

THE GRECIAN GRIEVANCE.

The return of Gladstone to power has, for the time being, given a quietus to the Grecian movement on Albania. When the Balkan difficulties were settled by the Berlin Treaty, it was stipulated that Eastern Roumelia should remain an integral portion of the Turkish Empire, while the district surrounding Janina, in the Southern portion of Albania, was to be placed under the control of the Greek Government. The latter portion of the contract has never been carried out by the Porte; and Greece has been restrained from taking forcible possession of the territory, only by the unwillingness of the Great Powers to create fresh disturbances. Her right to the rich pasture lands in which Janina or Epirus is located is frankly acknowledged by both Bismarck and Gladstone, but those statesmen fear that an armed assertion of this right would result in a general European war, the outcome of which might be disastrous to the interests of Germany, Austria, and Britain, and favorable to those of Russia. While Greece has thus for years been peacefully biding the time when she should annex Janina, Prince Alexander of Bulgaria quietly annexes Eastern Roumelia which, according to the treaty, was to remain directly under the control of the Porte. This exasperated the Greeks beyond measure, and had it not been that Servia first took the field against the Bulgarians, the Greeks would undoubtedly have endeavored to prevent the union of Roumelia with Bulgaria. Now that the Porte has acquiesced in the territorial extension of Bulgaria, Greece rises up as one man to claim the recognition of her sovereignty in Southern Albania; but the powers hold her in check, fearing the consequences of a Turko-Grecian conflict. Eastern Roumelia to remain a portion of the Turkish Empire; Southern Albania to be placed under the control of Greece so reads the treaty. After the lapse of a few years Eastern Roumelia is annexed by Bulgaria, while Southern Albania remains an integral portion of the Turkish Empire. Nations may unite in framing treaties; but, after all, their enforcement largely depends upon the force of circumstances.

THE GREAT IRISH QUESTION.

The great question which the Gladstone Ministry is called upon to solve is that of Irish Land Reform. Compared with this, Irish Home Rule sinks into comparative insignificance. It may now be taken as a foregone conclusion that Gladstone will grant to Ireland such a measure of Home Rule as will fully meet her requirements and will at the same time not in any way endanger the integrity of the Empire. But the great question, as we before said, with which Gladstone has to deal, is that which underlies Home Rule—the question of reform in the Land Laws. That this is the case is shown from the fact that the Salisbury Ministry was defeated upon Jesse Colling's amendment to the address, in which regret was expressed that the government had not declared its intention of introducing a measure dealing with the security of tenure and the equitable allotment of land. Ireland's curse has been absentee landlordism; this has kept the country in a state of poverty and reduced her people to a condition little short of serfdom. Under the existing laws the Irish peasantry have no opportunity to earn more than a bare subsistence. Industry on their part might add to the wealth of the landlord, but would not in any way increase the comfort of the peasants. Their utter inability to acquire land, and the knowledge that the products of their labor were unduly taxed, have fostered a feeling of discontent which has gradually increased to such a pitch of indignation as to make it impossible for the landlords to secure even a fair return in the form of rentals. The question thus assumes a double phase. Landlords cry out for assistance in enabling them to collect rents, and the peasantry demand the abolition of a system which has kept them in such a state of abject poverty. The union of Great Britain and Ireland must be preserved at all hazards. An Irish Republic can only exist in the mind of an enthusiast, but the surest and most effective way in which to avoid a civil war and prevent the possibility of disruption is to grant to the Irish people the proprietorship of the soil which they cultivate, thus enabling them to enjoy to the full the products of their honest labor.

"AB UNO DISCE OMNES."

When the pious Æneas advised Queen Dido to judge of the Greeks in this most superficial manner, he was probably not aware that he was giving advice which would be unconsciously followed by the great majority of mankind. "The climate of — is abominable; I was there for a week, and it rained all the time," says Brown. "They don't raise Fall Wheat in Canada; the frost kills it," a citizen of Kansas remarked recently to a Canadian, whom he did not know to be such, and who had seen 45 bushels of it grown on an acre. "People from — are dishonest; I had two servants from there, and my spoons suffered for it," Mrs. Smith authoritatively states. "They don't make good boots in this country," remarks a stranger who has had experience in one pair of them!

The real character of the Chinese as a laborer might possibly be arrived at by carefully collecting the opinions of those who have employed them, and by forming our estimate from the average. John bears rather an unenviable reputation for cleanliness; his terrier-like proclivities are proverbial; his honesty is by many said to be still undiscovered; he is accredited with a disagreeable habit of sending away from his adopted country all the money he can spare, to buy rats and rice for his family in the land of the Celestials. Yet we occasionally hear the very opposite opinion expressed by men who have employed Chinese labor. A writer in the *Oceania Monthly*, who has had twenty years' experience in Chinese domestics, expresses himself as highly pleased with them, and makes special mention of their *cleanliness*, their *honesty*, and their *liberality*.

