

On Tuesday the Public Accounts Committee, at the instance of the Opposition members, desired to make an investigation of the items of expenditure incurred for the reception of the Governor-General and the Princess. The thing was found to be grossly indelicate and the attempt pretty quickly smothered. Probably some of the gentlemen thought there might be something that would lead to a repetition of some of the rather strange revelations which recently arose out of Lieutenant-Governor Macdonald's little trip. Party will certainly sometimes lead men to lengths that make one ashamed.

There is a memorial from the British Columbia anti-Chinese Association asking for restrictive legislation to prevent the landing of Chinese. Mr. Amos DeCosmos is the champion of this cause, which, by-the-by, seems a little inconsistent with his name.

There seems to be any number of applications for Manitoba incorporations. One is for the Great Western Telegraph Company of Canada to work lines in the North-West, another is to incorporate the Hudson Bay and Winnipeg Railway and Steamship Company to build a railway from Winnipeg to Fort Nelson on Hudson Bay. It is certainly a grand project, but I am afraid rather in advance of the times. The Red River and Assiniboine Bridge Company is another incorporation which is asked.

Senator Fabre is back in his seat having returned from what may be called his extra official visit to France. I understand he has made great and persuasive efforts to obtain concessions for Canada, and it is said these will probably lead to an increase in the shipping trade. The remainder of the day on Tuesday was taken up with the discussion of minor matters.

Mr. Béchard on Thursday introduced a bill to reduce the salaries and allowances of public functionaries and officers and the indemnity to members of the Senate and House of Commons. Mr. Béchard seems to have a slight craze in this direction, and his bill was received by the House with laughter. Among other things he desired to reduce the salary of the Governor-General to \$35,000, the reduction, however, not to take effect during the incumbency of the present occupant of that exalted position. I am afraid Mr. Béchard has a very faint notion of what it costs to maintain the establishment of a Governor-General. Lord Dufferin had a more lively appreciation, and it is known that before he went away he left for a legacy a recommendation that the salary should be doubled. He spent this much during several years of his incumbency. The rule of the whole Civil Service from the highest officer to the lowest ought to be to get the ablest and most efficient men, employ no more than required, and pay them highly. This would be the true economy, but I am afraid it will be a long time before we get that rule without exceptions.

GIROUARD'S MARRIAGE BILL.

This bill, which is at present before the Dominion Parliament, is characterized,

(I) By absurdity. It allows marriage between a man and his sister-in-law, either by his deceased wife's side, or by his deceased brother's, "provided there be no impediment by reason of affinity between them according to the rules and customs of the church, congregation, priest, minister or officer celebrating such marriage." It is not likely that any church, &c., would celebrate such marriage if it or he disapproved of it; but let us take a case of this kind. My church forbids such marriages. Some of her ministers, however, see nothing wrong in the first, that is with a deceased wife's sister. Now, suppose that one of them were to celebrate such a marriage? This is not an unlikely supposition, for I have heard some of them say that if they should ever be called on to do so, they would do it without the slightest hesitation. Well, according to this bill, such a marriage is both legal and illegal—legal because the minister who celebrated it sees nothing wrong in it, and illegal because his church condemns it. The bill distinguishes between a church and a minister of that church, ("church" * * minister or officer"). Does the word "officer" as here used, include a magistrate? Most probably it means only one acting as a minister, but called by another name. Well, suppose a man and his sister-in-law prefer being married by a magistrate. He to whom they go for that purpose is one of "no creed." He sees nothing wrong in such a marriage, and, therefore, marries them. If then the word "officer," in the passage quoted, include a magistrate, the marriage referred to is valid, on account of the private opinion of the magistrate who celebrated it. If it do not, then no provision is made for such a marriage by a magistrate, and, consequently, it is invalid; but why should people be forced to be married by a clergyman if they prefer being married by a magistrate?

The Roman Catholic Church allows marriage between a man and his deceased brother's widow only by dispensation. There is not a Protestant Church in Canada which allows it. Well, suppose a couple so related cannot be married in Canada. All they have to do, is to run away to some state in the neighbouring Republic, in which there are scarcely any impediments to marriage, and there matters will be arranged to their satisfaction. Here,—according to Girouard's bill,—their marriage will be valid.

