

Ryan, in a very able speech, in which he expressed surprise at the constant and useless attacks made upon the policy of the Government, especially in view of facts which were in the plain knowledge of every one, from every part of the Dominion, disproving the arguments on which those attacks were based. This debate occupied the whole evening without a division having been come to.

Among the railway measures killed was that of the Emerson & Turtle Mountain RR. I told you I did not think the House should consent to this as being a feeder of an American line, especially in view of the fact that South Manitoba can be served by an extension of the S. W. Colonization line from Rock Lake to Turtle Mountain, or the coal fields of the Souris River. This line would sweep along the southern frontier of Manitoba and pass through the Mennonite settlement, via Morris, to Winnipeg. I understand it is to be immediately undertaken, and will prove of great value. The Winnipeg & Hudson Bay Railroad has been approved by the Committee, and it is understood it is the intention to press it forward.

On Friday, the Budget debate was continued and brought to a close at an early hour on Saturday morning, the Government, of course, carrying everything. The debate was principally remarkable for an intimation from Sir Richard Cartwright to the effect that he would oppose to the bitter end the construction of the British Columbia section of the Pacific Railway. Mr. Mackenzie sat by him while this statement was uttered, without opening his lips, or even a muscle of his face stirring. The real struggle of the session will come when that question comes up.

COUNT PAHLEN; ONE OF THE RUSSIAN COMMISSIONERS.—Count Pahlen's appointment to the new Russian Commission is somewhat of a puzzle; for, if he did not possess the requisite firmness to see that justice was done in Russia, when only generals and prefects were shot at, he could not be the right person to entrust with the safety of the State when plots to blow up the Imperial family are of ordinary occurrence. But, as a matter of fact, the authorities were mistaken about Count Pahlen in 1878, and his appointment to the Commission is probably a tacit admission of the error then committed. Count Pahlen is quite the man to "burn his ships" on any emergency; and by all accounts he is not wanting in that promptitude in action which has been the characteristic of a line of ancestors who have been conspicuous for striking first and reflecting afterwards. It is just this readiness, so commonly attributed to the late Minister for Justice, which carries us back irresistibly to the first Count of the name, Count Peter the Ready, and makes the appointment of his grandson to take special charge of the grandson of murdered Paul just a little remarkable. There are many Russians living—notably Prince Gortschakoff—who must have a clear recollection of the old Count who played the part of First Murderer on the terrible night of the 23rd of March, 1861, and who died in 1826. They at one time must have had familiarly before them every scene and tableau of the tragedy. Probably they had from eye-witnesses the whole gossip of the butchery, and could have told how Pahlen sent the assassins through the private door from the garden, and by the secret staircase into the Emperor's apartments, staying below to make sure of his own safety if the business miscarried; how he whispered to them at the bottom of the stairs, just to steady their hands, "Either you will have killed the Emperor by five o'clock in the morning, or at half-past five you will be denounced to the Emperor as conspirators," and how Count Benningssen, his lieutenant in the bloody affair (who by the way, was promoted to high honour by Alexander and commanded an army in the war against Napoleon), found Paul, who had jumped out of bed when he heard his executioners on the stairs, crouching behind a screen in a corner of his bedroom, and had him promptly throttled with a sash when he obstinately refused to sign his abdication. We foreigners cannot read the last chapter of mad Paul's life without something like a shudder; Russians appear to be blessed with a greater complacency. It is a good-natured people generally. The assassin Count Pahlen was never hanged; he became governor-general of Livonia, but soon returned and died full of years and honours on his great estate of Hofzang Bergen, and his son held the crown over the head of Nicholas' daughter on the occasion of her marriage with the Duke of Leuchtenburg. This did not strike anybody then as a bad omen; and now the grandson of murderer Pahlen is appointed a Commissioner to take care of the person of Paul's grandson the circumstances excites no remark.

HEARTH AND HOME.

TINSEL.—Too many are governed by the bare appearance of things, the false glare and tinsel show of life. As one looks upon a shining substance or metal, and without thought or examination takes it for gold, so many are deceived by a mere superficial knowledge of men and things. Let such be on their guard; for, though the outside of the cup be clean, the inside may be very filthy, and, though sepulchres be white and beautiful outwardly, they may be full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.—We shall not succeed in being pleasant abroad if we practise nothing but detestability at home. If a husband is rude to his wife, his politeness to others is a mere

surface sham. If a young man is rude to his mother, he is not truly courteous to any one else. If he does not act as rudely towards some others, it is because he is a coward as well as a ruffian, and is afraid to do it. He who is rude to a sister or a younger brother will be rude to all, except those whom he sees holding vengeance in their fists. And awkwardly enough will he play the agreeable to other people's sisters who has practised nothing but the arts of torment upon his own.

