and the amendment being rejected by a vote of 77 to 20. The opposition was caught napping, and the debate was summarily closed. Mr. Gladstone stated that the whole affair was a mistake and promised to afford ample opportunity for debate on the subjects noted in the Queen's speech.

ONCE more Canada is deeply indebted to Lord Lorne for his advocacy of her interests. At the meeting of the Society of Arts, in London, last week, he stated that Englishmen should not allow their love for their American kinsmen to make them forget that their own flock in Canada had the first claim. More than 200,000,000 acres of land in the North West had been given away on the simple condition that the farmers should have the right of ownership, and that Canada was the best and fairest field in the world for emigrants of good character.

A DECIDED movement has been started by the Dominion Alliance for the purpose of arousing a stirring temperance campaign to reach every town in Canada. The proposed campaign will do all that is possible for the due carrying out of the present temperance laws and will try so to educate public opinion as to make prohibition a necessity of the near future.

THE total cash subsidy earned by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to date is \$9,719,982 on the central and western divisions, and \$2,569,220, on the eastern division of which there has been paid by the Government \$9,384,993 and \$2,150,888 respectively. In addition the Company has earned of the land subsidy 13,303,842 acres, less than one-fifth retained by the Government as security for the completion of the contract. The proposed increased subsidy has been

quietly and on the whole favorably received by Canadians.

MONTREAL has been jubilant over its ice-palace festivities and has succeeded in making this peculiar winter festival a brilliant affair. The palace of ice consisted of 10,000 ice blocks, each about 40 inches long and 20 inches wide, varying from one foot and upwards in thickness, and its total cost was \$3,200. The electric light was freely used. An unusual round of balls, and an immense crowd of excursionists must have gladdened the hearts and filled the purses of the Montreal tradesmen.

THE "cry of the outcast poor" is likely soon to be followed by the European "cry of the unemployed." From all countries come the cries of eager labourers unable to get work. Two thousand of the unemployed of Rotterdam have just issued a protest against the Government subsidies to opera houses and other national affairs while the poor and unemployed are begging their bread.

A LEADING English journal has just compiled from the speeches of a Canadian Minister, a list of choice epithets, applied to political opponents. Some of the adjectives and substantives are:—Villain; Robber of Canada; Public Criminal; Diabolical; Fraudulent; Putrid; and Abandoned Man. A very long list is given, and the moral drawn from it by the journal in question, is, that English Statesmen should pause before they complain of the violence of the abuse to which they are subjected by the Irish members. We assure our English contemporary that as a rule we are very respectable in our political language out here. The journal in question has fallen upon an unusual bonanza.

DURING the past three years the progress in the North West has been unparalleled. The amount taken there by settlers has reached at least \$15,000,000; and the commercial value of the progress may be tested from the following figures of the duties collected there:—

	Manitoba.	Northwest.	Total.
1880.....	\$297,766	\$21,856	\$319,622
1881.....	437,578	34,248	471,826
1882.....	1,054,601	51,755	1,106,356
1883.....	1,764,805	68,137	1,832,942

Almost every department of the public service shows a corresponding increase, and betokens a future of exceptional brilliancy for the North West.

THE latest government report of the fisheries of the Dominion shew that the fishery products of the Dominion for the year 1882 were valued at \$16,824,092, of which there were exported to the value of \$7,697,608, leaving a balance for home consumption to the value of \$9,126,484. The total number of vessels employed was 1,140, representing a registered tonnage of 42,215 tons and a cash value of \$1,749,717, manned by 11,250 men. The number of boats employed was 26,430, aggregating a cash value of \$833,136, manned by 47,011 fishermen. The cash value of nets, seines and weirs employed was \$1,716,662. These show a total value of floating apparatus used on the waters in prosecuting the fisheries of Canada, equal to \$4,299,515, and the total number of fishermen employed 58,261, to which must be added about 6,000 shoremen or curers of fish, or a total of 64,261 men. It will be seen from these statistics that the fisheries of our country are among the most valuable of our natural inheritances.