This bill is characterized,

(II) By impiety. If God say, "Thou shalt not do so and so," it is impiety to say, "Thou

mayst do it." Well, Canada professes to be a Christian country. The great question, therefore, regarding the marriages referred to, which she has to consider, is: "What saith the Lord? Does He forbid or allow them?" If He forbid them, the matter is settled. She has no right whatever to allow them. What then, does He say? As to what He says regarding marriage with a deceased wife's sister, I shall here say nothing. On this point, men of equal learning, talents, and piety hold opposite views. There can be no doubt, however, as to what He says about marriage with a deceased brother's widow. He forbids it as plainly as He forbids us to take His name in vain. If Leviticus XVIII, 16, and XX, 21, do not forbid it, it is impossible to express anything in language. Canada will, therefore, treat the Bible with contempt, and virtually say that she is wiser than God, if she legalize marriage with a deceased brother's widow. If she can legalize it, I defy any one to prove that she cannot do the same to the following marriages which are as plainly forbidden in Leviticus XVIII and XX chapters as it is, namely, between a man and his mother, step-mother, sister, grand-daughter, aunt, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, step-daughter, or step-grand-daughter. There was only one exception to the law forbidding marriage between a man and his deceased brother's widow, and that was for a reason peculiar to ancient Israel.

One very popular argument in favour of marriage with a deceased wife's sister is, "What woman is likely to be so kind to the motherless children as their aunt?" Equally strong in favour of marriage with a deceased brother's widow is the argument, "What man is likely to be so kind to the fatherless children as their uncle?" but God distinctly says that their uncle shall not be their step-father. He is wiser than we.

Another very popular argument in favour of marriage with a deceased wife's sister is, "The man and the woman are not related by blood." Well, neither are a man and his deceased brother's widow, nor a man and his step-mother, his father's brother's wife, his mother-in-law, his step-daughter, or his step-grand-daughter; but God distinctly forbids such marriages.

Though marriage with a deceased wife's sister should be legalized by the passing of Girouard's bill, marriage with a deceased wife's sister's daughter will still be illegal. The nearer relationship will not be an impediment to marriage, but the more distant will.

T. F.

Mtis. Que.

WAR MEDAL

OF THE VETERANS OF 1812.

Such of the Canadian militia men as served in action against the Americans during the war of 1812, received the war medal of the British Army, with a clasp for each action in which they took part. Of these medals, a few still remain unclaimed in the office of the Adjutant-General at Ottawa, and a list of the names appears from time to time in General Orders, as the descendants of the veterans may at any time claim the medals upon producing proper proofs of identity.

The medal bears the Queen's profile, giving to the plain silver decoration the proverbial "half-crown" appearance. Upon the reverse is a bas-relief, representing Victoria, crowned, placing a wreath upon the brow of the Iron Duke, who kneels at her feet, his field-marshal's baton in his hand. Upon the base of the pedestal, or step on which the Queen stands, is the figure of a couchant lion, in low relief. Beneath are the figures, "1793-1814." The encircling legend is: "TO THE BRITISH ARMY." Upon the rim of each is engraved the name of the wearer, and the names of our veterans have the words added, "CANADIAN MILITIA."

The ribbon is red, with blue border. The ribbon of one of the medals last advertised in General Orders bears these clasps—"CHATEAUGUAY"—"CHRYSLER'S FARM"—"DETROIT."

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, March 1.—There is trouble between the Vatican and the Brazilian Government.—Count Orloff is threatened with assassination if he persists in urging Hartmann's extradition.—Sir Stafford Northcote's resolutions on obstruction were passed by a large majority on Saturday night.—The threatened lockout in the New York piano factories would leave some 6,000 piano-makers without work.—Germany is considering the cutting of a canal between the Baltic and the German ocean, for the passage of men-of-war.—The steamer Alexandria, which arrived in New York yesterday, brought in 5 passengers and 45 of the crew of the steamer Hindoo and the crew of the brig Julia, both of which vessels were sunk in mid-ocean.—Martin was an old coloured man of Wood County, Georgia. A few days ago, while Martin was sitting on the river bank to rest, an alligator made a plunge at the man, seized him in his jaws, and disappeared under the water with his prey.