CHARACTER.—There is nothing which adds so much to the beauty and power of man as a good moral character. It is his wealth—his influence—his life. It dignifies him in every station, exalts him in every condition, and glorifies him at every period of life. Such a character is more to be desired than everything else on earth. It makes a man free and independent. No servile tool—no crouching sycophant—no treacherous honour-seeker ever bore such a character. The pure joys of truth and righteousness never spring in such a person. If young men but knew how much a good character would dignify and exalt them, how glorious it would make their prospects, even in this life, never should we find them yielding to the grovelling and base-born purposes of human nature.

"GOOD SPIRITS."—The victims of disease do not sufficiently appreciate the value of "good spirits." They too often settle down in despair when a professional judgment determines the existence of some latent or chronic malady. The fact that it is probable they will die of a particular disease casts so deep a gloom over their prospects that through fear of death they are all their lifetime subject to bondage. The multitude of healthy persons who wear out their strength by exhausting journeys and perpetual anxieties for health is very great, and the policy in which they indulge is exceedingly shortsighted. It is useless to expect that any one can be reasoned into a lighter frame of mind, but it is desirable that all should be taught to understand the sustaining, and often even curative, power of "good spirits."

PASSION.—It is not temper, as exhibited in the shape of violent passion, that has the most pernicious influence on human conduct and happiness; it is temper, under the shape of a cool, deliberate spite and secret rancour, that is most to be guarded against. "It is the taunting word whose meaning kills." The speech intended to mortify one's self-love, or wound our tenderest affections, it is temper under this garb that is most hateful and most pernicious; when inflicting a series of petty injuries with a mild and placid face, then is temper the most hideous and disgusting. The violence of passion, when over, often subsides into affectionate repentance, and is easily disarmed of its offensive power; but nothing ever disarms the other sort of temper. In domestic life, it is to one's mind what a horse-hair shirt is to the body; and, like the spikes of an iron girdle, whenever it moves it lacerates and tears one to pieces.

EDUCATION.—Education is not so much a positive and unmixt good in itself as a power capable of producing good. This is often overlooked by those who make the most strenuous and laudable efforts to raise the coming generation intellectually and socially. They see so clearly the need of mental development and the benefits which it is capable of producing that they very naturally conclude that, when they have secured it for the young beings who are to manage the world in a few years, they have done all that is needful to fit them for their important and responsible duties. The truth is that education, in the popular meaning of the word, gives strength, energy, capacity, and influence, but not direction. It puts a valuable tool into the hands, but does not always give the wisdom to use it. It enables the future man and woman to accomplish great results, but does not always ensure that they shall be good as well as great. It makes its fortunate possessor a larger, more powerful, and more important factor in the community, but whether for good or for evil it cannot determine.

THE GLEANER.

LORD BEACONSFIELD is 74 years of age. He got his peerage in August, 1876.

ADMIRAL WESTPHAL, who was in the battle of Copenhagen, has died at the age of 99.

COLONEL McNEILL, V.C., is to accompany Prince Leopold in his forthcoming trip to America.

It is reported that the sailing of the new British Arctic expedition has been fixed for May, 1881.

The Princess Louise is engaged in sketching the Chaudiere Falls from the Suspension Bridge, Ottawa.

SIR EDWARD SELBY SMYTH's successor, Major-General Luard, is expected in Ottawa in the middle of April.

The Queen has given her assent to the site selected for the Byron Memorial in Hamilton Gardens, Hyde Park.

LIVE cattle are now being largely imported into London direct from America, instead of being landed at Liverpool.

ONE hundred and twenty men were killed and 400 wounded by accidents during the construction of the St. Gothard Tunnel.

THE right transept of St. Peter's, at Rome,

closed to view since the Oecumenical Council, was to be completely clear before Easter Sunday.

THE railroad across the ice at Montreal was removed on the 1st inst., after having been used through the winter without casualty of any kind.

TRICKETT, the Australian rower, has announced his desire to row Haulan for the championship of the world over the Thames course during the present season.

BOSTON will celebrate its two hundred and fiftieth anniversary on the 17th of September next, by a parade of its Militia and Fire Department, and a procession of the trades.

MR. PETER REDPATH has agreed to erect a new museum building for McGill College, Montreal, and Principal Dawson presents to the museum his valuable private collection.

It is probable that the intended visit of the Scotch foot-ball team to Canada will now be postponed to the fall, owing to the unseasonableness of the weather for foot-ball in the summer.

It is expected that a much larger shipping business will be transacted in Montreal next summer than for years past. Several new firms are going into the grain and dairy produce export trade.