Much diversity of opinion is, of course, to be expected from men whose political leanings are diverse; but on this vexed question of the value of the Chinese as an immigrant, even conscientious and disinterested men differ widely. This difference must arise from the too prevalent habit of judging all by a few. Applying so misleading a test, one could make out the people of any nation to be the best or the worst in the world. The only rat-eater we ever saw was an Englishman; the filthiest family we ever saw were from the Channel Islands. Were we to generalize from such data, we might find ourselves in the position of the gentleman who, having once seen a French baby christened on board a ship, retained for life the impression that all French babies have long noses. Not many will confess to such reasoning; yet we see undoubted evidence of it at every turn. As a matter of fact, men, even in a semi-civilized state, are so diverse that it is only after the most extended experience and the most careful comparisons that any given quality can be safely predicated of a nation in general. It is therefore impossible to judge the many by the few, and it is manifestly unsafe to accept as incontrovertible the statements of those who follow out the maxim with which this article is headed, "from one learn all."

REGISTER YOUR NAME.

It is important that every man entitled to a vote under the Dominion Franchise Act should see to it that his name is properly registered upon the official voting lists; hundreds of those who enjoy the Franchise under this act will be called upon at the next Dominion election to exercise their right of citizenship, and it is probable that this new and untried element will have weight in deciding what the result of that election is to be. Those who believe that under Sir John A. MacDonald Canada has made rapid strides in the path of progress, and that her people have learned to appreciate the political institutions under which she is governed, should be prepared to give the Premier the support to which they deem he is entitled. Those who believe that a change of administration would be advantageous to the country, and feel confident that under the leadership of the Hon. Edward Blake a new era of prosperity would dawn upon the land, should not neglect to qualify themselves to give practical expression to their views through the ballot. The country is safe so long as its government remains in the hands of its people, and it is therefore incumbent upon each man who desires to uphold good government that he should at least evince his interest by assuring himself that his name has been properly placed upon the authorized list of voters. Remember that unless a man entitled to a vote is properly registered, his right to the Franchise counts for nothing.

A NEEDED REFORM.

From an article in a recent number of the *Indiana School Journal*, it appears that one long school-term, wherever tried in the United States, has been demonstrated as superior to two short ones. Public opinion in Nova Scotia is, we verily believe, quite strong enough in favor of one long term to warrant the abolition of the present system of dividing the school year. When we asked for an expression of opinion as to the advisability of adopting one long school-term in this Province, the articles that followed, written by educationists in various parts of the Province, were almost without exception in favor of the suggested change. And it seems to us that the preponderance of argument in favor of it was quite as remarkable as the paucity of the objections against it. The proper authorities will, we hope, remember these facts and act in accordance with the desire and requirements of the Province.

Several persons have written in *THE CRITIC*, and several in other Halifax papers, in advocacy of one long school-term. One, and no more than one, as far as we know, attempted a defence of the terms as now existing. While the latter won our respect by reason of his gallant championing of a dying cause, he failed to show conclusively that the change we advocated should not be made. Some of his reasoning, however, suggested the possible necessity of making special terminal arrangements for one class of school sections if one long term should be adopted. Several of our Inspectors of schools have repeatedly pronounced the habit of too frequently changing teachers to be the retarder of educational progress in many sections. One long school-term would certainly diminish this custom and its concomitant evils.

The evil results of Gladstone's vacillating Soudan policy are still felt, both by the British and the Egyptians. If the Mahdi's movement had been vigorously met and effectively crushed in the outset, Britain would not now be obliged to keep 14,000 men guarding the southern frontier of Egypt; and the Egyptian Government would be relieved of the expense of paying them. If the new Mahdi continue his operations, the British troops will be more than decimated by disease, the Egyptian exchequer will become unable to bear the strain, and definite action will have to be taken. It is a striking illustration of the motto, "A stitch in time," etc.

We are wont to regard toll-gates and toll-bridges as a relic of the dark ages. In Nova Scotia, there remains but one toll-bridge, and the people are calling upon the Provincial Government to purchase it, as it has those in other parts of the Province. In Quebec and Ontario, toll-gates and toll-bridges are everywhere to be found. The City of Ottawa is not approached by one public highway without its toll-gate. The people of these Provinces, however, are beginning to chafe under the unfair restrictions to trade, which the taxes levied at these toll-gates impose upon them. Their abolition in Wales was accomplished only in time to prevent a popular outbreak.