TUESDAY, March 2.—A despatch from Bombay says Abdul Rahman is marching on Herat.—The Persian expedition to Herat and Seistan is to be abandoned.—The English Government contemplates purchasing the London Water Company's works.—Mr. Westworth, Liberal, has been elected to the Imperial House of Commons for Drogheda.—The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Czar's accession to the Russian throne was celebrated yesterday.—A Bombay despatch says the steamer Tingra, bound for Kurrachee, has foundered, 68 lives being lost.

WEDNESDAY, March 3.—The strength of the Spanish army has been placed at 90,000 men.—Stossion and Vignaux play a 4,000 point match in Paris, beginning on the 27th inst., for \$1,000 and.—The suppression of the slave trade in Africa is said to be assured by the convention between Germany and England.—Signor Corti, Italian Minister at Constantinople, has been transferred to Paris, and will be replaced in Turkey by Signor Blanc.—An unknown comet, which was visible at Cape Town at the beginning of February, is puzzling astronomical circles as to its identity.—General Melnikoff, the newly-appointed Russian military dictator, was shot at while leaving the Winter Palace yesterday, but escaped unhurt.—Mr. Grissel was brought before the Bar of the Imperial House of Commons yesterday, and was committed to Newgate, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, during the pleasure of the House.

THURSDAY, March 4.—Bismarck's health is improved.—The Empress Eugenie is staying at Windsor Castle.—A Burmese raid into Manipur territory is reported from Calcutta.—Negotiations for the release of Col. Syngé and wife are still in progress.—The Irish Relief bill passed the committee of the House of Lords last night.—A large strike among the longshoremen of Brooklyn and Jersey City was inaugurated yesterday.—Moditsky, the person who attempted to assassinate General Melnikoff, has been tried, found guilty, and sentenced to be hung to-day.—A London cable says James Gordon Bennett paid \$10,000 for the five-year old horse, "Latchkey," just prior to the Croydon steeple-chase, for which the horse was entered.—"Latchkey" ran second by a head.

FRIDAY, March 5.—Famine is making fearful havoc in Armenia.—The people of Finland are agitating the question of independence.—A Cabul despatch announces the flight of the British Governor from Seistan.—The Spanish Government contemplates a reduction of the navy, both as regards the number of vessels and those manning them, of about one-half.—Except in a couple of instances, all the stevedores have acceded to the demands of the striking longshoremen on the East River, New York, and will pay 40 cents an hour all round.—It is said that Hartmann is not to be surrendered by France, and that the Russian ambassador has promised that this will not affect the relations between the two countries.—The manifesto of the Russian revolutionary executive committee says the struggle will be continued till the Czar abdicates or grants constitutional government, and that the revolutionists mean to "triumph at all costs."

SATURDAY, March 6.—The British Government is preparing to issue a postal paper currency.—General Roberts estimates the enemy's force in Afghanistan at 60,000 men.—The 100-ton gun on board the Italian iron-clad Duilo has burst, wounding ten men.—The French Government have declined to deliver up Hartmann to the Russian authorities.—Negotiations are said to be still in progress for an Anglo-Persian convention based on modification of the treaty of 1857.—The Captain and second mate of the SS. Arizona have had their certificates suspended for six months, on account of the vessel having run into an iceberg.—The London Standard says England will resist the attempt on the part of the United States to interfere with British trade in the matter of the "preponderating influence" claimed by the Americans in the Panama Canal.

LITERARY.

THERE is in the press a new volume of poems by Mr. Swinburne, and a volume of poems by Mr. W. H. Mallock, author of "The New Republic."

THE Religious Tract Society of England has in the press a work by Dr. Dawson, of Montreal, on "Geology and Life," the leading idea being that of links in a chain, in distinction from evolution in a series.

DR. GORDON HAKE has in the press a new volume of poems, which will be published early this month. It is entitled "Maiden Ecstasy," and consists of fourteen stories, each illustrating a phase of maiden love.

M. PAUL MEURICE has gone to Guernsey to collect the manuscripts of all the published works of M. Victor Hugo, and on these original documents will be based the grand final edition under preparation, to be entitled "Œuvres Complètes de Victor Hugo."

