

REVIEW OF THE PAST MONTH.

During last month we were visited with the severest snow storm that has occurred in this part of the world for many years. The amount of snow was very great, but the magnitude of the drifts was almost unparalleled, in many places preventing travel altogether for several days and every where causing very great inconvenience. The Railway was so blocked up that four engines were required to force a passage, and having got off the track were much injured, besides causing severe contusions, but no fatal injuries, to several individuals. No mails arrived in Pictou for four days, and in St. Johns, the walls of snow are said to have been in many places, ten feet high. The storm is said to have extended as far south as Florida.

The affairs of the Great Western Railway in Canada appear to have been grievously mismanaged. A report has just been issued from a Committee of investigation in London, charging the Directors with either wasting or misappropriating more than a million of money—an immense sum on a Railway which is only 257 miles in length. Mr. Laing, who has been appointed to one of the highest offices in India, is seriously implicated.

We are glad to observe that the leading men of our Church in Canada are prosecuting with great energy and considerable success, the Endowment Scheme. The ablest and most influential men of the Church, such as Dr. Cook, Dr. Matheson, Mr. Snodgrass, Dr. Machar, Dr. George, Mr. Morris, Mr. Paton, and others, have entered into it heart and soul, so that it can scarcely fail. Its complete success would be the brightest spot in the Church's history.

The new President of the United States has been inaugurated into office, without disturbance. His address is remarkable for judgment, firmness, and its conciliatory spirit. It is an eminently able and judicious document. Though a man but little known previous to the election, he appears to be the very man for the crisis, and we are much mistaken if he does not prove fully equal to the emergency. No collision has yet taken place and the political sky is so far clearing, that it is beginning to appear possible that the Union may yet be saved. The policy of the President is to avoid the shedding of blood till the last moment, and it is said in order to effect this, the famous Fort Sumpter will be voluntarily abandoned. No anti-slavery men are to be appointed to office in any of the Slave States, and it is to be hoped that this moderation, forbearance and firmness will not be lost upon the great body of the people. In the meantime sixty thousand offices are to be disposed of, and there are said to be something like a million of candidates.

The San Juan quarrel with England presents some little prospect of adjustment. Great Britain has given America the choice

of any of the powers of Europe, great or small, to act as arbiter between them, and it is said that Switzerland has been chosen.

In European politics there is not much at present of overwhelming interest. Gaeta has surrendered at last to the Sardinian commander, with 11,000 men and 700 pieces of cannon. Francis II. has taken farewell of his dominions, and at last accounts was at Rome. A meeting had taken place of the Italian parliament, and it is to be hoped, that with the disappearance of the Bourbons and the advent of constitutional government, a new era of peace and prosperity will dawn upon this distracted country.

The troubles of the Pope are hourly increasing. It is evident that Rome longs to get quit of him as a temporal ruler, and Sardinia would be willing enough to strike the decisive blow, but as yet France imposes her veto. In the French Senate, however, the Prince Napoleon has spoken out boldly and eloquently for his removal, while some of the high clergy have thundered their anathemas against the enemies of their spiritual father without apparent regard to consequences; one bishop having compared the Emperor to Pontius Pilate. Still the policy of France is dark and no one knows where she may strike to-morrow.

It would seem that neither Garibaldi nor Sardinia is to venture to attack Venetia during the present summer. France says no, and besides Austria is thoroughly prepared, two, no doubt, very potent arguments. Hungary is still unsettled, though Austria appears sincerely anxious to put down discontent by large concessions.

A tumultuous rising of the population has taken place in Warsaw resulting only in the loss of life.

In Russia proper the noblest act in her whole history has been performed by the Emperor Alexander, the setting free on one day not less than twenty millions of serfs or slaves. Every man in Russia is now free, and we believe that judicious and humane arrangements have been made, for making that freedom a boon in reality, by securing for the freed-men portions of land which they can call their own, and which are sufficient for the maintenance of themselves and their families. How small and mean will the mightiest victories appear in future ages, when brought in comparison with this glorious deed. The United States of America is now the only civilized country in the world, where immortal souls may be bought and sold by the sanction and authority of the law. How long!!

England is beginning to grumble at the French remaining so long in Syria, while Russia encourages and offers to afford her material support to prolong the occupation. Turkey protests and is impotent.

Famine is said to exist to an alarming extent in the Presidency of Bombay, the num-