MR. SANFORD FLEMING starts for British Columbia this week. It is said that he will devote a part of his time to the personal examination of the various points that have been spoken of on the terminus of Canada's high road to the Pacific coast.

THE Queen, having visited the vault where several of the Royal Family are buried, is reported to have given orders that one or two of the velvet coffins which were falling to pieces should be placed in oak covers, and that in future oak cases should be used instead of velvet at royal funerals.

It has been remarked as strange that the two English ladies, Mrs. Ronald Campbell and Lady Wood, are the only two female companions of the Empress Eugenie to Zululand, and that none of the French ladies, who have been regarded as most closely attached personally to her fortunes, are following these in her South African expedition.

MR. FAER, the British painter, made some characteristic remarks at the recent one hundred and second anniversary festival of the Highland Society of London. To him as a painter, he said, it had been a delight to find around the table so much to appreciate in colour and costume. Not only the make of the men, but the red and green of the tartans, had supplied elements of the picturesque which were wholly wanting at such meetings of Englishmen.

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S SELF-COMMAND.—Louis Napoleon's powers of self-command were really marvellous. I have known him after a conversation, in which he betrayed no anger, break his own furniture in his rage. The first sign of emotion in him was the swelling of his nostrils, like those of an excited horse. Then his eyes became bright and his lips quivered. His long moustache was intended to conceal his mouth, and he had disciplined his eyes. When I first saw him in 1848 I asked him what was the matter with his eyes. "Nothing," he said. A day or two afterwards I saw him again. They had still an odd appearance. At last I found out that he had been accustomed himself to keep his eyelids half-closed, and to throw into his eyes a vacant, dreamy expression. I cannot better describe the change that came over him after his brother's death than by saying that he tore his heart out of his bosom and surrendered himself to his head.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

MONDAY, April 5.—The Comtesse de Paris has given birth to a son.—Fresh hopes are expressed that the war in Afghanistan will soon be over.—Sir John A. Macdonald has been selected for the sovereignty of the Province of Candahar.—Prince Napoleon approves of the course taken by the Government against the Jesuits.—A vexatious tax is being attempted to be raised upon travellers visiting Italy, by compelling them to have their circular notes stamped ere they are paid. The Italian bankers intend resisting this innovation.

TUESDAY, April 6.—Parnell has been elected for Cork city.—Traffic on the Suez Canal is temporarily suspended.—The rumoured death of Mahomed Jan is contradicted.—Mr. Ernest Renan has commenced a series of lectures in England.—Spain is holding a commission of enquiry into the means of developing her mercantile marine.—Bismarck has tendered his resignation of the Chancellorship to the German Emperor, owing to an adverse vote of the Federal Council on the proposed increase of the stamp duties.

WEDNESDAY, April 7.—The death of the King of Burmah is announced.—The Queen of Greece has given birth to a daughter.—Prince Bismarck will retain the Chancellorship of the German Empire.—Paul de Cassagne has transferred his allegiance to Prince Napoleon's son.—Hungary is about to issue a lottery loan of 40,000,000 forins, principally for rebuilding Szegedin.—The latest returns from England show a net Liberal gain of \$4. The Liberals have elected 306 members, the Conservatives 177, and the Home Rulers 37.

THURSDAY, April 8.—The Paris Catholic University will conform to Ferry's bill.—The German Emperor will not accept Prince Bismarck's resignation.—The Czarina is somewhat improved in health, although not out of danger.—The King of Spain is about to grant the reforms asked for by the Republican party.—The Spanish Legislature has provided for the liquidation of the Cuban Treasury's debts.—Russia is making warlike preparations against China; the fleet is being commissioned to sail for Chinese waters, and the Russian troops in Southern Siberia have been ordered to the front.

FRIDAY, April 9.—A great Nihilist outbreak is expected to take place shortly in Moscow.—According to the St. Petersburg Gazette, Russia and China will come to terms without resorting to war.—The American Consul-General has refused to surrender the murderer of a Turk to the Turkish Government.—Cardinal Bonaparte and Prince Charles Bonaparte have protested against the decrees promulgated by the French Government against the Jesuits.—The United States Government has appointed a commission to negotiate and conclude with China, by treaty, a settlement of matters of interest pending between the two countries.—Several Senators and Deputies are asking for the expulsion from France of Prince Jérôme Napoleon, as certain phrases in his latest manifesto make him appear as a pretender to the throne of a dynasty which they say has been swept away never to be restored.