MR. QUARITCH will shortly issue the first volume (A to L) of the "Bibliography of Printing," compiled by Messrs. E. C. Bigmore and C. W. H. Wyman, which has been running for the past four years in the Printing Times.

AN interesting discovery has just been made at Wells of upwards of a thousand original documents, some of which date back to the thirteenth century. Many of the seals are in a beautiful state of preservation. They were found in an old oaken press in the almshouse.

HER Majesty will create Mr. Theodore Martin a K.C.B., in acknowledgment of the manner in which he has performed the task of writing the Prince Consort's "Life," for which he was recommended by Sir Arthur Helps, who declined to undertake the work.

MR. JOHN HOGG has in the press an entirely new work on Poe, by Mr. J. H. Ingram: "Edgar Allan Poe—His Life, Letters, and Opinions." This is the exhaustive life of the American poet upon which Mr. Ingram is known to be so long engaged, and in preparing which he has, it is said, obtained much valuable assistance.

THE late Mr. H. F. Chorley's work, "The National Music of the World," which has been edited by Mr. H. G. Hewlett from manuscripts left by the author, will be issued at once by Messrs. Sampson Law & Co., will also publish a work on the South African campaign, dedicated to the Duke of Cambridge, compiled by Mr. J. P. Mackinnon and Mr. S. H. Shadbolt. It will contain photographs of the British officers who have fallen.

THE delegates of the Clarendon Press will issue in a few days an annotated edition of Goethe's "Iphigenie auf Tauris," by Professor Buchheim. It is said that every difficulty will be explained, and all the classical allusions and reminiscences will be pointed out in the commentary. The drama will be preceded by a mythological and a critical introduction, the latter containing, besides a full analysis of the history of the composition of the piece, a comparison between the Euripidean "Iphigenia" and the "Iphigenie" of Goethe.

Bold Counterfeiting Detected.

Parties have been detected in making and counterfeiting Hop Bitters, and illegally using the name Hop Bitters, a registered trade mark, which subjects every person who makes or sells anything with the name Hop Bitters, or pretending to be like it, to a fine of \$100 for each sale, however small the sale is. The Hop Bitters Manufacturing Company of Rochester, N.Y., and Toronto, Ont., the sole owners of the trade mark, are prosecuting all violators of the law and enforcing heavy penalties, but are dealing very liberally with those who stop violating the law and settle without suit, and commence dealing in the genuine article, which is a valuable medicine and not a drink, as some of the counterfeits are. The genuine is sold by all druggists.

JEMMY BLINKER.

(IN MEMORY OF A GREAT SCHOLAR OF THE OLD SCHOOL.)

Air—"The Brown Jug."

The following remarkably clever poem is from the last number of Blackwood:

Dear Tom, this brown beaker, so clasped and so cracked,
Was once Jemmy Blinker's, a scholar exact;
He gave it to me, when he died in his bed,
This bowl, with his Homer bound trimly in red;
And now once a year, since the flight of his soul,
I read in his Homer, and drink from his bowl—
Rare Jemmy Blinker!

O rare Jemmy Blinker! where now shall we find
A scholar like him, of the Polyglot kind?
Not this volume be tasted, or that, for his whim,
But a book was a book and a banquet to him;
Its date and its title and binding he knew,
And its place in the Bodleian Library too—
Rare Jemmy Blinker!

O rare Jemmy Blinker! oh, where shall we find
A scholar like him, of the Polyglot kind?
For his Latin, could Cicero rise from the dead,
He would wonder to find his own echo so spread;
And for Greek, every twig he could hunt to its root,
In Sanscrit, and Gothic, and Gaelic to boot—
Rare Jemmy Blinker!

When you caught him in one of his mussy old nooks,
Half buried behind a big rampart of books,
With his soft-shaded hair, and his delicate skin,
You ne'er had suspected the giant within;
But Jem was a tough one, and never knew pains
In his vulcanic bowels and bend-leather brains—
Rare Jemmy Blinker!

Our readers are now a light-skirt nishing race,
Who skim frothy facies with grasshopper grace,
But Jem, with a folio like Hercules, would wrestle,
And he pounded the stuff in his brain with a pestle;
His memory beat all the rhapsodist crew,
For Homer both forwards and backwards he knew—
Rare Jemmy Blinker!

'Twas a feast to behold him, with pipe and with coffee,
Grinding his teeth o'er some rugged old straphe;
His wit never failed when a verse was to mend,
With a gash in the front and a gap in the end,
And keen as a terrier posing the vermin,
He smelt a biatus like Porson or Hermann—
Rare Jemmy Blinker!

At famous book-sales with the clock he was seen,
In a snuffy old shirt, and a coat of pea-green;
Few volumes he bought, but when Blinker was there,
Be sure that the lumber contained something rare;
He once stood an Aldus, so costly a winner,
That he lived a whole week without port to his dinner—
Rare Jemmy Blinker!

One winter at Rome, when he journeyed with me,
No pictures he went, no processions, to see;
No vespers he heard, and no matins could say,
But he sat in the Vatican day after day;
And when he came back from his tour antiquarian,
He published the text of an old Greek grammarian—
Rare Jemmy Blinker!

So mighty was he variants to fish up,
I never knew why he was not made a bishop;
Perhaps such a fellow who shaped his own notions,
Might shake an old creed with unseemly commotions;
I once heard it whispered, though not Unitarian,
He brewed in his brain a slight tincture of Arian—
Poor Jemmy Blinker!

He had faults, I confess, but what mortal has not!
We moderns, he said, on the shelves would soon rot;
Bombastic was Shakespeare, and once he detected him,
Cribbing from Pindar, when no man suspected him;
John Ruskin was flighty, Tom Carlyle was crude,
And all were admired most when least understood—
Said learned Jemmy Blinker!

His books he loved well, but loved not less his bottle,
Like Socrates, Solon, and sage Aristotle—
For the Greeks were great drinkers, he said, and if you
sir,
Denied it, you'd find that he knew what he knew, sir;
He'd rise in his chair, like a god and belay us
With book, page, and letter of old Athenæus—
Rare Jemmy Blinker!

One day in his study—what fate could be sadder?
He clomb to the shelf, No. 10, on a holder;
And while tumbling down there for a Cassiodorus,
He came tumbling down with a rumble sonorous,
And he broke his hip bone, and the doctors him bled,
And we wept briny tears when he died in his bed—
Poor Jemmy Blinker!

Then fill up the glass, Tom, of port do not scruple us,
'Tis nine years to-day since he rose to Olympus;
Not lightly again shall we see such a tinker
Of wormy old vellums as glorious Blinker,
I read in his Homer, I drink from his bowl,
And I pray that the gods may give peace to the soul
Of rare Jemmy Blinker!

ARTISTIC.

HERR VON WERNER's grand historical painting of the Berlin Congress, which is to be permanently hung in the Berlin Town Hall, is now all but completed. The figures of the plenipotentiaries are portraits taken from life.

A RUBENS, which Delacroix had copied for the King of the Belgians, the "Miracles of St. Benoît," has been offered to the French Government for 300,000 francs, but as that State has not the sum at its disposal at present, the picture will pass to some other country.

Two important additions have been made to the galleries of the Louvre in the shape of "The Bather," by Ingres, and the "Portrait of the Comtesse de Barch," by Henri Regnault, the purchase of which, for sums of 60,000 francs and 20,000 francs respectively, has just been voted by the Consultative Committee.

PROFESSOR W. B. RICHMOND is at work on a large picture 10 feet long, and containing sixty figures, a composition of great vigour and originality. It represents the triumph of the Israelites over the Egyptians. The Army marches with blowing of trumpets and shawms; Miriam dances before it with her timbrel, and the embalmed body of Joseph is borne in state in the midst of the procession.

ANOTHER etched likeness of Mr. Thomas Carlyle has been added to the notable list of similar works. Mr. Léon Richeton has given fresh manifestation of his power in the *cau-forte*, which treats with boldness and breadth, but at the same time with reverential care, a subject demanding all the intelligence an artist can bestow upon it. The portrait is in course of publication by the Fine Art Society, the number of proof impressions being extremely limited.