SATURDAY, April 10.—Lord Lytton, Viceroy of India, has resigned.—The traction railway up the side of Mount Vesuvius will be opened shortly.—The Herald Irish Relief Fund has reached the large amount of \$136,405.96.—Bismarck, on retaining office, will dictate his terms to the Federal Council.—Four hundred people are to be sacrificed in Burmah to remove evil influence. The King has since had 700 people buried alive to calm the irritated spirits.—Hart, the winner of the O'Leary belt at the Madison Square walk, is a Boston lawyer in full standing and scarce past twenty-one. His final score was 565 miles.—Poljakoff, the great Ruso-Jewish contractor, has donated the sum of 400,000 to 500,000 roubles for the purpose of erecting a building for the accommodation of poor students.—The Liberals now boast of a net gain of 100 seats, excluding Home Rulers. The clear Liberal gain over Conservatives and Home Rulers combined, is about 40.

A FOREBODING.

I do not dread an altered heart,
Or that long line of land or sea
Should separate my love from me,
I dread that drifting slow apart—
All unresisted, unrestrained—
Which comes to some when they have gained
The dear endeavour of their soul

As two light skiffs that sailed together,
Through days and nights of tranquil weather,
Adown some inland stream, might be
Drifted asunder, each from each;
When, floating with the tide, they reach
The hoped-for end, the promised goal,
The sudden glory of the sea.

VIOLET FANE

LITERARY.

BRET HARTE has been confirmed in the consularship at Glasgow by the United States Senate.

OLGA, Queen of Greece, is a writer of some capacity. She has just published a spirited article advocating the maintenance of the Greek nunneries.

MR. THEODORE MARTIN, who has completed "The Life of the Prince Consort," has been knighted, and also made Knight Commander of the Bath.

MR. SWINBURNE'S Ode to Victor Hugo will be included in his new volume of poems, entitled *Songs of the Spring Tides*. It will be published immediately after Easter.

SOME unpublished letters and documents relating to Cromwell's Irish campaigns will appear in the forthcoming volume of Mr. Gilbert's "History of Ireland."

SIR CHARLES PILKE is understood to be busily engaged on a "History of the Nineteenth Century," and the first instalment may be expected to appear in the beginning of 1881.

A MANUSCRIPT journal of the proceedings of the British House of Commons from 1612 and 1617, kept by a member, has recently been added to the manuscript department of the British Museum.

THE British Museum is one hundred and seventy-seven years old; the Louvre has been used as a art treasury for eighty-seven years, and the South Kensington Museum is twenty-two years old.

PROF. MONTAGU BURROWS is engaged in writing an important work upon the Foreign Policy of Great Britain during the reign of George III. The book will be published by Messrs. Cassell, Peter, Galpin & Co., under the title of "Imperial England."

A NEW edition of Victor Hugo's works is about to appear, all but two of which, "Hans d'Islande" and "Amy Robsart," will be printed from the original manuscripts, fetched from Guernsey for that purpose. Many cancelled passages will be re-inserted in the text or given as notes, among these being a whole act in "Angelo."

UNDER the title of "The Village of Palaces; or, Chronicles of Chelsea," a new work will be shortly published from the pen of the Rev. A. C. L'Estrange, the author of "The Life of the Rev. W. Hartshorn," &c. The book will comprise a number of historical and topographical details relating to this favourite suburb, and biographical notices of eminent persons who have resided in it.

MR. FROUDE in his last work has upset three popular beliefs about Bunyan. Firstly, he does not believe that Bunyan was the utterly abandoned young man that he is generally supposed to have been; secondly, he claims that Bunyan fought in the Royalist and not the Parliamentary army; and thirdly, he denies that he was imprisoned in the fact on Bedford Bridge, with the illustration of which we are all so familiar.

VICTOR HUGO does not keep a carriage while residing in Paris, but rides instead in the ordinary omnibus, or rather on it. For though the octogenarian poet is a staunch Republican he invariably prefers the impetuous. When the conductors see the old man approaching they stop their horses, get down, and carefully assist Hugo to mount the roof. He is not ungrateful of these attentions, for every Christmas he sends 1000fr. to the Company to be distributed among the conductors as étrennes.

MR. JAMES T. FIELDS' residence in Boston, which he has occupied for a quarter of a century, contains ten thousand volumes. He has many literary curiosities, including original manuscripts by Thackeray, Dickens, Hawthorne and Whitier; books once belonging to great authors and having their penicillings on the margins; a copy of Boccaccio (printed 1654) given by Leigh Hunt to his wife; Charles Lamb's copy of Pope's "Rape of the Lock;" Southey's copy of "Ben Jonson," marked by Coleridge; and other books equally valuable. When the poet Whitier visits Boston he always occupies the room in Mr. Fields' house in which Hawthorne used to work and sleep.